



### Flood of faith in Kedarnath Dham, 1.24 lakh devotees visited in four days



**Rudraprayag,(GNS):** An unprecedented number of devotees is being recorded in Kedarnath Dham since the beginning of the Yatra this year. In just four days, 1,24,782 devotees have visited Baba Kedar, which shows the increasing trend of religious faith across the country. The doors of Baba Kedar have been opened on 22 April. According to official figures, 31,160 devotees visited from 5 pm on 24 April to 5 pm on 25 April. These include 24,035 men, 9,993 women and 132 children. Within just four days after the opening of the doors, a record 1,24,782 devotees have visited Baba Kedar. This figure not only reflects the enthusiasm of the pilgrims but also testifies to the robust and well-organized operation of the pilgrimage arrangements.

### Newly appointed Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog Ashok Lahiri meets Prime Minister



**New Delhi,(GNS):** Newly appointed Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog Ashok Kumar Lahiri paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday.

The Prime Minister congratulated Lahiri by sharing a photo of their meeting on social media, saying that his extensive experience in economics and public policy will strengthen India's reforms and the goal of a 'developed India.' He expressed confidence that Lahiri's efforts will further dynamize policymaking in the country. According to a government notification, senior economist Lahiri was appointed Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog on Friday. The Commission's new full-time team was also announced. The new team includes Rajiv Gauba, Prof. KV Raju, Prof. Gobardhan Das, Prof. Abhay Karandikar, and Dr. M. Srinivas as full-time members.

Congratulating all the newly appointed members, the Prime Minister said that NITI Aayog has become an important pillar of India's policy-making structure, playing a vital role in promoting cooperative federalism, reforms, and ease of living. Meanwhile, Professor Gobardhan Das expressed gratitude for his appointment on social media, calling it a significant moment in his life. He said that despite coming from a humble farming family, he has been given the opportunity to serve the country, which is a matter of pride for him. Prime Minister Modi also responded to his post, praising his contributions and saying that his work in the fields of public health, science, and innovation is inspiring for the country.

### Bhagwat said :

## India will definitely become the world leader, there is no doubt

People had doubts about the construction of Ram temple, similarly this goal is also fixed now

**Nagpur,(GNS):** Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat has said that India will certainly become a world leader, and no one should doubt this. He said that there was a time when people were skeptical about the construction of a grand Shri Ram temple in Ayodhya, believing it to be impossible.

But today, that temple stands before us all. Similarly, India's resurgence as a world leader is absolutely certain, and this journey cannot be stopped.



Bhagwat said this at Minister Nitin Gadkari, Swami Swami Awdheshanand Giri Bharat Durga Shakti Maharaj, Swami Mitranandji Maharaj, Sadhvi Ritambara and Dharendra Shastri along with several religious leaders were also present on the occasion.

### Don't doubt India's future

The RSS chief said, "Let there be no doubt about the country's future and live life with courage and self-reliance. According to him, if people move forward step by step according to their resolve, India will become stronger and morally empowered." He said that India's dream of becoming a world leader will be realized through sustained efforts and collective discipline. He expressed confidence that such a transformation can be seen in the current generation. He said, "Don't doubt India's future. Live with courage and self-reliance and embrace these values in your daily lives. India will emerge strong and lead the world. People doubted whether the Ram Temple would be built, but it was built. Similarly, India is certain to become a world leader."



### Delhi's mercury reaches 43°C, hospital sets up heatstroke unit with bath tub and cooling bed

**Bhopal/Lucknow/Jaipur,(GNS):** Heatwaves are intensifying in many parts of the country, with three-quarters of the country reeling under the heatwave. Temperatures have already exceeded 44°C in 14 cities across five states in northwest, northern, central, and western India.

These include Varanasi, Banda, Rohtak, Jharsuguda, Titlagarh, Akola, Amravati, Wardha, Chandrapur, Yavatmal, Bannar, Hamirpur, Agra and Rajnandgaon.

Meanwhile, the mercury in Delhi reached 42.8°C on Saturday afternoon. This was the hottest day of the year. Consequently, a heatstroke unit has been set up at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. It is equipped with cooling tubs, 200kg ice-making machines, and portable ice packs.

A red heat wave alert has been issued for 60 districts in Uttar Pradesh. Jharsuguda, Odisha, recorded a temperature of 44.8°C for the second consecutive day. A heat wave alert has been issued for 11 districts in Madhya Pradesh. A heat wave is currently raging in three districts of Himachal Pradesh.

### 'Tom pants, run down car to Rs 100-crore house' Swati Maliwal's 'traitor' jibe at Arvind Kejriwal after AAP exit

**New Delhi,(GNS):** Former aide to Arvind Kejriwal and now a BJP leader, Swati Maliwal on Saturday levelled sharp allegations against her former boss, claiming that before becoming chief minister he wore "tom pants", used a "two-rupee pen" and "drove around in a dilapidated car", but after coming to power in Delhi, "he built a house worth a hundred crores."

Speaking to news agency ANI, Maliwal contrasted what she described as two very different phases of Kejriwal's life. Her remarks came a day after Raghav Chadha-led rebellion against the party leadership and merging a 2/3rd chunk of AAP power in Upper House to BJP. Maliwal was among those who joined the breakaway faction.

## 'Why are there not 36, 38 or 40 cases against Mamata?'

Rahul says BJP's real fight with Congress not TMC in Bengal

**New Delhi,(GNS):** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday intensified his attack on the Centre during the West Bengal assembly election campaign, questioning why chief minister Mamata Banerjee has not faced multiple criminal cases despite serious corruption charges linked to the Trinamool Congress (TMC).



