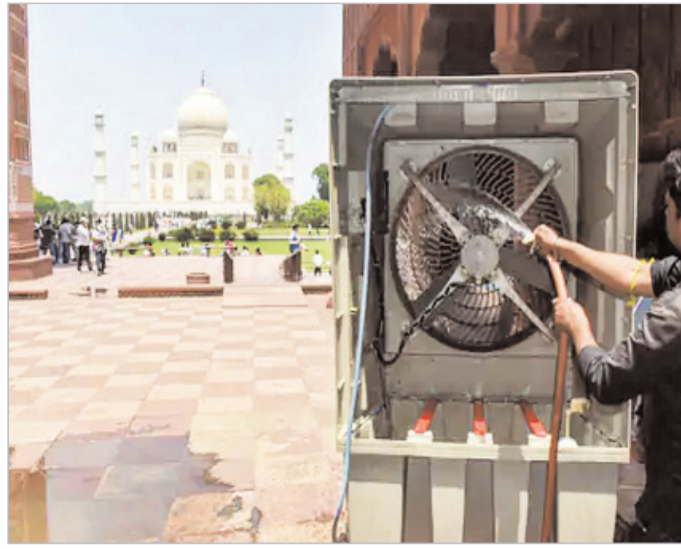




Rain in Rajasthan amid heatwave, hail in Bikaner and Ganganagar

2 Deaths due to heat in Bihar; temperatures exceed 46°C in 7 cities across the country



New Delhi/Bhopal/Jaipur/Lucknow,(GNS): Severe heat continues to grip the country. Temperatures exceeded 46°C in seven

Amravati was reeling under a heatwave, with temperatures reaching 46.8°C, Banda 46.6°C, Wardha and Barmar 46.4°C, and Jaisalmer and Yavatmal 46°C. Meanwhile, Bikaner and Ganganagar in Rajasthan experienced rain and hail on Monday.

A heat wave alert has been issued in 60 districts of Uttar Pradesh. Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh, saw temperatures



reach 45°C for the first time. The mercury also remained at 43°C in Indore and Bhopal. Schools up to grade 12 have been closed in Dehradun, Uttarakhand due to the heat. Temperatures exceeded 40°C in eight districts of Bihar on Sunday. Two heat-related deaths were reported here. Five people died in districts bordering Nepal due to thunderstorms and lightning.

Dhirendra Shastri said, "I apologize for my controversial statement about Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Samarth Ramdas Swami."



Nagpur,(GNS): Dhirendra Krishna Shastri, the head priest of Bageshwar Dham, who was embroiled in controversy over his remarks on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Samarth Ramdas Swami, has apologized. At a press conference in Nagpur on Sunday, Dhirendra Shastri said, "Some people misinterpreted my statement. I respect the concept of Swaraj and Hindu Rashtra, and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj holds the highest place in it. I would never even dream of speaking negatively about him."

He further said, "The context was completely different. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj had deep devotion to saints and his guru, Samarth Ramdas Swami. We were talking about a disciple's devotion to his guru. Just as in the Mahabharata, when Arjuna told Lord Krishna that he would not fight his own people, Krishna preached the Gita." Our intention was only to highlight the greatness of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and how deeply he was devoted to the saints, but a small excerpt was cut out of context and spread.

What was the controversial statement?

At a program in Nagpur, Dhirendra Krishna Shastri made a claim about Shivaji Maharaj. He stated that Shivaji Maharaj was tired of wars and had expressed his desire to relinquish his responsibilities. According to Shastri, Maharaj took his crown and went to Guru Samarth Ramdas.

President Draupadi Murmu arrives in Shimla, welcomed by Governor-CM:

Will stay here for the next 5 days, will also visit Atal Tunnel Rohtang and Agriculture University Palampur



Shimla,(GNS): President Draupadi Murmu arrived in Shimla on Monday. Her helicopter landed at the Kalyani helipad in Chharabra. She was welcomed by Himachal Governor Kavinder Gupta, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, and others. Three helicopters in the President's convoy arrived in Shimla from Delhi. One of these helicopters landed in Chharabra, and two in Annadale.

President Murmu is on a five-day visit to Himachal. She is staying at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Retreat in Chharabra, about 13 kilometers from Shimla. Shimla police have made elaborate security arrangements for the president's visit. 1,000 police personnel have been deployed from Shimla city to Chharabra.

TMC MP Mithali Raj's car attacked with bricks and stones MP and her driver injured

3 BJP workers arrested; TMC claims attack followed Shah's threat



Kolkata,(GNS): TMC MP Mitali Bag's car was attacked in Hooghly, West Bengal, on Monday. The attack occurred as she was traveling from Goghat to Arambagh to attend Abhishek Banerjee's roadshow. The car's windows were shattered in the attack. The MP and her driver were injured.

Both have been admitted to Arambagh Medical College Hospital. After the attack, Mitali Bag broke down in tears on camera. She said, "Look at the condition of my car. They threw huge stones. I somehow managed to escape with my life."

The TMC alleges that BJP supporters attacked the MP's car in Goghat with bricks, stones, and sticks. In a tweet, the TMC stated, "Home Minister Amit Shah had threatened to hang anyone who left their homes upside down. This attack occurred after that."

Police have arrested three accused, identified as Sintu Santra, Sanatan Santra, and Rajkumar Roy. All three are claimed to be BJP workers.

Calcutta High Court bans bike rallies and group riding:

The Calcutta High Court has banned bike rallies and group bike rides ahead of the second phase of the general election. The court directed that such activities be strictly prohibited two days before the vote and on polling day, April 29th. The division bench amended its earlier order to include "biking in groups" in the ban. Exemptions were granted for people going to work, using app-based services, and going to vote with their families. BJP MP Tejasvi Surya said in Bengal, "People from all over the city have come out on the streets."

