



## West Bengal re-poll: 86% voter turnout till 5 pm, protests in Phalta

**Kolkata, Agency:** Re-polling took place on Saturday at 15 polling booths in the Diamond Harbour and Magrahat West assembly constituencies in West Bengal. Clashes broke out between TMC and BJP workers in South 24 Parganas. Security forces pacified both sides. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, while addressing the counting agents through video

conferencing on Saturday, said that TMC will win more than 200 seats. Meanwhile, voters in Falta accused TMC workers of attacking them. They said that TMC members assaulted them after voting. When they protested, police resorted to lathi-charge. Many suffered leg, head, and hand injuries. The TMC alleged that security



forces vandalized their camp and assaulted workers at booth number 127 in Magrahat. By 5 p.m., voter turnout was 86.11% in 11 booths in Magrahat West and 87.60% in four booths in Diamond Harbour. **Mamata Banerjee said that exit polls are a conspiracy to influence the stock market:** Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has claimed a landslide

victory for the Trinamool Congress (TMC). Addressing counting agents via video conferencing on Saturday, she said her party would win more than 200 seats. Mamata Banerjee dismissed the exit poll projections outright, calling them an "attempt to manipulate the stock market." She said similar attempts had occurred in the past in 2021 and 2024, and they were being repeated this time.

## Judicial officer commits suicide in Delhi

**New Delhi (GNS):** A 35-year-old judicial officer Aman Kumar Sharma was found dead at his residence in Green Park, South Delhi. According to the police, preliminary investigations suggest the case appears to be a suicide. The information was received at the Safdarjung Enclave police station around 1:45 pm on Saturday afternoon through a PCR call. The call was made by his brother-in-law, Shivam. According to the police, the Safdarjung Enclave police station received a PCR call regarding the suicide. Upon receiving the call, it was learned that Aman Kumar Sharma, a resident of Green Park Main, aged around 30, had committed suicide at his residence. Aman Kumar Sharma worked as a secretary at the District Legal Services Authority in Karkardooma Court in Northeast Delhi. The PCR call in this regard was made by Shivam (the deceased's brother-in-law). When the police team reached the spot, Sharma was found in the bathroom. He was immediately rushed to the hospital, where doctors declared him dead. Initial information suggests he committed suicide by hanging himself. At this time, there are no signs of foul play or suspicious activity. All aspects are under investigation

ED conducted the highest number of raids in 2025-26 at 2,892. **Arrests declined by 27%, assets worth 81,000 crore were attached, and 32,000 crore were returned.**

**New Delhi (GNS):** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted the highest number of raids in history in 2025-26. The agency conducted a total of 2,892 raids, nearly double the 1,491 conducted the previous year. According to the ED's annual report for 2025-26, there was a decline in arrests under money laundering charges, while there was a record increase in property attachments and refunds to victims. The ED issued 712 provisional attachment orders, seizing assets worth 81,422 crore. This is a 171% increase from 30,036 crore last year. These attachments become permanent after confirmation by the PMLA's Adjudicating Authority.



## Pune: 4-year-old girl raped and murdered

**65-year-old accused arrested; CM says trial will be held in fast-track court**

**Pune (GNS):** A man raped and stoned a four-year-old girl to death in Pune, Maharashtra, on Friday. Police have arrested the 65-year-old accused. According to a police report, the girl had come to spend her summer vacation at her grandmother's house in Bhor tehsil, Pune. Bhimrao Kamble (the accused) lured the girl to a barn near his house around 2 pm on Friday afternoon. There, he raped and murdered her. Former Maharashtra Home Minister and NCP (SP)



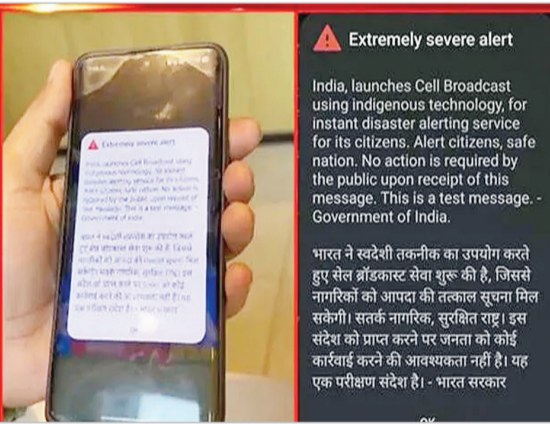
leader Anil Deshmukh had demanded death penalty for the accused in the case and that the case be heard in a fast track court. After this, Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnis said that the government will get this case heard in a fast track court and will demand death penalty for the culprit.

The body of a girl was found in a stable when the girl did not return home for a long time, her family began searching for her. Some people even searched the barn for her and found her body. Police checked nearby CCTV cameras and found footage of the accused leading the girl towards the barn.

## Millions of mobile phones across the country received a simultaneous alert

Sirens were heard, and the government tested the emergency alert system

**New Delhi (GNS):** At 11:45 a.m. Saturday, sirens were heard simultaneously on many mobile phones across the country. A message appeared on the screen in Hindi and English. When the siren stopped, the message was read aloud on the phone. This upset many people and confused others. This message was sent by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). On May 2, the NDMA tested a cell broadcast alert system to disseminate information to the public in case of an emergency. Simultaneous testing of



emergency messages across the country. On Saturday, a testing message was sent simultaneously to all mobile phones in all state capitals and Delhi-NCR. The message was sent in Hindi, English, and all regional languages.