He asked why there are not '36, 38 or 40 cases' against the TMC chief even as he himself continues to face several legal proceedings. Addressing a public meeting at Sahid Minar Ground, Gandhi alleged that while the Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's government has pursued multiple cases against him, no similar investigative action has been taken against Mamata Banerjee. He claimed this was because the TMC supreme does not directly confront the BJP in the same way as the Congress does. "Today I have come here, I am out on bail. Narendra Modi took away my official residence. He took away my Lok Sabha membership."

### Raghav Chadha lost 1.4 million Instagram followers after leaving AAP

**New Delhi,(GNS):** Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha, who left the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) to join the BJP, has lost nearly 1.4 million followers on Instagram. He had 14.6 million followers just 24 hours ago. By Saturday evening, he had 13.2 million followers. Experts believe this could be a reaction from younger users. Of the 10 AAP Rajya Sabha MPs, Raghav Chadha, Ashok Mittal, and Sandeep Pathak joined the BJP on Friday. Chadha said that Harbhajan Singh, Vikranjit Singh Sawhney, Swati Maliwal, and Rajender Gupta are also with us. Meanwhile, AAP leader Sanjay Singh stated that he would write a letter to the Rajya Sabha Chairman requesting the disqualification of the Rajya Sabha MPs who left the party and joined the BJP. The AAP alleges that these MPs' actions are unconstitutional and should be disqualified. MP Sanjay Singh said that the anti-defection law does not recognize any split or factionalism in the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, even with a two-thirds majority.



## Manipur unrest: Protesters clash with police during march to CM's house



**New Delhi,(GNS):** Khemchand Singh's residence rose in strife-torn Manipur on Saturday as thousands of protesters demanding lasting peace clashed with security forces after being stopped from marching towards the chief minister Y

organised under the banner of the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), with agitators taking out four separate rallies from different parts of the city. However, all processions were halted at key locations, including Keisampat junction, Kangla Gate, Konung Mamang and Moirangkhom, as heavy security deployment blocked access to the chief minister's bungalow in the Babupara area. At Khurai Lamlong, around 2 km from the

### Anger over children's deaths in Bishnupur blast

Protesters raised slogans and carried placards seeking justice for a five-year-old boy and a six-month-old girl killed in a recent bomb blast in Bishnupur district. The children and their mother were asleep when the explosion ripped through the room, leaving the mother injured. They also demanded rehabilitation and support for internally displaced persons affected by the prolonged ethnic conflict. COCOMI convenor Y K Dhiren said after the meeting that the agitation would intensify if concrete steps were not taken. He alleged that there has been no meaningful resolution to the crisis since violence first erupted on May 3, 2023. COCOMI spokesperson Nahakpam Shanta Singh said the group is seeking an action taken report from the state government on the death of two children in a bomb blast at Tronglaobi on April 7. CM's residence, the situation turned volatile when protesters tried to breach barricades. Security forces responded by firing several rounds of tear gas shells to disperse the crowd, officials said. Despite the confrontation, a small group of representatives was later allowed to meet the chief minister, where they submitted a memorandum outlining their demands.

# Donald Trump's statement on India is condemnable

Sanjay Goswami

America's Donald Trump's statement that India is hell is highly condemnable. Yes, it may be so from his point of view because western civilization was destroyed in India and the sacrifice and dignity followed by Lord Rama in India is inspiring for all. If there is hell then what is heaven after all? According to Hindu mythology, Apsaras are divine dancers, singers and maids of Indralok (heaven), who are considered to be endowed with unmatched beauty and magical powers. They entertain the gods along with Gandharvas and are known to disturb the penance of sages. The prominent Apsaras include Rambha, Urvashi, Menaka, and Tilottama. Therefore, the Apsaras here do not dance to please the king. Heaven is full of fun, but that fun

itself leads to punishment one day. The people here work hard, toiling hard to earn a living, but they do not indulge in hooliganism. The path of sacrifice shown by our Lord Rama is a message of peace for the entire world. If every human being meditates on Lord Rama for even 10 minutes, anger will never arise. People are preoccupied with the worries of work, but what if we cannot? Mistakes happen, but Rama's name tells us this: we are all travelers here, so don't worry about anything, don't lose heart. Controlling anger can only be learned from Lord Rama. When the sea was not giving way to Lanka, Lakshmana, his brother, shot an arrow into the sea, but Lord Rama stopped him, and the sea explained its point. Lord Rama says that we should always think about others; if something wrong happens, we must certainly

speak out against injustice. Trump's attitude towards India has been very shameful from the beginning and recently by inaugurating peace talks between Iran and America in Pakistan, a country which is a stronghold of terrorism, an attempt was made to show that India's foreign policy is not right but the peace talks in Pakistan also suffered a setback and Iran refused to accept your conditions. You jumped into the war in Iran along with Israel to capture the huge oil reserves but Israel's objective is something else and it neither went to Pakistan for peace talks nor offered a ceasefire. Overnight 63 year old Maduro and his wife were captured by American soldiers from their compound in Venezuela on Saturday. This was a sudden overnight operation, in which some military bases were also attacked. After their arrest, both

were taken to a jail in New York. So, look within yourself. Kabir Sahib has rightly said: When I went to look for evil, I did not find anyone evil. When I searched my heart, I found no one worse than me. Meaning: Kabir Das Ji says that when I went out in this world to find the evils or shortcomings of others, I did not find anyone evil. But when I looked within my mind (heart), I realized that I myself am the worst (guilty). This famous couplet of Saint Kabir Das Ji gives the message of self-reflection and humility. Which tells us that before finding evil in others, we should look within ourselves. India is a peace loving country of 140 crore people and a democratic country. India conducted nuclear test in 1998 after asking you and by dodging your own satellite and on Kargil victory, Atalji had said so beautiful-

ly to Pakistan: Independent India will not bow its head on entering into not one, not two, but twenty agreements with America. This independence earned by countless sacrifices. This independence is watered with tears, sweat and blood. This independence is protected by the power of sacrifice and penance. This independence is dedicated for the benefit of distressed humanity. India is an independent country. Whether it is hell or heaven, only God, who controls everything, can decide. You are unable to manage your own country. People are angry because by throwing it into the fire of war, the entire world is facing a crisis of oil and gas. Do you think that India should export milk from you, which is fed meat as fodder and poisons its mind after drinking milk? To yearn for heaven, one has to go through hell.