PM Modi arrives in Sikkim: Today will lay the foundation stone for projects worth 4,000 crore

Will attend the state's 50th foundation day celebrations



Gangtok,(GNS): Monday. His roadshow began from the Libing in Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim. He arrived in Governor's House (Lok Bhavan). Modi is on a two-day visit to Sikkim. Tomorrow he will attend the closing ceremony of the state's 50th foundation day celebrations and lay the foundation stone for projects worth over 4,000 crore.

Foundation stone laid for projects worth Rs 4,000 crore: During his two-day visit, the Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone for projects worth approximately 4,000 crore related to education, health, connectivity, infrastructure, tourism, environment, and agriculture. These include a 100-bed hospital in Namchi, a 30-bed hospital in Deorali, two double-lane steel bridges over the Teesta River, and the Civil Service Officers Institute in Gangtok.

Prime Minister virtually joined the 50th Foundation Day celebrations. Tuesday will mark the conclusion of the year-long celebrations.

7 AAP MPs approved to merge with BJP:

BJP MPs in Rajya Sabha increase from 106 to 113, Kejriwal's party reduced to 3

New Delhi,(GNS): Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan on Monday approved the merger of seven rebel Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MPs into the BJP. The decision reduces the AAP's strength in the Rajya Sabha to three, while the BJP's number of MPs increases from 106 to 113.

The seven MPs who joined the BJP include Raghav Chadha, Ashok Mittal, Harbhajan Singh, Sandeep Pathak, Vikramjeet Sahni, Swati Maliwal, and Rajendra Gupta. These MPs are also listed as BJP members on the official Rajya Sabha website.

On Sunday, the AAP had urged the Speaker to terminate the membership of all seven MPs. Sanjay Singh also wrote a letter, accusing them



of violating the anti-defection law and appealing for disqualification.

According to Sanjay Singh, AAP has consulted several constitutional experts, including advocate Kapil Sibal and former Lok Sabha Secretary General P.D.T. Achari. Sibal stated that according to the 10th Schedule of the Constitution, the party must first pass a resolution to merge with another party. No MP can merge with another party.

Kejriwal said - hope of justice from Justice Swarn Kanta is over

Her son got the maximum number of cases from the Centre, will not go to the High Court in the liquor scam case



New Delhi,(GNS): Arvind Kejriwal released a video on Monday saying, "I will neither appear in person in the High Court nor will anyone argue on my behalf in the liquor policy scam case." He added that he does not expect justice from High Court Justice Swarn Kanta Sharma.

The former Chief Minister also wrote a letter to Justice Swarna Kanta. It stated, "Following my conscience, I have decided to adopt Mahatma Gandhi's path of Satyagraha. This is because both of Justice Swarna Kanta's children are part of the central government's panel of lawyers."

Husband, wife, and two daughters die after eating watermelon in Mumbai: Food poisoning suspected

They had eaten biryani with guests at home, then eaten fruit

Mumbai,(GNS): Four members of a family in Mumbai's JJ Marg area died of suspected food poisoning. According to police, the family ate watermelon after a get-together at home on April 25th, which led to their health deteriorating. Abdullah (40), his wife Nasreen (35) and their daughters Zainab (13) and Ayesha (16) were initially taken to a private hospital but as their condition worsened, they were admitted to JJ Hospital, where they all died during treatment.

Iranian MP says Pakistan is unfit to be a mediator it leans in favor of the US, says nothing against Trump

Washington DC / Tehran,(GNS): Talks between Iran and the United States to end the ongoing war in the Middle East have yet to yield any concrete agreement. Meanwhile, an Iranian leader has questioned Pakistan's role.

Ibrahim Rezaei, spokesman for the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, said that Pakistan is definitely a friend, but it cannot become the right mediator in the talks. Rezaei said that Pakistan



often serves the interests of Donald Trump and the United States and does not speak out against them. Therefore, it cannot

be considered impartial. He added that a true mediator is one who remains impartial between the two parties, not always biased toward one side. His statement comes at a time when Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi visited Pakistan twice in 24 hours.

Trump said - Iran has very little time left: US President Donald Trump warned Iran on Sunday that it had just three days to agree to a ceasefire to end the war or its oil pipeline would be blown up.

The knock of defection and the acid test of democracy

Vinod Kumar Singh
'Takiyawala'

The question of morality in the current changing political scenario – Amidst the electoral frenzy, power, principles and self-interest clash. Is the real 'king' of democracy still the conscious voter?

The global political landscape is currently experiencing instability, ideologi-

cal conflicts, and new balances of power. A look within Indian democracy reveals no less turmoil.

The hustle and bustle of assembly elections in four states and one union territory has already raised the political temperature. Meanwhile, the departure of seven Rajya Sabha MPs from the Aam Aadmi Party to join the Bharatiya Janata Party appears to have

turned this temperature into an earthquake. This development is not merely a matter of switching sides. It exposes the depth of Indian politics, where the struggle between principle and self-interest continues unabated.

When we examine the background of this development, memories of the movement that claimed to give a new direction to

Indian politics are refreshed. The Jan Lokpal movement led by Anna Hazare was not merely a voice against corruption; it became a symbol of a moral revolution.

From the womb of this movement, Arvind Kejriwal created the Aam Aadmi Party as a political party. This was an experiment that challenged traditional politics and incorporated

transparency, accountability, and public participation as its core principles. Remaining in power in Delhi for a decade and achieving national party status was considered proof of the success of this experiment. However, over time, it became clear that maintaining a politics based on ideals in the corridors of power is not easy.