## Rain and storms lashed nine states with a warehouse roof blown off in MP

**Trees fell in UP; and a landslide in Kashmir closed the Doda-Kishtwar road: Bhopal/Lucknow/Shimla/Dehradun (GNS):** Rain and strong winds brought relief to large parts of the country, which had endured intense heat, on Saturday. Rain and thunderstorms hit nine states: Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, and Chhattisgarh. Hailstorms also struck several areas. Rain fell in Bhopal, Raigarh, and Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh. Thunderstorms also occurred in several areas. In Raigarh, a severe storm blew off the roof of a warehouse, soaking farmers' wheat. Falling trees damaged vehicles in Balaghat and Sehore. A landslide



in Kashmir's Chenab Valley has completely blocked the Doda-Kishtwar road. Machines and personnel have been deployed to clear the debris. A dust storm hit Lalitpur and Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh after 1 p.m. Some areas experienced drizzle. A large tree fell on a scooter and a car at Jhansi

Medical College. Maximum temperatures ranged from 30 to 32°C in 15 districts. Orai was the hottest city in the state at 41.6°C, while Hardoi recorded the lowest minimum temperature at 17°C. After reaching 47.6°C in Banda on April 27, the mercury has dropped by 6°C in the past five days.

## US military intercepts pirates, seizes several ships from Iranian ports

**Washington (GNS):** The US blockade of Iranian ports continues. Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump has praised his navy, calling them pirates. Trump has also claimed that the blockade has benefited the US significantly. Trump mentioned the seizure of a US military ship a few days ago. He said that since the war with Iran began, the US military has seized several ships leaving Iranian ports. Apart from this, action has also been taken against Iranian tankers and banned container ships in



Asian waters. According to media reports, Trump on Friday praised the

US Navy, which is blocking Iranian ports. He said that it is acting like pirates. Recently, Trump wrote a letter to US Congressional leaders claiming that the ongoing war and military conflict with Iran is over. He stated that the war powers period has expired, so there will be no more exchanges of fire with Iran. The war completed 60 days on May 1st, and Trump needed congressional permission to continue the war. However, Trump now claims the war is over, so he no longer needs special permission from congressional officials to continue the conflict.

## No anticipatory bail for Nida accused in Nashik TCS case

**Prosecution tells court the charges are serious; custodial interrogation necessary**  
**Nashik (GNS):** A Nashik court on Saturday rejected the anticipatory bail plea of Nida Khan, accused in a sexual harassment and forced religious conversion case involving TCS's Nashik unit. The prosecution argued in court that the allegations were serious and that her custodial interrogation was necessary. Nida remains at large. According to news agency, Public Prosecutor Ajay Misar stated that Nida Khan is one of the main accused in the case, and on this basis, the court refused to grant her anticipatory bail. According to the FIR, Nida Khan is accused of advising female employees to wear burqas. The case is said to be related to alleged religious pressure and harassment within the company.

# Nuclear weapons will spell the end of all civilization

**Manoj Kumar Agarwal**

Nuclear weapons can spell the end of the entire world. Under the guise of strategic balance, the world's so-called progressive, powerful nations have amassed such a stockpile of nuclear weapons that they possess the capability to destroy the world three times over. This poses the greatest challenge to all human civilization. Why, in the name of progress, is humanity pursuing a race for weapons and destruction? Is the world's future being mortgaged to the shadow of nuclear weapons?

Currently, global geopolitical tensions and conflicts have raised the risk of nuclear war to its highest level since the Cold War. The Russia-Ukraine war, tensions in West Asia (Israel-Iran), and the

China-US rivalry have placed the world at a dangerous juncture. Here are the key factors that contribute to the growing threat and causes of nuclear war.

The main reason for this threat is Russia keeping its strategic nuclear forces on high alert and issuing nuclear threats to Western countries.

Escalating conflicts between Israel and Iran, such as the 2026 missile attack near the Dimona nuclear facility, have raised fears of a direct nuclear confrontation. According to a 2025 report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, a dangerous new nuclear arms race has begun as traditional arms control treaties are weakening. The conflict between India and Pakistan and

North Korea's nuclear program also exacerbate nuclear tensions.

The proliferation and modernization of nuclear weapons worldwide is increasing to an alarming rate, and various countries are developing new strategies to address this. The New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START), a treaty signed between the United States and Russia 50 years ago to limit and eliminate nuclear weapons, expired on February 5th after being extended for five years in 2021, and there is no discussion about extending it.

Although many nuclear weapons were eliminated after this treaty was signed, the new situation now sees the United States and Russia seeking to develop more nuclear bombs, Saudi Arabia and

Turkey are also interested, and there is a growing realization in Europe that they must develop more nuclear weapons for their own security. It is worth noting that the United States has spent billions of dollars on its long-range missile testing system, but this has failed to achieve sustainable security. To date, the United States has spent \$10 trillion of taxpayer money on weapons development and subsequent decommissioning. This is enough money to buy most of Google, Apple, and Microsoft.

Let me tell you, the current situation is that under Donald Trump, the US doesn't want to enter into any treaties, and it's in Russia's favor to develop nuclear weapons. But who is harmed by this? The entire world is harmed by the fact

that after spending so much money to build nuclear weapons, the place where they will be tested will suffer enormous losses and the people around it.

In fact, the last time Russia tested nuclear weapons, people living near the site had to face the same problems and diseases as people had to face during the leakage at the Chernobyl nuclear plant.

These same problems would arise if any country were to resort to such provocation. For the first time since the Cold War, countries are increasing their arsenals and ready-to-use bombs. By the beginning of 2026, the nine nuclear-weapon states possessed approximately 12,187 warheads, and a growing number of them are on high alert.