## Editorial

### Attack on petty politics

Former Army Chief General Naravane has refuted Rahul Gandhi's propaganda regarding his unpublished book. He clarified that the Chinese army failed to encroach on Indian territory and called Rahul's conduct inappropriate.

What former Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane said about the controversy arising from his unpublished book not only put an end to the propaganda which was being unnecessarily promoted by Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, but also made it clear that the Chinese Army had failed to encroach on Indian land.

Although he had previously stated that India had not lost a single inch of land to China, and reiterated this point recently, Rahul Gandhi was unwilling to believe it. He repeatedly propagated the false narrative that China had seized our land and the Prime Minister had been unable to do anything. Later, he began misrepresenting General Naravane's statement.

He crossed all limits during the Budget Session of Parliament when, under the guise of interpreting an excerpt from General Naravane's unpublished book published in a magazine, he tried to target the Prime Minister and explain that when the then Army Chief was seeking instructions from him on the aggression of the Chinese Army, he left him to his fate.

Rahul mischievously interpreted the Prime Minister's clear directive to the Army Chief to do as he saw fit. He didn't stop there. He even waved a purported copy of General Naravane's unpublished book in the Parliament complex. When accusations and counter-accusations arise in politics, they inevitably involve some degree of disinformation. However, it is the height of irresponsibility to propagate lies, claiming that the military and the government were not in sync during the border crisis, simply to serve narrow political interests. Creating unnecessary controversy over border security and the military not only ignores national interests but also constitutes petty politics. It's good that General Naravane didn't hesitate to call Rahul Gandhi's alleged brandishing of a copy of his unpublished book and dragging him and the Army into controversy as inappropriate behavior.

# Dialogue between Indian knowledge resources and global innovation

Lalit Garg



**World Intellectual Property Day, celebrated annually on April 26th, is not merely a formal commemoration of a legal right, but a celebration of the creative power of the human mind that has led civilization from darkness to light. This year's theme combines sports and intellectual property, conveying the message that creation, hard work, and preservation together create new directions for development. Today, as the world has entered the era of artificial intelligence, biotechnology, digital media, and space exploration, the importance of intellectual property has increased even more.**



The power of a nation is now measured not only by its material wealth, but also by its intellectual capacity, research tradition, and preservation of knowledge. Intellectual property refers to any original work produced by the human mind that provides society with new ideas, new tools, new art, new technology, or new direction. Literature, music, scientific discoveries, medicine, technological inventions, industrial creations, and unique traditional knowledge all fall under the scope of intellectual property. Its purpose is to ensure that a creator's creation is not misused and that their labor is properly respected and protected. This protection is necessary not only for the individual but also for the self-confidence and economic progress of the nation.

From a global perspective, Western countries organized the modern intellectual property system. Europe and America linked innovation to industry through patents, copyrights, and trademarks. There, coordination between universities, industry, and government transformed knowledge into economic power. From the Industrial Revolution to the Digital Revolution, numerous inventions transformed the world. The foundations of computers, the Internet, biomedicine, and the communications revolution also lay in this protected intellectual property system. These countries understood that future prosperity lies not merely in land and minerals, but in the originality of ideas. However, India's intellectual tradition is much more ancient and profound. India has given the world not only goods but also a vision of life. When many civilizations were struggling for survival, India stood at the pinnacle of knowledge through the Vedas, Upanishads, Ayurveda, Yoga, mathematics, astrology, philosophy, and grammar. The principle of zero, the decimal system, metallurgy, surgery, yoga, and the concept of a balanced life with nature are all contributions of Indian wisdom. Great figures like Aryabhata, Charaka, Sushruta,

Panini, and Patanjali provided sources of knowledge that continue to inspire the world. This is a form of Indian intellectual property that, while not documented, remains etched in the consciousness of humanity.

The world's modern intellectual property is primarily based on individual ownership, whereas the Indian knowledge tradition has been rooted in collective welfare. In India, knowledge was considered a spiritual practice, not a business. Here, sages kept their experiences free for humanity. In the spirit of "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah," the purpose of knowledge was not personal gain but public welfare. This is why the nature of Indian intellectual property remained rooted in morality and spirituality. The West achieved prosperity by preserving knowledge, while India acquired culture by sharing it. Today, there is a need for India to integrate this ancient tradition with modern conservation systems so that its traditional knowledge does not fall prey to exploitation in the global market. Examples like turmeric, neem, and basmati are crucial in this context. Foreign institutions once attempted to establish ownership of Indian traditional knowledge, but India proved with evidence that this knowledge was its cultural heritage. Subsequently, India demonstrated the importance of using modern tools to preserve its intellectual heritage through initiatives like the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library. This was not just a defense of rights, but also a defense of the honor of its civilization.

Today, in the age of artificial intelligence, the question of intellectual property has become more complex. Machines are drawing, writing, composing music, and participating in decision-making. At this time, the question arises: who is the creator—human or machine? If an artificial system makes a new discovery, who will inherit its rights? This challenge is not only a legal one, but also a philosophical one. For a country like India, with its human-centered knowledge tradition, this presents an opportunity. India can reorient intellectual property by integrating modern

technology with human values. India is rapidly advancing in the direction of innovation. India has astonished the world in the fields of youth entrepreneurship, space science, pharmaceutical manufacturing, digital payment systems, and rural technology. Missions like Chandrayaan and Gaganyaan have proven that even with limited resources, original intelligence can perform miracles. The Indian pharmaceutical industry has won the world's trust through affordable medicines and vaccines during the global health crisis. This is not just an economic achievement, but a global testament to India's intellectual potential. Nevertheless, India still has a long way to go. Compared to developed countries, India must strengthen its position in research investment, patent applications, university-industry collaboration, and legal awareness. We have no shortage of talent, but the systems for protection and promotion are still inadequate. Many young people are unfamiliar with the process of protecting their ideas. If an understanding of creativity and intellectual rights is developed early in the education system, India can become the world's leading knowledge nation.