Today, when seven Rajya

Sabha MPs from the same party—including prominent names like Raghav Chadha and Harbhajan Singh—change parties, it is not merely an organizational crisis. It also calls into question the ideological commitment that once characterized the party. Anna Hazare's response to this entire incident is extremely important and noteworthy.

Editorial

Turning point On the U.S. and India's independent foreign policy

The U.S. has allowed its waiver of sanctions on Iran's Chabahar port to lapse on Sunday (April 26), indicating that India is now at a crossroads on how to proceed with the port as a key connectivity initiative. Barring a belated waiver renewal, New Delhi must choose between accepting sanctions and abandoning its \$620 million investment, or proceeding with the project and risk strict U.S. sanctions. India's "start-stop" engagement with Iran on developing a facility at the Shahid Beheshti terminal at Chabahar goes back decades, and Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee signed an MoU for the project in 2003. However, U.S. pressure on India to postpone plans aimed at stopping Iran's nuclear programme led to construction delays. The Manmohan Singh government was unable to make much progress either, but continued work on the Zaranj-Delaram highway to connect the Iran-Afghanistan border crossing to Kabul. After the 2015 JCPOA, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government signed a trilateral agreement with Iran and Afghanistan to advance trade and aid via Chabahar port and a highway into Afghanistan. Chabahar's importance grew as ties with Pakistan deteriorated and it restricted India's transit access to Afghanistan. However, fate intervened again as U.S. President Donald Trump walked out of the JCPOA, and began a "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran by re-implementing all sanctions. While India was forced by the U.S. to give up Iranian oil imports, and plans for the rail line, the U.S. built a "carve-out" for Chabahar, allowing India to send wheat and medical supplies to Afghanistan.

Trump's statement about hell, is Modi stronger than BJP?

Sanat Jain

US President Donald Trump recently created a new problem for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP, and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) by calling India a "hell." This statement came during the assembly elections in five states. India's expected response to this has not yet been received. The way Trump's statement is gaining momentum on social media, and the way Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the Bharatiya Janata Party, and Hindu organizations are being targeted, may make it difficult for the BJP and Hindu organizations to respond in the future. US President Donald Trump is currently going through a period of paranoia, in which he says anything about anyone. His words are not taken seriously in countries around the world. He says one thing in the morning and then another in the evening. Donald Trump has repeatedly changed his statements regarding tariffs. He repeatedly changed his statements during the Iran war.

He can make any accusation against anyone. The image Donald Trump is creating in the world shows him establishing himself less as the President of the United States and more as a gangster to the world.

India's culture is millions of years old. India's spirituality and India, the land of gods, have always held a distinct identity among countries around the world. There are seven islands on Earth, and the most sacred of them, Jammu Island, is in India. By calling this sacred land a hell, Donald Trump has gravely insulted not only our millions of gods and goddesses but also our fellow Indians.

Despite this grave insult, the government of India's Hindu emperor, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, remains in power and enjoys the support of all Hindu organizations. Despite this, the repeated insults of India by Donald Trump have reached a peak.

This is eliciting a strong reaction from the general public in India. This is resonating with the public. Donald Trump has insulted our Sanatana Dharma, Hindu culture, and India on such a massive scale. In such a situation, why are the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the Bharatiya Janata Party, and Hindu organizations, from Shankaracharya to Mahamandaleshwar, Mandaleshwar, and other religious leaders, remaining silent? India has never suffered a greater insult than this. Where have those Hindu organizations gone, who stir up controversy over Hindu beliefs, including food, drink, and reli-

gious practices, over every little thing? The US President has made various statements, not once, not twice, but numerous times, to insult India's identity and humiliate it. Indians were sent back to India from the US in handcuffs and shackles. Now it's gone too far. Donald Trump's audacity has increased so much that he has called India a pit of hell. What greater insult to Hinduism and Indians could there be than this?

US presidential candidate Kamala Harris is of Indian origin. Sundar Pichai is also of Indian origin.

Millions of such Indians live in America. Except for Kamala Harris, no one expressed any displeasure over Trump's statement. The way people of Indian origin supported Trump during the US elections, this time slogans were raised in support of the Trump government. When he was running for the second time for the presidency, Indians in India performed havan pujas for Trump. Even those Indians who performed havan pujas and praised Trump are keeping silent on the description of the land of Gods as hell. This is causing resentment among the general public.

The results of the assembly elections in five states will be announced on May 4th. The current situation in India suggests that US President Donald Trump has described India as a

hell and a hell on earth. The lack of reaction to Trump's statement from Indian-origin NRIs around the world, including the US and other countries, is surprising everyone.

The way American companies are doing business in India. They are earning from here, eating from here. Yet, they are playing with India's faith and insulting India. No amount of condemnation is enough for this. These companies must be boycotted in India. Our relationship with the US should be severed. The way Trump is insulting India after becoming President for the second time, the Indian government is offering no response. This suggests that we have once again become slaves of the East India Company and the British government.

The economic, social, and strategic landscape of the entire world is rapidly changing. America and Israel have become isolated. China, Russia, and Iran are challenging America through the BRICS organization. We are still enslaved by America and Israel. The displeasure of the Indian public is now clearly visible. The Indian government must not only make timely changes in its foreign policy, but also demonstrate its strength and strong will to ensure that India's self-respect remains intact throughout the world.

Political upheaval in AAP: Future of 7 Rajya Sabha MPs under scanner over anti-defection law

Kantilal Mandot

A major political development has once again emerged in the country, creating a stir from Parliament to the political corridors. This major split in the Aam Aadmi Party has not only exposed the party's internal situation but has also sparked a new debate on the relevance and limitations of the anti-defection law. With several Rajya Sabha MPs announcing their departure and joining the Bharatiya Janata Party, the most important question now is whether these MPs will retain their membership or face disqualification.