## Editorial

### Freedom of journalism is not only a right but also a responsibility

**Yogesh Kumar**

In India, the press has always been called the fourth pillar of democracy because it plays a crucial role in strengthening democracy. This is why press freedom is considered crucial for a healthy and robust democracy. However, ironically, in recent years, press freedom has been steadily declining here as well. This is why World Press Freedom Day is celebrated every year on May 3rd. The pen is considered mightier than the sword and more effective than the edge of the sword because, thanks to its vigilance, major scandals have been exposed not only in India but in many countries over the past few decades, leading to the downfall of prominent industrialists, politicians, and luminaries from various fields in one stroke. This is why, from time to time, conspiracies have been hatched to blunt or break this weapon of the pen, and on numerous occasions, some journalists have even paid the price of truth with their lives, not only in India but across the world. The situation regarding press freedom has changed significantly in recent decades. Today, journalists worldwide face significant threats from political, criminal, and terrorist groups, and India is no exception. Ironically, fear and tension are increasing in newsrooms worldwide, driven by both government and private actors.

The Paris-based organization Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF), or Reporters Without Borders, presents shocking facts about press freedom in its annual report. However, some countries have dismissed the data released in this report, calling it biased. Reporters Without Borders is a non-profit organization that works to document and combat attacks on journalists worldwide and annually publishes the World Press Freedom Index. In its 2019 report, it analyzed the state of press freedom in various countries, including India, and highlighted how hatred against journalists has escalated into violence, leading to increased fear among journalists worldwide. According to the World Press Freedom Index 2026, India has slipped to 157th position out of 180 countries, compared to 151st in 2025, a drop of six places in one year.

## The most expensive cooking gas for the poor

**Sanat Jain**

Chotu cylinder is the most expensive Soon after the voting for the assembly elections in five states ended on April 29th, the government's biggest inflationary blow fell on the poor and middle class. Petroleum companies have increased the price of a 5-kg small cylinder by ₹261. This has become the most expensive gas in India, costing the poor ₹162 per kg. Petroleum companies have priced the small cylinders higher than commercial cooking gas cylinders. Obviously, 5-kg cylinders are being supplied by petroleum companies. In the last two months, the government and petroleum companies have provided a large number of 5-kg small cylinder connections. Due to the LPG gas shortage following the US-Iran war, the government has killed two birds with one stone. More and more 5-kg small cylinders are being made available, forcing people to buy 5-kg cylinders, which is also a profit for petroleum companies. Gas prices have also been increased to the highest level, with millions of people purchasing 5-kg cylinders daily from petroleum companies. The supply of 14-kg cylinders is steadily decreasing. The government has to subsidize them. Furthermore, petroleum companies need more gas to meet this demand. As part of a coordinated strategy, the supply of 5-kg cylinders has been increased, replacing 14-kg cylinders. The poor and middle class are now forced to purchase the most expensive gas in India. Commercial gas cylinders, which weigh 19 kg, are also being sold by petroleum companies at a lower price than smaller cylinders. The remaining gap will be filled by the rise in petrol and diesel prices in the next few days. The Petroleum Minister has hinted at a price increase. Sources indicate that prices will be increased three to four times a month. A price



increase of 20 to 25 rupees per liter for petrol and diesel is expected.

As soon as petrol and diesel prices rise, inflation will rapidly increase across all sectors. The poor and middle classes, who constitute the largest population, will bear the brunt of this. They eat, drink, and spend the most, and the government is placing a significant burden on them. Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri is very kind to private petroleum companies. Even during the last few years, when crude oil prices were low, private companies were given the opportunity to make huge profits. Crude oil was imported from Russia on a large scale at low prices, but Indian consumers

did not benefit from this. Private companies purchased crude oil from Russia, refined it, and exported it abroad, earning huge profits. The government is still kind to petroleum companies.

The government has reduced excise duty, which has benefited the petroleum companies. But now, with the government allowing petroleum companies to increase the prices of petrol, diesel, and cooking gas, the brunt of inflation is sure to fall on the poor and middle class. People are already becoming anxious about this. God knows what will happen next. The government has maintained complete silence, surprising everyone.

## Building a Future of Peace: The Decisive Role of the Free Press

**Sunil Kumar**

World Press Freedom Day is celebrated every year on May 3rd to promote media freedom and the strengthening of democracy. This day reminds us that the media is not only a medium for news reporting, but also a powerful and valuable tool for establishing peace, transparency, and accountability in the world. It would not be wrong to say that the state of the press in any country is a true reflection of the strength of its democracy; perhaps this is why it is also called the "mirror of democracy." In fact, press freedom is directly linked to freedom of expression, a fundamental human right. In

fact, it is not just a principle but also a legal right. Readers may be aware that laws have been enacted in many countries to protect journalists, but their effective implementation remains a major challenge. Let me remind readers that the main purpose behind celebrating this day is to highlight the importance of press freedom, ensure the safety of journalists, and raise awareness about their rights.

Looking back at the history of this day, the Windhoek Declaration was adopted at a conference held in Namibia (Africa) in 1991, calling for a free, pluralistic, and open press. Subsequently, the United Nations

General Assembly declared May 3rd as this day in 1993. Significantly, this resolution was passed at UNESCO's 26th General Assembly. It is worth noting that a global conference is held annually on this day. In 2026, this conference will be held in Lusaka (Zambia), where journalists, technical experts, policymakers, and human rights activists will come together to deliberate.

Furthermore, UNESCO also awards the Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize on this occasion, honoring journalists who risk their lives to expose the truth impartially and fearlessly. Few people know that

Reporters Without Borders releases the World Press Freedom Index every year, assessing how free the media is in each country. Indeed, this index is an important tool for understanding the state of the press globally.

Today is the era of AI and the communications revolution, and in this digital age, both the definition and form of the press have changed. While newspapers, radio, and television were once dominant, the internet and social media have now become a part of the "digital press."

"Ordinary citizens are also participating in the dissemination of information.