World Intellectual Property Day reminds us that the future belongs to those who respect ideas. Nations that protect their intellectual property have progressed towards long-term development. India possesses the depth of ancient knowledge and the potential for modern innovation. The only need is to integrate our traditions with modern structures. India's intellectual property is not merely a matter of patents or rights; it is the soul of our civilization. If properly recognized and protected, India can regain its unique place not only in the global market but also in global consciousness. This day gives us the message that even in this materialistic age, the greatest power is human intellect, and the greatest protection for that intellect is intellectual property. When India combines its knowledge tradition with modern innovation, it will not only compete with the world but also guide it.

# One country, two voter lists, two types of citizens

Sanat Jain

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Currently, the Central Election Commission (CEC) and State Election Commissions (SERCs) are becoming a topic of discussion across the country regarding the electoral rights of the central government and state governments. The Central Election Commission is responsible for conducting Lok Sabha and Assembly elections. Keeping the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in

mind, Central Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar has launched a campaign to purify voter lists through SERC in more than 22 states. So far, approximately 55 million voters have been deleted from the list in the states where SERC has been conducted. The SERC has deemed them ineligible citizens. Based on the rate of voter deletions through SERC, approximately 100 million voters are expected to be deleted upon completion of the SERC process. Meanwhile, State Election Commissions also prepare separate voter lists for urban local bodies and Panchayat elections. In larger states, there is a discrepancy of

tens of millions of voters between the state-level voter list and the list prepared by the Central Election Commission. This issue was first highlighted by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, asking why the names listed in the state's voter list are not included in the central voter list. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has also been raising this same question. Recently, preparations for urban body and panchayat elections have begun in Madhya Pradesh. The State Election Commissioner of Madhya Pradesh has stated that the elections to be held in 2027 will be conducted based on the old delimitation. The

State Election Commission is not accepting the voter list that was recently delimited on the orders of the Central Election Commission. Given the current election situation in the country, a dispute is brewing between the Central Election Commission and the State Election Commission regarding the voter lists. State governments and State Election Commissions want to conduct elections based solely on the state's prepared voter list. If this does not happen, voters will rise in protest at various locations across the state. Representatives of local bodies are elected in states. In such a situation, the political

and law and order situation in the state could be affected. Given the current situation, there is no hesitation in saying that India is one country. Despite this, the voter lists of the Central Election Commission and the State Election Commission are different. The State Election Commissions work according to the rules, regulations, and directives of the Central Election Commission. Those whom the Central Election Commission does not consider voters, the State Election Commission considers them voters. The Central Home Ministry has the authority to determine citizenship. The Central Home Ministry is

silent. Now, the Central Election Commission is doing the work of determining citizenship and the right to vote of a voter. The kind of chaos that has spread across the country regarding this, now, the judiciary has also come under scrutiny. More than 10 months have passed since the Bihar Assembly elections, and the Supreme Court is hearing a petition seeking a Special Investigation Report (SIR) before the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has yet to decide whether the Special Investigation Report (SIR) being conducted by the Central Election Commission is constitutional.

# Delhi Assembly Speaker inaugurates Malangiya Mahotsav

**New Delhi, (GNS):** The five-day Malangiya Mahotsav opened at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat on Friday, with Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta inaugurating the festival and hailing it as a vibrant celebration of India's rich theatrical and literary heritage, while underscoring its role in nurturing regional languages like Maithili.



Attending the inaugural event as the guest of honour, Gupta said the festival, featuring 35 plays written by noted playwright Mahendra Malangiya, reflected a significant expression of Indian culture and artistic continuity. "The participation of over 5,000 writers and theatre practitioners across 22 languages makes this a truly national cultural platform," he

said, adding that the scale of the event merits global recognition, including potential consideration for a Guinness World Record.

The festival, being held from April 24 to 28, has been conceived as a large-scale cultural gathering, bringing together artists, writers and theatre practitioners from across the country. Apart from theatrical

performances, the event will host around 30 seminars, conferences, poetry sessions and panel discussions, with participation from over 65 institutions.

Gupta extended his best wishes to the organisers, stating that the festival represented a sustained engagement with India's diverse linguistic and cultural heritage. He

expressed confidence that Malangiya's body of work would receive wider recognition, adding, "Malangiya's creations have the potential to find a place in the Guinness Book of World Records."

The inaugural programme was presided over by Vijay Goel, Vice-Chairman of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, who praised Malangiya's contribution to Indian literature and theatre. He described the playwright as a powerful voice of rural India, whose works captured the nuances of society with sensitivity and depth.

Highlighting Malangiya's notable works, Goel said his writing reflected the realities of everyday life and resonated with the literary tradition of Munshi Premchand.

# Nearly 6.7 lakh Class X students opt for CBSE second board exam

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Nearly 6.7 lakh class X students have registered for the second edition of the CBSE board examinations this year, with the majority seeking to improve their scores from the main exam, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) said on Friday.

According to data based on the list of candidates (LOC), a total of 6,68,854 students have opted for the second examination in 2026. Of these, 5,25,655 have applied for improvement, 85,285 under the compartment category and 57,914 for both improvement and compartment. Gender-wise, male candidates account for a larger share at 4,02,643, compared with 2,66,209 female candidates, while two students fall under the 'other' category. Among female candidates, 2,15,215 have registered for improvement, 31,548 for compartment and 19,446 for both. For male candidates, 3,10,439 are appearing for improvement, 53,736 under compartment and 38,468 for both categories, underscoring that score improve-



ment remains the primary motivation across groups.