At the center of this entire issue is Raghav Chadha, along with several other MPs who have claimed to be leaving the party. Names like Sandeep Pathak, Ashok Mittal, Vikram Sahni, Harbhajan Singh, Swati Maliwal, and Narendra Gupta are also being mentioned. All of them are said to have left the Aam Aadmi

Party and joined the BJP. This claim has further heated up the political atmosphere.

On the other hand, Sanjay Singh has strongly protested this entire incident, calling it a violation of democratic values. He has submitted a petition to the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan, demanding the disqualification of these seven MPs. He argues that these MPs have clearly violated the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, which was created to prevent defection.

The anti-defection law in India, known as the Tenth Schedule, was enacted in 1985 through the 52nd Constitutional Amendment. Its primary purpose was to maintain stability within political parties and prevent elected representatives from switching parties for personal gain. Under this law, an MP or MLA can be disqualified if they voluntarily relinquish their party

membership.

Another important provision in this law relates to party whips. If an MP votes against their party's directives in the House or abstains from voting, they may face disqualification. This rule aims to ensure that party discipline is maintained and the strategy of the government or the opposition is not influenced.

The law also has clear rules for independent members. If an independent candidate joins a political party after winning an election, they can be immediately disqualified. This ensures that the independent candidate chosen by voters does not compromise their expectations by later joining a party.

However, this law also contains an important exception, known as the merger provision. According to this, if two-thirds or more of the members of a party simultaneously join another party, it is considered a valid merger, not a defection, and such members are

exempt from disqualification. This is the point on which the future of this entire case will largely depend. The question now is whether the number of these Aam Aadmi Party MPs reaches the two-thirds mark. If this number is reached, these MPs can retain their membership, otherwise they could face disqualification. This is why both sides are making their claims, and the political calculus is rapidly changing. The Chairman of the Rajya Sabha has the final say in this matter. Currently, this responsibility rests with the Vice President, who will hear the case and deliver a decision based on the facts. His decision will be crucial, as it will determine whether the MP concerned will remain in Parliament.

However, it is important to note that the Speaker's decision, while final, is not beyond the scope of judicial review. The Supreme Court has already clarified that the Speaker's decision in cases involving defection

can be challenged in court. This means that if a party is dissatisfied with the decision, it can approach the court. Political analysts believe that this issue is not limited to just one party, but will have implications for the entire nation's politics. If a large number of MPs defect and escape disqualification, it could set an example for other parties. However, if strict action is taken, it will send a message that the anti-defection law remains in effect and that violations can result in severe consequences. This development has once again raised the question of whether the anti-defection law is fully fulfilling its purpose or whether it needs reform. Some experts believe that the law is sometimes used as a political weapon, stifling the free speech of MLAs and MPs. On the other hand, it is also argued that without this law, political instability could increase and governments could be at risk of collapse.

This conflict between the Aam Aadmi Party and the Bharatiya Janata Party is likely to intensify in the coming days. Both sides will present their arguments before the public and constitutional institutions. The nation is closely monitoring this entire matter, as it is not just an issue of seven MPs but a question concerning the strength of the democratic system.

Ultimately, it can be said that the anti-defection law is an important part of Indian democracy, playing a crucial role in maintaining political stability. However, it is also essential that it is used fairly and transparently to preserve the fundamental spirit of democracy. The Speaker's decision will provide an important signal in this direction in the future, determining the extent to which it is possible to control the trend of defection in politics. (L 103 Jalwant Township Poona Bombay Market Road, Near Nandalaya Haveli Surat Mob 99749 40324 Senior Journalist Writer - Columnist)

Malangia Mahotsav sets record for largest script lesson at

New Delhi, (GNS): The ongoing Malangia Mahotsav at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat, has entered the record books, with the Malangia Foundation securing a Guinness World Record for conducting the largest script lesson, marking a major milestone in India's theatre landscape.

The record-setting event was led by noted playwright and theatre director Mahendra Malangia, whose five-decade-long contribution to Indian theatre was celebrated during the session. The official certificate was presented by Guinness representative Rishi Nath in the presence of orgMediasers and participants. According to orgMediasers, the session saw over 6,000 participants



attending physically, while another 4,000 joined digitally, reflecting widespread interest in theatre education and literary arts. The achievement is being seen as a significant moment for Indian theatre, highlighting large-scale public engagement with performing arts.

The Malangia Mahotsav, an international theatre festival orgMediated by the Malangia Foundation, celebrates the life and works of Malangia and has drawn participation from writ-

ers, artists and theatre practitioners across the country.

Speaking at the event, former union minister Vijay Goel, Vice Chairman of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, said the five-day festival is showcasing 35 plays and has brought together over 5,000 writers and artists representing 22 Indian languages. "It is a vibrant confluence of literature, theatre and culture," he said, adding that such initiatives play an important role in promoting cultural awareness.

Goel also underlined the importance of live theatre in an era dominated by digital content, stating that such platforms help nurture creativity and deeper societal understanding, particularly among the youth.

Delhi police dismantle illegal drug network and cocaine syndicate

New Delhi, (GNS): Police have arrested three men for allegedly running an illegal supply network of banned and controlled pharmaceutical drugs in Delhi-NCR.