## Independent media is a mirror of the health of democracy

**Saurabh Varshney**

Press Freedom Day is celebrated worldwide every year on May 3rd. It is not just a ceremonial occasion, but a reflection of the health of democracy. This day reminds us that an independent, impartial, and fearless media is the cornerstone of any democratic system. Press freedom is not just a right of journalists, but an extension of citizens' right to know. Meanwhile, India ranks 157th out of 180 countries in the 2026 World Press Freedom Index released by Reporters Without Borders. This is a six-place drop from 151st last year (2025). Violence against journalists in India, central-

ized ownership of the media, and political pressure place this ranking in the "very serious" category.

As the world becomes increasingly digital, the flow of information has become faster and more widespread than ever before. But at the same time, new threats to press freedom are also looming. Issues such as fake news, troll culture, power pressure, the influence of corporate interests, and the safety of journalists have emerged as serious challenges. In many countries, journalists are paying the price of exposing the truth with their lives—a situation that is worrying for any civilized society.

In a large democracy like India, the role of the media becomes even more crucial. Here, the press not only monitors power but also serves as a voice for marginalized sections of society. However, in recent years, debate has intensified about whether the media is fully successful in maintaining its independence and impartiality. The prevalence of terms like "godli media" reflects concerns that a segment of the media appears to be moving closer to power.

Freedom of the press does not mean that it operates without responsibility. Freedom also implies accountability. The funda-

mental tenet of journalism is the pursuit of truth, the verification of facts, and their impartial presentation. When the media leans toward sensationalism or bias, it undermines its own existence.

At this juncture, governments have a responsibility to provide journalists with a safe and independent environment where they can work without fear. At the same time, media institutions must introspect and prioritize public interest by rising above commercial pressures. If democracy is to survive, its voice must be kept free. This is not just an idea, but a fundamental principle of a democratic system. Democracy is

like a building, its foundation rests on public participation and freedom of expression. If this expression is curbed, the very structure of democracy gradually weakens. Free voice is not limited to the media; it symbolizes every citizen's right to express their views, questions, and disagreements. Only when citizens can express themselves without fear does government become accountable and policies become transparent. Conversely, when voices are suppressed, power begins to slide into authoritarianism. This challenge has become even more complex today. While digital platforms have provided new opportunities

for expression, they have also given rise to trends like disinformation, trolling, and censorship.

In this context, it's essential to strike a balance—while maintaining freedom of expression, ensuring responsibility and integrity. Democracy isn't limited to elections; it's a process of continuous dialogue, criticism, and deliberation. Therefore, it's crucial that we not only keep our voices free but also cultivate a culture of listening to and respecting the voices of others. The strength of democracy depends on how independent, impartial, and powerful its voice is.

# Census 2027: CM, LG lead self-enumeration exercise

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Chief minister Rekha Gupta and lieutenant governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu on Friday completed their self-enumeration, marking the launch of the self-enumeration phase of Census 2027 across 250 municipal wards of the city.



citizens to submit household details directly, ensuring every resident is accurately counted. Reliable data is essential for inclusive governance and nation-building," he said. The self-enumeration window will remain open from May 1 to May 15. After this, Delhi govt will begin the door-to-door house-listing exercise across wards. Residents can submit their household details online at <https://se.census.gov.in>. An official clarified that self-enumeration must be completed by the person residing in the house, whether the occupant is the owner or a tenant. Tenants are required to use their own mobile number and

provide details of the household they currently live in. Respondents must also specify the ownership status of the census house or property unit, including whether it is used for commercial purposes. Although self-enumeration is voluntary, officials said higher participation would streamline the census by reducing dependence on door-to-door data collection and minimising errors. Door-to-door enumeration will be conducted from May 16 to June 14, during which around 50,000 govt enumerators will visit households to collect data. Officials said self-enumeration in the New Delhi district has already been completed, with field visits currently under way.

when information is precise do welfare schemes reach those who need them, and development becomes inclusive. I urge all Delhi residents to take part in self-enumeration," she added. After completing the process, Sandhu said in a post that the Census 2027 drive officially has begun across Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) wards. "This digital-first initiative empowers

Senior officials overseeing census operations visited the residences of the CM and the LG as they filled in their details.

"Today, I entered my details through self-enumeration. The process is simple and secure, allowing every citizen to participate with ease," Gupta said. "Accurate data is the basis of effective policy-making. Only

# Delhi schools told to collect fee every month

**New Delhi, (GNS):** The Directorate of Education (DoE) has directed all private, unaided, recognised schools in the National Capital to collect fees strictly every month, warning of strict action for violating norms.



In the April 30 order, the DoE said it had received multiple complaints from parents alleging that some schools were forcing them to pay fees in advance on a bimonthly, quarterly, or other advance basis, placing an undue financial burden on families.

The directive reiterated that schools must not "mandate, require or compel payment" of fees for a period exceeding one calendar month in a single instalment. The move aligns with earlier instructions and a Delhi High Court ruling that emphasised structuring fee collection in a way convenient and fair to parents.

The notification further stated, "No school shall, in any manner whatsoever, mandate, require or compel any parent or guardian to pay fees for a

period exceeding one calendar month in a single instalment. It is, however, clarified that parents or guardians who, of their own volition and without any coercion or pressure or inducement, find it convenient to pay fees for more than one month in a single instalment may be permitted to do so." The order stated that no school should make an advance fee payment a precondition for admission, continued enrolment, or access to any student services.

"All schools are required to display this order prominently on their notice boards and upload it on their official websites within seven working days," it said.