The second board examinations will be held from May 15 to May 21, 2026. In its notification, the CBSE said all examination processes, including LOC submission and publication of the date sheet, were completed in a timely and systematic manner. The date sheet was released on April 23 and is available on the board's official website.

From 2026, CBSE has introduced a two-exam system for Class X, making the first attempt mandatory and the second optional for students in the compartment category or those seeking improvement.

## Delhi IRS officer daughter's rape-murder:

# Infamous for aggression, accused had violent past; father an alcoholic

**New Delhi, (GNS):** As crime and forensic teams probe the murder of an IRS officer's daughter, investigations have revealed that the accused, Rahul, was infamous for his aggressive behaviour in his native village, official sources said.

Sharing details about Rahul's state of mind, sources said that he also exhibited psychopathic tendencies and had a history of violent conduct, raising serious concerns about his behavioural patterns.

"Teams are now planning a detailed psychological assessment of the accused as part of the ongoing probe," said the



source.

Investigators further said Rahul was addicted to online betting and card games such as "teen patti" and had lost over Rs 7 lakh in the last few months, which drove him to

frequently borrow money to sustain his habit.

"During the inquiry, we came to know that Rahul and his father were known in their village for their aggressive behaviour. Our team is there.

They are told that his father is an alcoholic and Rahul is addicted to online games," police sources told PTI.

He was previously employed as a domestic help at the victim's residence but was removed over alleged financial misconduct.

The case pertains to the murder of a 22-year-old woman, daughter of a senior Indian Revenue Services (IRS) officer, an engineering graduate and UPSC aspirant, at her residence in southeast Delhi's Kailash Hills locality.

Investigators said Rahul used his familiarity with the house layout and access points to enter the flat.

Police had said that he allegedly went to the rooftop study room where the victim was studying and attacked her with a heavy object, raped her and dragged her downstairs to use her fingers for the biometric locker to steal cash from home. The autopsy confirmed strangulation as the cause of death, along with multiple injuries, including a nasal bone fracture, indicating a struggle. "He fled after changing clothes and slippers and reached Palam Railway Station to catch a train to Rewari in Haryana. When he failed to catch the train, he booked a hotel in Dwarka, from where he was arrested.



## El Niño in May-June to hit temperature and rainfall, says World Meteorological Organization

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Predicting a climatic condition that may further aggravate adverse weather in South Asia, including India, World Meteorological Organisation Friday said an El Nino event is expected to develop as early as May-July, impacting "global temperature and rainfall patterns". Earlier, this condition was expected to develop in the second half of the monsoon season (Aug-Sept).

El Nino events, which typically occur every 2-7 years and last around 9-12 months, affect temperature and rain patterns in different regions and typically have a warming effect on the global climate. Amid growing risk of El Nino, IMD has already predicted "below normal" monsoon rainfall in India. The latest monthly global seasonal climate update from WMO signals a clear shift in the equatorial Pacific where sea-surface temperatures are rising rapidly, pointing to a likely return of El Nino conditions next month. El Nino is characterised by warming of ocean surface temperatures in the central and eastern Equatorial Pacific.

"For the May-June-July season, land surface temperatures are expected to be above-normal nearly everywhere," said WMO, noting that the seasonal forecasts are vital to guide preparedness actions, especially in climate-sensitive sectors like agriculture, water resource management, energy and health. "After a period of neutral conditions at the start of the year, climate models are now strongly aligned, and there is high confidence in the onset of El Nino, followed by further intensification in the months that follow," said Wilfran Moufouma Okia, chief of climate prediction at WMO.

## 'No violation of bail', HC upholds Ishrat's relief in NE riots case

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Delhi High Court on Friday declined to tinker with a trial court order granting bail to former Congress councillor Ishrat Jahan in the "larger conspiracy" case related to the Feb 2020 riots in northeast Delhi.

"A considerable period of more than four years has passed since the impugned order, and there is no allegation that the respondent has in any manner violated the terms of the bail... We are not inclined to interfere with the impugned order. The appeal is accordingly dismissed," a bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Ravinder Dubeja observed, rejecting Delhi Police's appeal challenging the trial court's order dated March 14, 2022.

Jahan, along with Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam and



several others, has been booked under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for being the "master-minds" behind the riots, which had left 53 people dead and over 700 injured. The violence erupted during the protests against Citizenship (Amendment) Act and National Register of Citizens. Police had argued that the bail was against the law as it failed to consider the gravity of the offence and the evi-

dence suggesting that the violence erupted pursuant to a conspiracy hatched by her and the co-accused. "The trial court lost sight of the fact that the respondent, being 'closely connected' with the other conspirators, played a very active role in the entire conspiracy... of organising the so-called protest at the protest site, which resulted in riots, killing numerous people, besides injuries and destruction of property."

The trial court had said the role of Jahan, on prima facie consideration, persuaded it to grant her the relief. As per the chargesheet or the statement of witnesses, Jahan was neither the one who "created the idea of chakka-jam" nor was she a member of any of the incriminating WhatsApp groups or organisations, it pointed out.

## 14 people rescued after transformer fire engulfs buildings in Delhi's Laxmi Nagar

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Fourteen people were rescued after a fire broke out in three residential buildings in East Delhi's Laxmi Nagar area early on Saturday.