The accused were identified as Rahul (29), Mohammad Akram (28), and Suraj Prasad (36), all of whom were allegedly involved in procuring and distributing restricted medicines for profit. Rahul was apprehended from Uttam Nagar while travelling on a scooter. During a search, police recovered a substantial quantity of psychotropic substances and controlled medicines from the vehicle. Based on his interrogation, his associates Akram and Suraj were later traced and arrested from a meeting point in the city. The recovered contraband includes Alprazolam tablets weighing around 1.5 kg, Tramadol-based capsules and related medicines weighing approximately 1.8 kg, and about 12 litres of codeine-based cough syrup. The scooter used to transport the drugs has also been seized. A case was registered under



sections of the NDPS Act, and further investigation is underway. In another operation, police busted an interstate drug syndicate and seized high-quality cocaine worth around Rs5 crore.

Police apprehended a 29-year-old man, Javed Hussain, near the Ghazipur roundabout and recovered about 456 grams of cocaine from his possession. During interrogation, he revealed the name of his supplier, following which a raid was conducted in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh. The supplier, Soib Khan (25), was arrested from his residence. Police said both accused were involved in supplying cocaine in Delhi-NCR.

Special cell just can't shake off controversies

New Delhi, (GNS): Last week, Delhi High Court came down heavily on Delhi Police's special cell and its methods in connection with its perceived high-handedness in a case. Sunday's incident - a cop attached to the cell shot dead a delivery executive and injured another person - has yet again put the unit's functioning in the dock.

Just a few months ago, the reported mismanagement in the unit was exposed after one of its cops burgled its own high-security store and stole cash and valuables worth crores. The sensational heist, which came close to businessman Nadir Shah's suspicious murder, was supposed to be a



wake-up call for the cell.

In Shah's case, two of the special cell's senior officers, a DCP and an ACP, were spotted near his gym just a day before the murder. The area was, in fact, swarming with the unit's cops on the night of the murder. Not just that, police from the counter-intelligence wing had even met Shah at a farm-

house a week before he was killed.

Media had exposed this scandal last March. Serving and retired officers of the special cell agreed that inquiries were supposed to be conducted and heads should have rolled in these cases to send a clear message that no one was above the law. However, matters were brazenly hushed up.

In the latter part of 2025, there seemed a minor shake-up in the cell was in the making, but things went back to square one soon. Weeks later, the Nov 10 car bombing killed over a dozen people, bringing over the unit's performance under the scanner again.

The anti-terror unit was

caught napping as the "doctor-terror module" operated at its doorstep in NCR for over two years and collected thousands of kgs of explosives without anyone getting a whiff. "The unit strangely seemed indifferent even when J&K police conducted a raid. A man who escaped the raid managed to lurk in the vicinity of Delhi for nine days before driving his explosives-laden car through different parts of the city for 12 hours and blowing himself up near Red Fort," said a police source.

The blast seemed to have temporarily jolted the special cell out of its slumber as it quickly gathered leads, traced the bomber's route and made

other breakthroughs. However, the damage was already done. In May 2024, Media had reported how the unit's functioning had become questionable, posing a serious threat to the capital's security, and how the unit, once considered among the best in the country, lost its shine.

"Since then, many old hands and veterans from the unit are gone - either retired or shunted out. Today, it is working as an extension of the intelligence branch, focused on data collection and trying to mimic the operations of National Investigation Agency (NIA). Detection has taken a back seat," said an officer who retired from the special cell.



Sole Breadwinner Killed After Birthday Outing

New Delhi, (GNS): Twenty-one-year-old Pandav Kumar, a delivery executive and the sole breadwinner of his family, stepped out on Saturday night to attend a birthday party. Early Sunday morning, he was gone - leaving behind a family that has been battling illness and poverty, and now pushed into deeper uncertainty.

Pandav's 60-year-old mother, Meena Devi, and brother Vikas (16) are both undergoing treatment for tuberculosis. Vikas had to drop out of school owing to his illness and takes up odd jobs only when his health permits. His father, Ganesh Singh (60), a labourer, barely manages to find occasional work. Even on Saturday night, Pandav was thinking of work. Krishna, his 19-year-old cousin who was with him at the birthday party in Jafarpur Kalan, told Media, "He insisted we return home quickly so he could complete some late-night deliveries and earn extra money."

Grief shrouded the Kumars' rented house in Bindapur on Sunday. Meena Devi was crying inconsolably, clinging to her daughter Gunjan Devi (35) and calling out for her elder son. The family had migrated from Khagariya in Bihar around 15 years ago in search of better opportunities in Delhi.

Gunjan, who lives in Shahdara after her marriage, said she used to speak to Pandav every day. "I was busy on Saturday and forgot to call him up. When I realised, it was too late. I thought I would speak to him the next morning. I didn't know that was my last chance to hear my brother's voice," she said, breaking down.

Pandav left home around 8.30 pm with his cousin and friends to attend the birthday party. His aunt, Chandrakala, was the last family member to speak to him. "I called him around 1.30 am and told them to leave since it was late."

'Killers' of the womb: A son obsession

New Delhi, (GNS): In many parts, that moment still carries an unspoken question: Is it a boy? Behind this question lies the weight of cultural expectations, financial anxieties and patriarchal norms that continue to place sons above daughters.

A study by academics from the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Saudi Arabia, estimates that 6.8 million fewer female births could be recorded across India by 2030 due to the continued use of sex-selective abortions.

But before diving deeper into research, it is important to understand what is "missing". A social fixation Behind the data lies a mindset that often treats the birth of a daughter as a "burden" and a son as an "investment".

This skewed preference has led to sex-selective abortions and illegal prenatal testing



networks.