## Bawana waste plant hits another hurdle

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Municipal Corporation of Delhi's (MCD) ambitious plan to set up a waste-to-energy plant at Narela-Bawana continues to encounter setbacks, with a fresh hurdle now threatening to push the timeline further. Despite getting an allocation of Rs 26.4 crore for the shifting of 400kV transmission lines and initiating preliminary groundwork at the site, the work has been stalled by a proposed elevated metro corridor in the vicinity.

"For the proposed metro line, the height of unipoles needs to be increased before shifting the transmission lines. While Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has agreed to pay the additional cost, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), which has to execute the relocation, said the design of unipoles would need to change now," said an official.

The civic body has flagged the issue to Delhi govt, seeking intervention to resolve the impasse. It recently urged govt to escalate the matter to lieutenant governor's office for expeditious coordination with central govt. The transmission lines are jointly owned by Delhi Transco Limited and PGCIL. A June deadline was set earlier, but work is pending. A DMRC official said the metro alignment didn't directly hinder the project. "There is, however, an issue regarding the relocation of power lines, which is being worked out in consultation with the agencies concerned to ensure that the metro construction is not affected," he said.

A tripartite agreement for shifting the lines from the plant site was signed in April 2025 and payments were made accordingly. The project's foundation stone was laid virtually by Union home minister Amit Shah in Sept 2025. The facility, envisioned as MCD's fifth WtE plant, will process 3,000 metric tonnes of segregated municipal waste daily and generate 28MW of electricity. Estimated to cost Rs 604 crore, the plant is designed for a 25-year operational life and targeted for commissioning by Dec 2027. The project is considered crucial to curbing the dumping of fresh waste at already saturated landfill sites. The project had earlier faced local resistance, but the construction gained momentum after Supreme Court upheld MCD's authority to determine tariffs for the plant in March 2025.

## 11 CETPs in Delhi need tech upgrade to treat effluents from industries

**New Delhi, (GNS):** More than 23,000 industries operating in 17 industrial areas are covered by 13 common effluent treatment plants (CETPs) in Delhi. While two CETPs in Narela and Bawana were upgraded in 2024, the remaining 11 are operating close to their assumed lifespan of 20 years, the Confederation of Delhi Industries and CETP Societies has flagged, pointing to their ageing civil infrastructure, worn-out mechanical and electrical equipment, outdated treatment schemes and underutilisation.



A CETP is a centralised facility designed to treat effluents released from multiple industrial units. The treated

water by CETPs should meet the prescribed standard of Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) for parameters, including pH, biological oxygen demand, chemical oxygen demand and ammoniacal nitrogen. Most CETPs are unable to meet the prescribed water quality standards, the confederation has claimed, saying that wastewater entering CETPs now contains a

higher proportion of domestic sewage and conveyance systems have not been desilted for years.

Delhi environment minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) is conducting a survey to understand the upgradation requirements of these 11 CETPs. "It will start submitting reports from next

month, after which we will take action accordingly."

An official said the survey will focus on what is reaching the CETPs and what is being treated, considering the industrial area and other factors. "Once the survey is conducted, we can plan the upgradation," he added.

In a recent letter to chief minister Rekha Gupta, the Confederation of Delhi Industries and CETP Societies highlighted the need for technological upgradation of the 11 CETPs, which were set up between 2001 and 2010 to treat wastewater emanating from occupiers within the industrial area.

"The CETPs' total cumulative capacity is 212 MLD and

inflow is about 80 MLD, meaning it is about 38% of the design capacity, as the CETPs were overdesigned against the low available flow. The prescribed effluent standards have become stricter, and the influent characteristics have shifted towards a mix dominated by domestic sewage alongside industrial wastewater, which was not the original design basis of the CETPs. Accordingly, technological upgradation is necessary to reliably meet the current discharge norms, accommodate the changed wastewater characteristics, including the higher domestic sewage contribution, and ensure long-term operational sustainability," said the confederation.

## Delhi moves to make leprosy a notifiable disease

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Delhi is set to join states like Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Bengal in making leprosy a notifiable disease under the Delhi Epidemic Diseases Act. The health department has submitted a formal proposal for approval, a move aimed at strengthening tracking and treatment efforts across the capital.



The notification will mandate all govt and private healthcare providers, including clinics, hospitals and individual practitioners, to report every new leprosy case to the district leprosy officer for early intervention and response.

The capital has already notified several diseases, including human rabies, cholera, malaria, Covid and tuberculosis, under the Act. The addition of leprosy to the list will enable effective surveillance, early diagnosis, targeted inter-

ventions and prompt treatment with standard multi-drug therapy, which is available free of cost in govt facilities, health minister Pankaj Singh said.

In a statement, Delhi govt noted that while India officially achieved its target of leprosy "elimination" as a public health threat (prevalence rate below 1 per 10,000 population) in 2005, the country still accounts for roughly 59% of all new global cases.

A recent pan-India study found that over 44% of leprosy

patients are managed by private health facilities and are unreported to National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP). Hidden cases in the community continue transmission, and variance in treatment protocols raises the threat of drug resistance.

World Health Organisation's independent evaluation of the NLEP programme in India suggests that leprosy should be included in the list of diseases mandatory for notification.

"Leprosy is completely curable. Making it a notifiable disease will help us find hidden cases, stop transmission and ensure every patient gets standard treatment with dignity. This is a critical step towards honouring our commitment to a leprosy-free Delhi and supporting India's journey towards the interruption of its transmission by 2030," said Singh.

## Govt to rollout borewell policy to ease water shortage



**New Delhi, (GNS):** Delhi govt is planning to bring a borewell policy in the city to ease water shortage problems, chief minister Rekha Gupta said on Friday. Gupta took part in the 'Catch the Rain' event organised by Delhi Jal Board (DJB) as part of the rainwater harvesting programme.