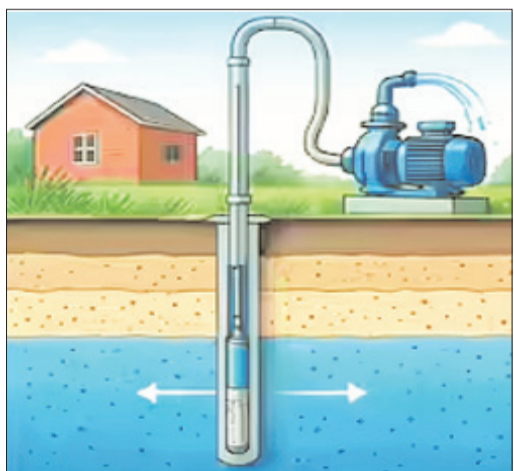
According to officials, the blaze began at approximately 1:28 am and was brought under control by around 2:30 am after a prompt response from fire services. The fire reportedly originated in an electric transformer and quickly spread to three adjacent buildings, affecting a total of 14 flats. Emergency teams, including firefighters and police personnel, acted swiftly to evacuate residents trapped inside the buildings. All 14 people were rescued safely, and no casualties were reported. In a separate incident, a massive fire in East Delhi's



Shakur Basti left several people homeless after it destroyed more than 100 shanties spread across nearly two acres of land near a shelter home. The blaze broke out late on Friday night at around 11:30 pm and continued raging until approximately 12:38am on Saturday. Firefighters battled the flames for over an hour before bringing the situation under control. The densely packed nature of the shanties contributed to the rapid spread of the fire, making firefighting efforts more challenging.

## Rate of groundwater recharge falls well below extraction for 1st time in recent years

**New Delhi, (GNS):** There has been a significant improvement in the groundwater situation in Delhi, with the rate of extraction falling well below that of recharge for the first time in recent years, according to the latest report of Central Groundwater Board (CGWB). The rate was 92.10% in 2024-25, indicating that more water was recharged than extracted. This marks a notable improvement from 100.77% in 2023-24, when extraction exceeded recharge. The rate has steadily declined over the past few years since it hit a worrying 119.6% in 2017-18, reflecting a gradual shift towards sustainability.



exploited' or 'critical' dropped to 21 in 2024-25, down from 27 in 2023-24, even as 'safe' units increased from five to seven during the same period.

According to CGWB's classification, 10 units (29.4%) are currently 'over-exploited', 11 (32.3%) fall under the 'critical' category, six (17.6%) are 'semi-critical' and seven (20.59%) are categorised as 'safe'. In comparison, there were 14 over-exploited and 13 critical units in the previous financial year, underlining an improvement.

CGWB defines 'safe' zones as those where extraction is less than 70% of recharge, allowing groundwater levels to rise. In contrast, 'over-exploited' areas extract more than they recharge, leading to declining water tables.

Groundwater recharge in 2024-25 was fairly balanced

across seasons. The monsoon (June to Sept) contributed .2 bcm, while the remaining .18 bcm came during other months. Rainfall accounted for .12 bcm, with the rest attributed to sources like canals, surface irrigation, ponds, tanks and rainwater-harvesting structures.

Experts attribute the positive trend to a mix of factors beyond just favourable rainfall. Shashank Shekhar, assistant professor at Delhi University, said improved recharge infrastructure and policy interventions are playing a key role.

"Better recharge cannot be attributed to a good monsoon alone. Effective recharge structures are essential, especially in a heavily concretised city like Delhi. At the same time, efforts to curb illegal groundwater extraction and provide piped water connections have contributed to the improvement," he said.

## 'Sandeep Pathak wouldn't have quit if leadership stayed in touch': AAP MP Kang

**New Delhi, (GNS):** The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) needs to recalibrate its strategy and work like a democratic organisation where everyone has an equal say, says AAP's Anandpur Sahib MP Malwinder Singh Kang. This alone can stem the defections from the party, said Kang in an interview with The Tribune this morning. A better coordination is required by the party leadership with all leaders, including MPs, MLAs and other leaders. A day after the large-scale defection of Rajya Sabha MPs from AAP to BJP, Kang, who till he became an MP, was the most prominent face of the party in Punjab, second only to Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, he said that it was time AAP started acting like

a political party. "Sandeep Pathak would have never quit the party... had the party leadership stayed in touch with him. No one in the party was in touch with him for a year," he said, adding that Chadha got unbundled power and misused it. "Ideally, the power should be distributed and not concentrated in a few hands," he said.

Kang reiterated that though he did not believe that these defections would have much effect on the polls in Punjab, because the defectors were never elected by people and were political non-entities, AAP leadership will have to remain vigilant.

I am pro Punjab and will always be a part of Punjab politics that benefits the state and our people.

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**INTEGRATED POWER SUPPLY WORK**  
 Sr. DSTE/North/Mumbai Central, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Divisional Railway Manager's, Mumbai Central, Mumbai-400008, invites E-Tender No.: SG\_141\_1\_72\_WA, Date: 22.04.2026. Work and location: Supply, Installation, testing and commissioning of Integrated power supply (IPS) at 15 locations in Vaitarna- Paldhi Section of Mumbai Division Western Railway. Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 2,16,29,864.71. EMD: ₹ 4,32,600/-. Time & Date for Submission: Till 18.05.2026, 15:00 hrs. Time & Date for Opening: On 18.05.2026 at 15:30 hrs. For further details please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in 0028 Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**CONSTRUCTION WORK**  
 Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Engg. Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008, invites E-Tender Notice No.: BCT/26-27/25, dt. 22.04.2026. Work and location: Matunga Road (R) Extension of 6.0 M wide South FOB for providing access to east side. (ii) Construction of elevated booking office connected with sky walk by 10.00 m wide FOB deck on PF no 1& 2 north end & other FOBS. Approx. cost of work: ₹ 9,55,90,906.21. EMD: ₹ 19,11,800/-. Date & Time of Submission: Till 19.05.2026, 15:00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening: On 19.05.2026 at 15:30 hrs. For further details please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in Manual offers will not be considered. 0027 Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly

# DMRC official Amit Kumar Jain honoured with Delhi CM's Award

**New Delhi,(GNS):** Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Director (Operations & Services) Amit Kumar Jain has been conferred the Delhi Chief Minister's Award-2026 for Excellence and Innovation in Governance and Public Service Delivery, recognising his role in spearheading key digital initiatives in the Capital's metro network.