A mix of cultural pressure, patriarchal norms and economic anxieties continues to push families towards sex selection—even when it is legally banned under the PCPNDT Act. A long list of cases but here are just a couple of examples: In a Telangana triple murder case, a 26-year-old pregnant woman and her two daughters were found dead in a swimming pool at a private layout. The husband claimed accidental drowning.

However, police and family alleged a different motive: pressure over a third pregnancy and suspicion that the unborn child was female, along with earlier abortions allegedly forced after gender suspicion.

In another case, a woman accused her husband and in-laws of illegal prenatal sex determination, female foeticide, repeated forced abortions, and sexual as well as physical abuse, following a complaint filed in Kanpur.

According to the complaint, the woman got married in 2021, after which her husband-then working in Dubai-allegedly returned to India and began pressuring her to bring money from her parental home to start a business and buy a car.

She claimed that when she refused, she was repeatedly assaulted, sustaining serious spinal injuries.

1 dead as cop fires in Dwarka

New Delhi, (GNS): A labourer was killed and another injured after a Delhi Police personnel allegedly opened fire in the Dwarka area of the national capital in the early hours of Sunday, officials said.

The incident occurred around 2 am in Jafarpur Kalan, where Head Constable Neeraj, posted with the Special Cell of the Delhi Police, allegedly fired at two labourers following an altercation. According to the police, the victims were reportedly part of a late-night gathering when an argument broke out over noise, escalating into violence. Both labourers sustained bullet injuries, out of whom one died, while the other is undergoing treatment.

"The accused is abscond-



ing. A manhunt has been launched and multiple teams are conducting raids to trace him," a senior police officer said.

Investigators are also probing whether the accused was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident. A case of murder has been registered, and further investigation is underway. The police said the body will be handed over to the family after post-mortem examination.

'Potentially dangerous inci-

Delhi-Zurich flight's engine failed at 193kmph during take-off at IGI

New Delhi, (GNS): Four passengers and a crew member on board a SWISS Delhi-Zurich flight on Sunday morning were injured while being evacuated on a runway at IGI airport using emergency slides as the aircraft had to abandon take-off following an engine fire. The passengers were admitted to Medanta Hospital in Gurgaon; the cabin crew member suffered a sprained ankle. The failure of engine number one and subsequent fire breakout in it happened when the SWISS Airbus A330 was operating as LX 147 with 232 passengers (including four infants) and 13 crew members. Since it was a big and potentially dangerous



incident, India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Board will investigate the case, said senior officials. The aircraft had reached a speed of 104 knots (about 193 kmph) on the take-off roll around 1.08am when the engine

failed. The pilots abandoned takeoff. After coming to a halt, they decided to carry out evacuation on the runway (28/10).

Delhi airport said on X that it declared a "full emergency". "All pre-

scribed safety protocols were promptly executed and passengers were safely evacuated. Airport operations remained unaffected," it added. In a statement, SWISS said: "Shortly after 1 am local time Sunday, an issue occurred with one of the engines during the takeoff of flight LX147 in Delhi. The crew aborted takeoff and, after assessing the situation, decided as a precaution to evacuate the aircraft. SWISS has established a task force." "Four passengers (are) in hospital. Our staff are (with them) and closely supporting them for as long as the situation requires. A cabin crew member sustained a sprained ankle. Other crew members are unharmed," it added. The

runway was closed for operations for about three hours till the aircraft was removed there following evacuation of everyone on board. The DGCA is probing this and has informed its EU counterparts about this incident.

WESTERN RAILWAY
HIRING OF ATTENDANTS IN LIEU OF TADK
Sr.DMM/MMCT, Mumbai Central, Mumbai 400 008, invites E-Tender Notice No. 8125C_BCT_Hiring_TADK dated 22.04.2026 due on 25.05.2026. Work and location: Hiring of Attendants in lieu of TADK for a period of 24 months for officers working in Western Railway MUMBAI CENTRAL DIVISION & RRB-Mumbai in Maharashtra & Valsad in Gujarat. Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 3,22,85,904/- EMD: ₹ 25,000/- Time & Date for Submission: Till 25.05.2026, 11:00 hrs. Time & Date for Opening: On 25.05.2026 at 11:30 hrs. For further details please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in 0033
Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly

From boardrooms to Parl: Rise of businessmen-politicians



New Delhi, (GNS): Businessmen-politicians made headlines this week. The presence of three industrialists in the seven-member Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) bloc that defected and claimed to have merged with the BJP drew considerable public scrutiny and judgement.

Reason - while people are used to seeing political workers move across parties for political reasons, defections by business leaders handpicked by a national party, in this case the AAP, for elevation to the Rajya Sabha, is rare.

People asked why AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal handed down coveted Rajya Sabha berths to industrialists who

lacked party moorings. There are no easy explanations for the pro-BJP call AAP's industrialist-MPs Ashok Mittal (founder chancellor of Lovely Professional University), Vikramjit Sahney (World Punjabi OrgMediation chief) and Rajender Gupta (Trident Group head) have taken along with party's political workers, Raghav Chadha, Sandeep Pathak and Swati Maliwal.

While the businessmen, who Chadha claims have defected along with others, believe they can better serve Punjab as part of the BJP, Aam Aadmi Party has attributed the switch to the recent ED raids on the premises linked to Ashok Mittal.

For the record, the stated merger of AAP legislature party in Rajya Sabha (two thirds of ten MPs) with the BJP is yet to be formalised. Chadha claims to have submitted to RS chairman CP Radhakrishnan a letter of merger with the BJP signed by all seven AAP MPs including Harbhajan Singh but the latter is yet to rule on the matter. Meanwhile AAP has demanded disqualification of defectors for violating the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution and the anti defection law.