"Delhi govt is considering bringing in a borewell policy. But only those houses and residential colonies which have a proper functioning water har-

vesting system will be eligible to get an authorised borewell," Gupta said. The chief minister also unveiled a dedicated mascot for the 'Catch the Rain' initiative of DJB. "Steps like subsidies up to Rs 50,000 by the govt, discounts of 10 to 15% on water bills, and free technical assistance are accelerating this direction. Now the goal is to make every home, every rooftop, and every institution an active part of this effort," Gupta said in a post on X.

## Welfare push for construction workers: Govt announces mobile health vans, mass weddings

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Chief minister Rekha Gupta on Friday announced a series of welfare measures for construction workers, including the deployment of mobile health vans at labour chowks and construction sites across the capital.

The announcements were made at a labour welfare event organised

by Sant Nirankari Mandal in Dhirpur. The package also includes financial assistance for the weddings of workers' daughters and govt-organised mass wedding ceremonies. Gupta urged construction workers to register on the govt's workers' portal to access the benefits, adding that special enrolment camps would be held for the purpose.

At the event, Gupta distributed safety kits to 1,000 construction workers and education kits to 100 children of registered workers.

"Our govt is fully waiving registration and renewal fees for construction workers."

### WESTERN RAILWAY TO RUN WEEKLY SUPERFAST AC SPECIAL TRAIN BETWEEN MUMBAI CENTRAL ↔ VATVA

TRAIN NO.	ORIGINATING STATION & DESTINATION	DATES OF SERVICE	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL
09081	MUMBAI CENTRAL - VATVA	07.05.2026 to 25.06.2026	23:20 hrs (Thursday)	07:20 hrs (Next Day)
09082	VATVA - MUMBAI CENTRAL	08.05.2026 to 26.06.2026	22:40 hrs (Friday)	07:10 hrs (Next Day)

Halts: Borivali, Vapi, Surat and Vadodara stations in both directions.  
Composition: AC 3-Tier and General Second Class Coaches.

For detailed information regarding stoppages, timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in).

Booking for Train Nos. 09081 & 09082 opens from 03.05.2026 at all PRS Counters and on IRCTC website. The above train will run as Special Train on Special Fare.

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## Gurdwara committee hosts career fair for students

**New Delhi, (GNS):** A hall inside the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee's Gurdwara Rakabganj Sahib complex turned into a meeting ground for ambition and advice on Thursday, as students, parents and teachers gathered for a Career Guidance Fair aimed at helping young people make informed choices about their future.



The fair, organised by the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee at Bhai Lakhji Shah Vanjara Hall, was inaugurated by Manjinder Singh Sirsa in the presence of DSGMC president Harmeet Singh Kalka, general secretary Jagdip Singh Kahlon and other dignitaries. Addressing students from classes IX to XII, Sirsa said such fairs have become important platforms at a time when career paths are rapidly evolving and students are seeking to align their goals with emerging opportunities.

"Such camps are valuable forums in the present time in which students wish to achieve their life targets according to fast changing times," he said. He added the younger generation now thinks on a larger scale and, with proper guidance, can fulfil ambitions once considered out of reach.

"Our younger generation thinks bigger and if they get good guidance, they can achieve their targets to touching the sky," he said. Organisers said nearly 70 institutes participated in the fair, setting up counselling and information stalls for students seeking clarity on courses, careers and future planning.

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Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (Sub), Western Railway, Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008. Invites E-Tender Notice No: WR-MMCTOESUB (ESPT/18/2025). Name of the Work: Virar - Provision of Interrupter breakers (B.M) for Virar Carshed OHE feeders at Virar Carshed Switchyard to improve the reliability of OHE Supply. Estimated Cost of Work: ₹ 1,50,52,391.59 Bid Security: ₹ 3,01,100/- Date & Time of Submission: Not later than 15:00 Hrs. of 28.05.2026 in the prescribed manner. Date and Time of Opening: On 28.05.2026 at 15:30hrs. Website Particulars: The tender can be viewed and submitted through website [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in) 0048  
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VARIOUS WORKS  
Divisional Railway Manager (VIA), Western Railway Mumbai Central, Mumbai-400 008. Invites BCT/26-27/31 dt. 29/04/2026. Work and Location: Udhna-Jalgaon Section- Re-girdering of existing steel girders, preparation of GAD, designing etc., transportation of slabs & retainers from casting yard to bridge site & launching new slab, retainers after strengthening of bridges in running track. (Two packet system). Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 31,91,74,814.25. EMD: ₹ 63,83,500/- Date & Time of Submission: Till 26.05.2026, 15:00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening: On 26.05.2026 at 15:30 hrs. For further details please visit our website [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in) Manual offer will not be considered. 0058  
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# Kamala Nehru College becomes DU's first 'Zero-Waste Institution'

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Kamala Nehru College has become the first college under the University of Delhi to be recognised as a 'Zero-Waste Institution', marking a significant step towards sustainable campus practices in the capital. The recognition was conferred on April 30 during an event held on the college premises, where Shashwat Saurabh, Deputy Commissioner (Central Zone), Municipal Corporation of Delhi, presented the certificate under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026.



\*Awareness on Zero-Waste Management Practices\*, lighting of a lamp, followed by an address by Principal Prof. Pavitra Bhardwaj. She high-

lighted the institution's journey since its establishment in 1964 and reiterated its commitment to maintaining an eco-friendly and garbage-free campus. She also underlined the role of the college's Solid Liquid Resource Management (SLRM) Committee, which works in coordination with the MCD.

Among those present were Assistant Commissioner Rajiv Nayan (Central Zone, MCD) and Swachh Survekshan brand ambassador Shammi Talwar, who stressed the importance of waste segregation at source, including at the household level, to address the city's growing garbage challenge.