The award was presented on April 21 on the occasion of Civil Services Day at the Mukhya Mantri Jan Sewa Sadan in Civil Lines. Officials said the recognition highlighted Jain's contribution to enhancing commuter experience through technology-



driven solutions in urban mobility.

Over the past few years, Jain has led the rollout of sev-

eral digital innovations across the metro system, including QR code-based ticketing, the 'Virtual Smart Card' and its

AI-powered chatbot, CHETNA, designed to assist commuters with real-time travel information. He also played a key role in the development of the DMRC Sarthi mobile application, which enables Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) by offering integrated, door-to-door journey planning. These initiatives have helped streamline ticketing processes, reduce dependence on physical infrastructure and improve multimodal connectivity, making public transport more accessible and efficient for daily commuters. Officials said the use of artificial intelligence and

data analytics had further strengthened service delivery and operational efficiency.

The achievement also reflected the broader push for digital transformation within DMRC under the leadership of Managing Director Vikas Kumar, who has guided the organisation towards adopting smart and sustainable practices in urban transit.

A 2000-batch Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) officer, Jain brings over 25 years of experience in public service, with a focus on digitisation and technology-led reforms. An alumnus of IIT-Roorkee, IIT-Delhi and the School of Planning and Architecture, he has been associated with several initiatives aimed at modernising transport systems.

## E-rick driver dies, several injured after car rams into vehicle

**New Delhi,(GNS):** A doctor from Rohini was nabbed on Friday after he rammed his car into an e-rickshaw, killing its driver and injuring several passengers. The accident happened in northwest Delhi's Model Town on Friday evening, police said. Police got a PCR call around 6 pm which reported a collision near a hospital on Ring Road. Police rushed to the spot and found that a car had collided with a battery-operated rickshaw, causing it to overturn.

Preliminary inquiry revealed that the impact had injured six people injured -- the e-rickshaw driver Nagender (36) and five passengers. The car driver immediately transported all the injured persons to a hospital in his vehicle. During treatment, Nagender succumbed to injuries, police said. The other injured - two women and three children - are undergoing treatment and are stated to be out of danger. Police have identified the driver of the car as Dr Sidharth, a resident of Rohini who works as a senior resident (radiologist) at GB Pant Hospital.

"His medical examination is being conducted to ascertain if he was under the influence of alcohol," a senior police officer said.



## Man critically injured in Karol Bagh after being shot at

**New Delhi,(GNS):** A 35-year-old man was critically injured after being shot at in central Delhi's Karol Bagh in the early hours of Thursday, police said. The victim was identified as Rohit, a resident of Than Singh Nagar in Anand Parbat. He has a 2019 murder case registered against him. Rohit is currently under medical observation and is stated to be in critical condition. He has, however, provided preliminary details about the suspected assailants, which are being verified.

Two empty cartridges and one live round were recovered from the crime scene.

Police said a case under section 109 (attempt to murder) of BNS and sections of the arms act has been registered.

In another incident, a man was injured after his friends attacked him with a knife in east Delhi's Krishna Nagar area on Thursday. Police said, the victim, Nazeem said that a few of his friends attacked him with a sharp weapon following a quarrel and then escaped from the spot. A case of attempted murder has been registered.

## Signature View razing: DDA writes to CBI again, told to wait



**New Delhi,(GNS):** The redevelopment of Signature View Apartments is likely to face further delay with Delhi Development Authority (DDA) still awaiting clearance from Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to start demolishing the buildings in north Delhi's Mukherjee Nagar.

The residential complex, built by DDA, was declared structurally unsafe in 2023, prompting plans for its razing and redevelopment. CBI, which is probing allegations of irregularities and corruption in the construction of these towers, has asked DDA to put the demolition on hold until it collects evidence from the site.

A senior DDA official said the authority has recently written to the agency again, seeking permission to initiate the razing. "CBI has engaged Delhi Technological University (DTU) to collect samples and examine the quality of construction materials used in the project. The process is underway and expected to be completed in a few weeks. Since this is a part of an ongoing investigation, we do not want to intervene or push for expediting it. Once we receive the nod, we will begin demolition," the official said. While the apartments have been fully vacated, DDA is also awaiting a decision from Delhi High Court regarding the increased floor area ratio (FAR) sought by its residents, with the next hearing scheduled for May.

Last year, CBI registered an FIR against 28 retired DDA officials and private contractors on charges of criminal conspiracy, corruption and use of substandard materials in the construction of the apartments. Separately, ex-LG V K Saxena had directed a vigilance department inquiry and initiation of criminal proceedings against the accused officials. The residents, who have shifted to rented accommodations for now, said they are eager for the demolition to begin so that redevelopment can start. "We may be living elsewhere, but returning home is always on our minds," said Amanendra Kumar Rakesh, president of Signature View RWA. Constructed between 2007 and 2010 and allotted in 2011-12, the apartments began showing structural distress within a few years.

## Stricter Checks, Safer Homes:

# Delhi Police Ramp Up Domestic Help Verification

**New Delhi,(GNS):** Delhi Police has intensified its verification drive for domestic staff following a series of recent high-profile crimes involving unverified workers, including a case in southeast Delhi where a bureaucrat's daughter was sexually assaulted and murdered by an unverified domestic help.

In another incident, an unverified help and his associates who had taken turns working in a household in Golf Links-allegedly held the family hostage and looted cash and valuables, underscoring the risks posed by inadequate verification.



According to the latest data released by police on Friday, 20,004 verification forms for domestic helps and tenants were processed across the city in 2025. The pace has picked up sharply this year, with

9,635 forms already submitted by March 31, 2026.

This marks a significant rise in monthly submissions-from an average of around 1,667 forms per month in 2025 to over 3,211 per month in the

first quarter of 2026-indicating increased compliance amid heightened enforcement and awareness drives.