NDMC holds 'Nari Shakti Vandan' tree plantation drive at Tilak Marg

New Delhi, (GNS): The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on Sunday organised a special tree plantation drive themed 'Nari Shakti Vandan' at Tilak Marg, drawing participation from over 500 women as part of the ongoing 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign. The event, led by NDMC Vice Chairman Kuljeet Singh Chahal, was held in the presence of BJP national vice president Bajajayant Jay Panda and New Delhi MP Bansuri Swaraj, along with several prominent personalities from media, sports and civil society.

The programme began with



a collective listening of the 133rd episode of Mann Ki Baat by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, followed by

the plantation of saplings dedicated to participants' mothers, reflecting the emotional theme of the campaign.

Addressing the gathering, Chahal said the initiative combines environmental responsibility with the message of women empowerment. "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam is not just a campaign, but a social and emotional responsibility that inspires us to honour our mothers while protecting nature," he said.

He added that the park at Tilak Marg will now be developed and known as the 'Nari Shakti Vandan' park, symbolising respect for women's contributions to society. Around 200 Ashoka (Pendula) trees and over 500 shrubs were planted during the drive.

Chahal noted that the cam-

aign is being organised every Sunday with the aim of turning it into a mass movement, while also encouraging citizens to take ownership of the plants they nurture. Participants will be invited in the future to review the growth and maintenance of the saplings they planted.

The event also saw the presence of journalists, social activists and professionals, who highlighted the importance of public participation in environmental conservation and gender empowerment. The NDMC officials said such initiatives will continue in the coming weeks to strengthen green cover in the capital while promoting community engagement and awareness around sustainability.



98% of LPG refill bookings being done online now

New Delhi, (GNS): About 98% of LPG refill bookings are taking place digitally, while 94% of deliveries are based on delivery authentication code (DAC) to maintain transparency and prevent diversion of cooking gas, govt said Sunday.

Officials said oil marketing companies were continuing to prioritise LPG supply to homes, delivering over 50 lakh domestic cooking gas cylinders a day despite the squeeze on supplies due to the geopolitical situation.

They added that 71% of refills were earlier booked digitally - through mobile apps, IVRS calls and SMS - which rose to nearly 80% in mid-March and has now reached 98%.

Similarly, deliveries using DAC rose from 53% in pre-crisis days to 72% in March. It is now at 94%. DAC is received on a consumer's registered mobile number.

Arms supplier linked to Nandu gang arrested

New Delhi, (GNS): The Delhi Police Crime Branch has arrested a key arms supplier linked to the notorious Kapil Sangwan, alias Nandu, gang and seized illegal firearms and live cartridges, officials said on Sunday. The accused, identified as Aditya Mishra (24) was apprehended by the Anti-Gangster Squad (AGS). The police said he was an active associate of gangster Kapil Sangwan, who is currently operating from abroad. According to officials, a trap was laid near Pochanpur village on the Urban Extension Road-II in Dwarka on April 7. Mishra, who was riding a scooter, attempted to flee, but was intercepted by the police team. A search led to the seizure of a pistol and two live cartridges from his possession.

During sustained interrogation, Mishra disclosed that additional weapons were concealed at another location. Acting on his information, police recovered a single-shot pistol with a live cartridge and a blank gun. The scooter used in the crime was also seized. Investigators revealed that Mishra played a crucial role in facilitating illegal arms supply and extortion activities for the gang. He was allegedly in direct contact with both victims and gang members, pressuring targets to comply with extortion demands. The police said Mishra had been associated with criminal networks since 2021 and later came in contact with the Nandu gang through other operatives. He allegedly handled extortion collections and arms supply in Dwarka and nearby areas, collecting lakhs of rupees from victims on the gang's instructions.

Pharmaceutical drug racket busted in NCR, three arrested

New Delhi, (GNS): The Delhi Police Crime Branch has busted an illegal network trafficking banned and controlled pharmaceutical drugs in the Delhi-NCR, arresting three accused and seizing a large quantity of psychotropic medicines, officials said on Sunday. The accused have been identified as Rahul, alias Vishal (29), Md Akram, alias Rajesh (28), and Suraj Prasad (36). A case under relevant sections of the NDPS Act was registered at the Crime Branch police station, and all three have been taken into custody.

The police said the operation was launched after receiving specific intelligence about illegal sale and supply of restricted medicines. Acting on the tip-off, a team conducted surveillance and apprehended Rahul from Uttam Nagar while he was transporting the contraband on a scooter. During the search, officials seized a substantial quantity of banned drugs, including over 1.4 kg of alprazolam tablets, around 1.8 kg of tramadol-based capsules, and 12 litres of codeine-based cough syrup. The scooter used for transportation was also seized. During interrogation, Rahul disclosed the involvement of his associates, following which Md Akram and Suraj Prasad were apprehended from a meeting point and arrested in connection with the case. According to investigators, the accused were involved in procuring and supplying controlled pharmaceutical drugs illegally to users and other buyers for profit. Notably, all three accused were working as medical representatives, raising concerns about the misuse of professional access to obtain restricted medicines. Officials said efforts were on to trace the supply chain and identify other members of the network. "Mobile phones of the accused are being analysed, and their call detail records and financial transactions are under scrutiny to establish backward and forward linkages," a senior officer said.

Delhi cop shoots dead delivery worker, injures his friend after argument; arrested

New Delhi, (GNS): A Delhi Police head constable posted with the special cell allegedly opened fire with his service-issued Glock pistol after an argument in southwest Delhi's Jafarpur Kalan area early Sunday, killing a 21-year-old food delivery worker and injuring his friend, aged 30. The victims, seated on a bike, were shot with a single bullet, with the rider shot first and killed on the spot.