Addressing students, Saurabh emphasised the need for collective responsibility in waste management. He lauded sanitation workers for their efforts and urged students to act as "brand ambassadors of change", adding that responsible citizenship must go beyond the principles of reduce, reuse and recycle.

The event concluded with a student-led skit on waste management and the distribution of participation certificates, followed by the formal presentation of the 'Zero-Waste Institution' certificate to the college.

## Delhi cop held in Rs 50L robbery case

**New Delhi, (GNS):** A Delhi Police constable has been arrested in connection with a robbery involving Rs 50.37 lakh near the Azad Market underpass in March.



According to police sources, the accused, identified as constable Sameer Singh, was posted in a Delhi Police battalion. He is alleged to have conspired with associates to execute the robbery on March 31.

Sources said four men intercepted an auto-rickshaw near the Azad Market underpass and decamped with cash worth around Rs 50 lakh. Most of the accused were arrested earlier, while Singh had been absconding since the incident. "He was tracked through CCTV footage and technical surveillance and was eventually apprehended in Dausa, Rajasthan," a source said. Sources claimed that Singh had multiple cases registered against him at various police stations, and described him as a "habitual offender" allegedly involved in planning major robberies. Despite being arrested in previous cases, he continued to remain in service, the sources alleged. Further investigations are on, and the police are probing the wider conspiracy behind the robbery, they said.

## Blue line train services will be briefly regulated on Sunday

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Train services will be briefly regulated in the early hours of Sunday on Blue Line as Delhi Metro will undertake scheduled maintenance activity between Supreme Court and Indraprastha Metro stations.

The first train will depart at 6.05 am from Vaishali towards Dwarka Sector-21; at 6.21 am from Laxmi Nagar towards Dwarka Sector-21; and at 5.50 am from Yamuna Bank towards Dwarka Sector-21. However, there will be no change in the first train timings from Dwarka Sector-21.

## Admissions open for Law programmes at DU

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Delhi University has opened admissions for its five-year integrated law programmes at Faculty of Law for the academic session 2026-27, inviting applications for BA LLB (Hons) and BBA LLB (Hons). Candidates can apply online, with the registration window open till May 18, 11.59 pm. The university said admissions to both programmes will be based solely on Common Law Admission Test 2026 scores. Applicants have been advised to carefully check the eligibility criteria before registering. DU said no additional eligibility conditions will apply beyond those notified in the university's bulletin of information and on its admission portal. The non-refundable registration-cum-allocation fee has been set at Rs 1,500 for candidates from the UR, OBC-NCL and EWS categories, and Rs 1,000 for SC, ST and PwBD applicants.

## Awaiting textbooks, teachers shoulder learning gaps in Delhi schools

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Weeks into the new academic session, the absence of textbooks in several Delhi schools has forced teachers to improvise daily, redesigning lessons at short notice to keep classes running and prevent learning gaps.

While private schools have managed the transition with relative ease, govt schools are grappling with limited resources and uneven access to technology. Teachers in govt schools say their workload has risen sharply as they prepare worksheets, reuse older textbooks and create material from scratch to ensure students remain engaged.

In many private schools, academic routines have remained largely unaffected due to backup systems already in place. "Despite challenges during the rollout of the new NCERT curriculum, physical textbooks for core subjects such as mathematics, science and social science were initially unavailable in the market. Yet not a single class was disrupted," said Ameeta Mohan, principal of Amity International School, Pushp Vihar. "Teachers quickly adapted by using PDF versions and links available on NCERT's official website, ensuring lessons were delivered on time." Digital tools have further eased the situation. "For language subjects like Hindi and English, digital drafts and e-content shared online filled the gap, and teaching continued uninterrupted," Mohan added. Some schools have also relied on reference books. "We suggest alternative books to students and parents that follow a similar curriculum and help with conceptual clarity," said a teacher from Somerville School.

The situation in govt schools, however, is more complex. "Some books have arrived, while others are still being delivered. Teachers are mapping the syllabus and using older books for overlapping topics. For new content, soft copies are shared with students on WhatsApp groups a day in advance so they can read before class," said Sunita, principal of a Delhi govt school.

## Ashoka Road accident: Killer truck got special permission from Delhi traffic cops despite 5 challans

**New Delhi, (GNS):** The truck that fatally hit two cousins on Ashoka Road in central Delhi had been granted "special permission" by Delhi Traffic Police to operate before no-entry hours for the collection of horticultural waste in the area. Such permissions are processed and approved by the DTP headquarters in west Delhi's Todapur, a senior police officer said.

However, police sources pointed out that the offending vehicle had accumulated at least five challans, raising serious questions about how it qualified for the exemption. "As per norms, vehicles with three or more challans are generally not considered eligi-



ble for these permissions," said a source.

The sources said the vehicle had been issued a one-year permit, valid until Dec 2026, allowing it to operate during restricted hours for specific municipal purposes, such as

debris collection and garbage removal. They added that on the day of the incident, debris from the Jeevan Tara building on Ashoka Road was also being cleared. Asked how the vehicle was cleared despite multiple violations, a senior

officer said at the time of application, it may have had only three challans on record.

The remaining challans, he suggested, may have been registered after the permit had already been issued and the vehicle had begun operating under the exemption.

In light of the incident and the vehicle's violation history, the special permission granted to the truck is now set to be cancelled," the officer added.