The data also indicates a decline in violations. In 2025, police detected 6,352 cases under Section 223 (disobedience to an order duly promulgated by a public servant) of the BNS out of 20,004 forms submitted, reflecting a violation rate of about 31.7%. In contrast, in the first three months of 2026, 1,323 violations were identified from 9,635 applications, bringing the rate down to 13.7%.

Police said the reduction suggests greater awareness

among residents and possibly smoother verification procedures. However, authorities stressed that enforcement remains strict. Every violation detected has resulted in prosecution.

"In all districts, directions have been issued to intensify verification of domestic help and tenants," said Devesh Chandra Srivastava, special commissioner of police (crime and perception management & media cell). He urged residents and RWAs to approach local police stations or use the Delhi Police website to complete verification and strengthen safety norms.

## Delhi MC rolls out portal for regularisation of properties in 1,521 unauthorised colonies

**New Delhi,(GNS):** The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Friday launched the SWAGAM portal to begin the process of regularisation of properties in 1,521 unauthorised colonies across the Capital, said officials.

The online platform will allow residents to apply directly for regularisation of their properties under the PM UDAY Scheme. With the civic body aiming to streamline and digitise the process, applicants can now submit their requests through the MCD's official portal. To facilitate applicants, the MCD has also set up physical help desks across all 12 zonal offices, enabling residents to seek assistance in filing applications. Additionally, the civic body has empanelled over 700



professionals who can be consulted for guidance during the application process.

Officials said once an application is submitted, the regularisation certificate is expected to be issued within approximately 60 days. The certificates will be generated online and issued through the respective zonal building departments. Applicants will also receive SMS alerts and have

access to an online tracking system to monitor the status of their applications.

Clarifying the procedure, the MCD said no physical verification of properties would be conducted. Instead, applicant data available on the PM-UDAY portal would be automatically integrated into the SWAGAM system, reducing paperwork and processing time. The responsibility for handling applications would lie with zonal building department officials, while a dedicated technical team from the National Informatics Centre would manage the portal at the headquarters level.

The move is expected to provide relief to thousands of residents living in unauthorised colonies by granting legal recognition to their properties and simplifying access to civic services.

## MCD begins survey on misuse of residential premises following SC directions

**New Delhi,(GNS):** Following Supreme Court's directions, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has initiated a comprehensive exercise to identify the misuse of residential premises for non-residential purposes across the city.

The apex court, in its order issued in early April, impleaded municipal corporations of all capital cities, including MCD, as party respondents and directed them to carry out a detailed inquiry within their jurisdictions. MCD commissioner Sanjeev Khirwar has instructed all zonal deputy commissioners to conduct a time-bound survey to identify areas earmarked exclusively for residential use but currently being used for commercial or other non-residential activities. The survey will cover all residential colonies, including unautho-



risied and regularised colonies, group housing societies and plotted developments. It will also include areas falling within MCD limits as well as isolated pockets that are geographically surrounded by MCD jurisdictions.

Officials have been directed to undertake field inspections, verify data thoroughly, and prepare zone-wise lists of violations. The civic body has emphasised that the data must be accurate and backed by proper records as it will form the basis of an affidavit to be submitted before Supreme Court.

## HC asks Delhi govt to implement SC directions on open prisons

**New Delhi,(GNS):** Delhi High Court has directed Delhi govt, police and jail authorities to chalk out a clear strategy to implement the Supreme Court's directives on open correctional institutions (OCIs) and identify eligible prisoners who can be shifted to such facilities.

A bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia took cognisance of a public interest litigation (PIL) on the issue and asked Delhi govt to file an affidavit detailing steps taken to comply with the Supreme Court's order dated Feb 26.

The high court noted that as per the apex court's directions, every state and Union territory must constitute a monitoring committee, headed by the executive chairman of the state legal services authority or his nominee, to oversee the functioning of open correctional institutions.

"Please apprise the home secretary that he should con-



stitute the committee. The committee should meet, chalk out specific strategies to implement the Supreme Court's order and assess the current position. Eligible prisoners have to be identified for transfer to open prisons. All this should be done," the bench told the govt counsel, granting two months for compliance and listing the matter for hearing in July.

The court also sought a status report from the Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLSA), impleaded the Centre, prison authorities and the high court administration as parties to the PIL, and appointed an amicus curiae to assist the court.

## Infra firm director among two arrested for cheating man of Rs 5.5 cr in real estate fraud

**New Delhi,(GNS):** The Gurugram police have arrested two accused, including an infrastructure company director, for allegedly defrauding investors of crores of rupees by using land belonging to renowned Dhirendra Shastri's controversial "Aparna Ashram" in Silokhera village of Gurugram and the Shashtri name. The accused lured victims into investing large sums of money in fake real estate projects using forged documents. According to the police, the accused were identified as Ashok Chaudhary (60), a resident of Brij Vihar in District Ghaziabad of Uttar Pradesh. They were arrested by the Police's Economic Offences Wing-2 (EOW) on Thursday from Sector 62, Noida.

On April 15, the victim had filed a complaint to the police and stated that CKC Infra Company directors Ashok Chaudhary and Chandrakant



Chaudhary, along with their other associates, had taken him into confidence by giving him false documents and false assurances of selling rights in the name of investment in alleged real estate projects in Aparna Ashram in Gurugram and Vaishali in Noida.

The complainant added that he was made to invest at different times. Despite the payments, no valid agreement was signed, no work on the project started and no selling rights were granted. Later, the complainant found that the

land belonging to Aparna Ashram was disputed and was under the possession of the Haryana Government.

An FIR was registered based on the complaint and the two accused were arrested. During interrogation, it was revealed that accused Ashok Chaudhary was the director of CKC Infra Company, who along with his other associates, in a planned manner, cheated the complainant and obtained crores of rupees from him by promising false investments.