The suspect, Neeraj Balhara, switched off his phone and absconded after the crime but was nabbed by special cell near Rohtak late



Sunday evening and handed over to local police. He was evasive when confronted.

The incident occurred around 2am in Rawta village. Pandav, a resident of Bindapur, and his friend Krishan had stepped out after a birthday celebration.

The gathering was organised to celebrate the second birthday of the son of

Pandav's relative Rupesh Kumar, a migrant from Bihar's Khagariya who has been living in the area for the past three years. About 20 people attended the function.

After the cake-cutting ceremony, the group began dispersing, and 13 people, including two children, moved to the main road to arrange transport. Pandav, Krishan and another friend, Deepak (21), left on a motorcycle while their other friends were on a scooter. Neeraj, who has been residing in the neighbourhood for nearly 15 years, approached the group from across the road and started questioning

their presence, police said.

"We were near a property dealer's office when a man came out appearing intoxicated. Our friends had moved ahead at that point. We were speaking in our native language when the man turned abusive and targeted us for being from Bihar. He became increasingly aggressive, pulled out a pistol, placed it on the motorcycle's handle, and fired at close range," Deepak alleged. Rupesh also claimed the cop "seemed upset about us being from Bihar and kept abusing us". "He pointed his service weapon towards Pandav's chest and fired. The bullet pierced his chest and exited, hitting Krishan, who

was sitting directly behind him on a motorcycle, in the right abdomen," a senior police officer said.

Deepak alleged that the suspect showed no remorse and continued issuing threats even after the incident, before fleeing the spot. Hearing the gunshot, their friends turned back and rushed Pandav and Krishan to Rao Tula Ram Memorial Hospital, where Pandav was declared brought dead. Krishan, who suffered a serious abdominal injury, is currently undergoing treatment at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital. The hospital informed police about the incident around 2.30am.

Delhi sizzles at 42.1°C; IMD issues yellow alert as heatwave conditions persist

New Delhi, (GNS): The national capital continued to reel under intense heat on Sunday, recording a maximum temperature of 42.1°C, 3.1 degrees above normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 26.2°C, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The city witnessed its third consecutive day of severe heatwave-like conditions, driven by dry northwesterly winds and strong solar radiation. Earlier in the day, the IMD had issued an orange alert, anticipating temperatures to touch 44-45°C. However, the alert was later downgraded to yellow as temperatures remained slightly below extreme thresholds.

Across monitoring stations, temperatures remained high, with Ridge recording 43.5°C and Ayanagar touching



43.1°C. Despite the scorching conditions, the IMD clarified that official heatwave criteria were not fully met due to marginal variations in normal temperature benchmarks.

Weather officials noted that the "normal" temperature range is periodically revised using pentad norms, five-day averages, leading to a slight upward shift in baseline temperatures. For April 26-30, the normal maximum for Safdarjung stands at 39°C, compared to 37.7°C in the pre-

vious period.

Looking ahead, the IMD has forecast that high temperatures will persist over a couple of days, with maximums ranging between 43°C and 45°C for Monday and a yellow alert has also been issued for the day. Relief, however, may be on the horizon. The weather department has predicted light rain, drizzle and thunderstorms from Monday afternoon onwards, which could bring down temperatures by 4-6°C over the following days.

NGT reiterates 10-day limit for events in Delhi parks

New Delhi, (GNS): The National Green Tribunal has said the authorities in Delhi should ensure that designated parks are not used to hold events for more than 10 days a month in compliance with the Supreme Court's order.

The green body was hearing a case about the alleged illegal installation of swings and commercial mismanagement of a district park in Rohini. It had earlier asked the Delhi Pollution Control Committee to submit a report after conducting a spot inspection.

In a recent order, a bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava and expert member Afroz Ahmad said the committee had submitted its report, according to which the park was found vacant and no activity of any kind was observed.

"At one of the places within the ground, a heap of solid waste was lying. Further, after



local inquiry, it came to knowledge that the ground belongs to the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and is being given for mela/festivals from time to time," the bench said, citing the report.

It directed the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to take appropriate action for clearing the solid waste.

"The Supreme Court in the matter of MC Mehta versus Union of India and others (2009) has held that a designated park cannot be allotted for other purposes for more than 10 days in a month. The order is required to be duly followed by the authorities concerned," the tribunal said.

Delhi's Hansraj College suspends 30 students 4 union office-bearers over fest misconduct

New Delhi, (GNS): Tensions have flared at Delhi University's Hansraj College after the administration suspended around 30 students, including four office-bearers of the Students' Union, over allegations ranging from defaming the institution on social media to using derogatory language, according to Media. The notices were issued between April 20 and 25, following incidents of alleged violence and misconduct during the college's annual fest held on April 8 and 9. In a notice dated April 25, the college administration said the union office-bearers have been placed under suspension with immediate effect, pending disciplinary proceedings. Those suspended include four elected representatives of the Hansraj College Students' Union for 2025-26.

According to the notices, the students have been barred from entering the college premises during the suspen-



sion period, except to appear for examinations and internal assessments. The duration of the suspension has not been specified, with the order termed "interim" and effective until further directions. The first notice, issued on April 20, was against a single student. It stated that the student had been found involved in acts of indiscipline, including defamation of the institution and use of derogatory language against teaching and non-teaching staff.

A second notice named 14

students for alleged involvement in "acts of indiscipline, physical violence, and disruption of campus order" during the annual fest.

College principal Prof. (Dr.) Rama could not be reached for comment at the time of filing this report.

The action has drawn sharp criticism from the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU), which termed it "a brazen attack on student democracy and an outright abuse of administrative power".