No arrests have been made in the case so far. Police said the driver's last known location has been traced to Bihar and raids are currently being conducted there to locate and apprehend him. The incident took place on Monday when cousins Yagya and Abhav

Bhatia were returning home after watching an IPL match. As they reached Ashoka Road, they were hit by the truck, resulting in their deaths. The family of the victims have alleged that they have not been adequately informed about the progress of the investigation. They claimed that despite repeated attempts to seek clarity, there has been little official communication regarding key developments in the case. "We have not been given any clear updates about what the police have found so far. It has been nearly a week and there is still no arrest," said Ravi Bhatia, a relative of the victims. He added that the situation has left the entire family devastated.

## GROUND REPORT: Mother alleges foul play in kids' death at DDA's golf course pool

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Only a month ago, Meena, the mother of two minor brothers who allegedly drowned on Thursday at the swimming pool of an under-construction golf course in Dwarka, had bought her elder son a cricket bat. "He was very insistent on a bat and I saved up Rs 450 to buy him one," she tells this correspondent, her eyes heavy with grief and trauma.

Wife of a daily wageer, Meena said her boys would never stray so far apart at the Delhi Development Authority's under-construction golf course in Sector 24, Dwarka, where their bodies were recovered from the pool.

Alleging foul play behind the death of her two sons (aged 8 and 10) and another minor (aged 11), Meena said the children used to play around the house and would



always return home by dusk. "When they didn't return even till night on Wednesday, we looked around frantically but couldn't find them. We searched all night, but in vain," says Meena, adding that it was a rickshaw-puller from the area who told her to go to the golf course saying cops were gathered there and something was not right.

By the time the families of the three boys reached the alleged drowning spot, their bodies had been shifted to the nearby Deen Dyal Upadhyay Hospital from where handing

over was done by 2.30 pm and last rituals followed.

The Tribune ground investigation of the spot of the alleged accident revealed several gaps at the golf course construction site, owned by the DDA. The walls around the site are easily scalable with inadequate fencing and height. "The children could have entered from anywhere," locals say. Guards on duty were tightlipped, but The Tribune learnt that the DDA ordered its own enquiry. The cops too were not very forthcoming and sufficed to say the investigation was on.

While Meena was convinced of foul play behind her sons' death, the police had hurriedly concluded that the children - Ravi Jaiswal, Veer Jaiswal and Harsh - died of drowning in the pool. Their bodies were found floating.

## Man stabbed in Trilokpuri

**New Delhi, (GNS):** According to the police, information about the incident was received at the Mayur Vihar police station around 10 pm, following which a team rushed to the hospital where the victim was admitted. After initial treatment, he was shifted to the AIIMS Trauma Centre for advanced care.

Preliminary inquiry revealed that the victim, along with a complainant, was near his residence in Trilokpuri when two persons attacked him with knives.

Based on the complainant's statement and medical examination, a case has been registered under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and an investigation has been initiated. The



police said both accused had been identified and teams are conducting continuous raids to apprehend them.

"Technical surveillance, CCTV footage analysis and local intelligence are being utilised to ensure their early arrest," an officer said. Further investigation is underway, the police said.

## 3 Delhi coaching centre owners among 9 held in ₹37-crore scam

**New Delhi, (GNS):** The Anti Corruption Branch of Delhi has arrested nine people, including owners and directors of three coaching institutes, for allegedly producing fake student documents to take ₹37 crore from the government under Jai Bhim Mukhyamantri Pratibha Vikas Yojana from 2018 to 2021, officials said on Friday.

The ACB said more than 22,000 students and 43 coaching centres were enrolled on paper under the scheme started by the previous Aam Aadmi government in 2018-19, but there were major discrepancies.

According to the ACB, a team under assistant commissioner of police (ACP) Jarnail Singh received a complaint from Delhi government's department of SC/ST welfare in August last year after an audit of the discontinued scheme. The head of ACB, Vikramjit Singh, told HT that "Investigation revealed that this Yojana was initiated in



2017. The scheme was for SC/ST/OBC and other EWS category students. Coaching fee and a stipend for students was to be paid to the institutes by the department. Investigation revealed that these institutes had obtained ₹37.20 crores under this Yojana. It was mandatory for all institutes to maintain a separate bank account for this Yojana but it was not com-

plied with at all."

During the investigation, when student data was collected, it was found that there were duplicate records. "Investigation revealed that the lists of students, which had been submitted by institutes for seeking funds, were containing names of several students in two or more Institutes," said Singh.

"We found that forged doc-

uments regarding admissions of students in this Yojana were created and produced by institutes for claiming funds. Also, department of SC/ST welfare, also did not check/regulate the flow of funds in wrong hands. We also found that stipend amounts received by institutes had not been disbursed to students in several cases. Many also sent the students to local tuitions which is a major violation," added Singh.

An AAP spokesperson said neither the ACB complaint nor their notice named any AAP leaders or the AAP government. The party refused to give a comment on the arrests saying private people had been arrested.

Following this, on April 29, the ACB arrested nine people in connection with the case and they have been sent to 14 days in judicial custody. The arrested accused have been identified as owners of a popular Mukherjee Nagar institute and civil services and IIT

JEE institute directors and staffers from across Delhi.

One of the arrested accused, Ravindra Singh, director of Ravindra Institute of Indian Civil Services (OPC) Pvt. Ltd, was arrested this week. HT reached out to a coaching staffer who said "The allegations are false. We have not done any such thing. Sir has been wrongly picked up. We don't even know about the arrest properly."

Another accused is Harshit, a senior faculty at Momentum NEET IIT Academy. A staffer from his coaching centre said they are not aware of the arrest and refused to comment. Two other accused, Shambhu Sharan, proprietor of Kiran Institute of Career Achievement and Sanjay Kumar, a staffer there, have also been arrested in the case.

HT spoke to Sharan's younger brother who said, "I am not aware of my brother's arrest. I live in Pune. I did not know he has been accused of all this. He has been running the classes for years".