



'Let them dismiss me, won't resign'

Mamata dubs polls an 'atrocities', tells new TMC MLAs to wear black

New Delhi/ Kolkata, (GNS): The Trinamool Congress (TMC) convened a meeting of its newly elected MLAs and senior leaders at Kalighat on Wednesday in Kolkata. Party chief and West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee, along with the party's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, addressed the gathering to chart the party's course following its electoral setback.



Addressing the meeting, the outgoing chief minister Mamata Banerjee struck a defiant tone, asserting her intent to continue in office while calling for a symbolic protest. She said that she would not be resigning from the CM position and rather wait for the governor's dismissal. Urging her party members to carry out a protest against what she claimed to be a "black day," she asked them to wear black

clothes on the first day of the West Bengal assembly.

"After the Bengal INDIA team is united now. I won't resign. Let them dismiss me. I want this to be a black day. We have to be strong. On the first day of the Assembly, wear black clothes. Those who betrayed will be removed from the party. I am laughing. I defeated them morally. I am a free bird. I worked for all. We might have lost, but we will fight. HM and PM are directly involved," she said, news agency ANI reported, citing TMC

sources. She also alleged widespread malpractice and intimidation during the elections, claiming that several party functionaries were targeted.

"Those who lost were forcefully defeated. I condemn West Bengal Police, CRPF, BJP-minded Chief Electoral Officer and ECI. More than 1500 party offices were hijacked. I was heckled and pushed. I was having chest pain. This was not an election but an atrocity," Banerjee said during the meeting, sources added.

BJP government to be sworn-in in Bengal on May 9

Tamil Nadu's swearing-in ceremony may be postponed 118 MLAs needed to form government, TVK has 113

Guwahati/Thiruvananthapuram/Puducherry/Chennai/Kolkata(GNS):The swearing-in ceremony of the new government in Tamil Nadu, scheduled for today, TVK chief Vijay met with the Governor at Lok Bhavan on Wednesday to stake claim to form the government. According to sources, Vijay has submitted letters of support from 113 MLAs. The letter of support bears the signatures of 107 TVK MLAs and five Congress MLAs. According to ANI sources, Governor Rajendra Arlekar demanded letters of support from 118 MLAs. Vijay requested time to submit his support. TVK has 108 seats in the 234-member assembly, but Vijay won two seats, so losing one seat would reduce the number to 107. Even with 233 seats, the majority would remain at 118, so TVK needs 11 more MLAs. Currently, it has the support of five Congress MLAs.



Cabinet approves granting Vande Mataram the status of the national anthem

Punishable by fine for insulting or obstructing the singing; to be sung before Jana Gana Mana

New Delhi, Act. (GNS):The central government has decided to grant Vande Mataram the same status as the national anthem "Jana Gana Mana." This decision was made at the first cabinet meeting chaired by PM Narendra Modi following the BJP's victory in the West Bengal Assembly elections. The meeting also approved a proposal to amend the Prevention of Insults to National Honour

Act. According to the cabinet decision, Vande Mataram, composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, will now be subject to the same rules and restrictions as the national anthem. This means that disrespecting it or obstructing its singing will result in punishment. Currently, disrespecting the national flag, the national Constitution, and the national anthem can be punished with imprisonment of up to three years, a fine, or both, and Vande Mataram will now be included in this list. The government is making this change to mark the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram. Section 3 of the law will be amended to achieve this goal. According to this section, anyone who intentionally obstructs or prevents the singing of the national anthem can be punished with imprisonment of up to three years, a fine, or both.

Heavy rains in Chhattisgarh submerged highways and flooded homes

Hail fell in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, and rain in MP and Bihar; temperatures in Rajasthan dropped below 40°C



Bhopal/Lucknow/Jaipur/Patna(GNS):Rain continues across North, Central, and South India. Heavy rains lashed Chhattisgarh on Tuesday, resulting in knee-deep water on National Highway 30 in Charama, Kanker. Rainwater entered homes in Janakpur, Manendragarh. In Pendra, a storm uprooted several trees.

Heavy rain accompanied by hail fell in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. The rain brought maximum temperatures across Uttar Pradesh below 40°C, providing relief from the heat. In Rajasthan, temperatures remained below 40°C in all cities except Barmer and Phalodi.

Meanwhile, rain continues in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. Bihar recorded 89.7 mm of rain in the last 24 hours, which is 182% more than normal. Thunderstorms and rain will continue in the state until May 7th. 28 districts in Madhya Pradesh are on alert for heavy rain and thunderstorms on Wednesday.

BJP government in Bengal, Bangladesh fears return of citizens:

Bangladeshi minister says hope they won't be forcibly deported, border force on alert

Dhaka(GNS):Following the BJP's victory in the West Bengal elections, the Bangladesh government fears that its citizens may be forcibly expelled from India. Bangladesh Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed has issued a statement regarding this matter. He expressed hope that incidents of forced border pushbacks, or "pushbacks," from India will not increase.

Salahuddin Ahmed said that he does not want anyone



to be branded an illegal immigrant and pushed from India to Bangladesh. In light of this, Bangladesh's Border Security Force has been asked to remain alert.

Earlier, Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman had also said that if such cases occur, Bangladesh will take action. Pushback means forcibly sending someone across the border. Such cases have been reported on the India-Bangladesh border in recent years.

After the Bengal defeat, Akhilesh broke the contract with I-PAC, saying, "I don't have the money"

The same company had handled Mamata Banerjee's election campaign

Lucknow(GNS):Following the West Bengal election results, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav has terminated his contract with election strategy firm I-PAC. Akhilesh said at a press conference in Lucknow, "Yes, we had a relationship with them. They worked with us for a few months. But now we are unable to work together because we are short on funds and cannot provide that much."

Taking a dig at the BJP government, the SP chief said, "They're thinking of talking to companies like Nation with Namoo and Jervis. We'll sit together and work out a deal. We'll tell them that if they help us form the government, we'll give them 90 percent of the Information Department's budget." The I-PAC handled Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress (TMC) election campaign in Bengal.

The number of judges in the Supreme Court will increase to 37

Cabinet approves the proposal, the bill will be introduced in the next session of Parliament

New Delhi(GNS):The Union Cabinet has approved a proposal to increase the number of judges in the Supreme Court from 33 to 37. The government will introduce a bill in the next session of Parliament.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said on Tuesday that the Supreme Court currently has a fixed strength of 33 judges, including the Chief Justice. The government intends to add four new judges to this number. A bill for this purpose will be introduced in the next session of Parliament.

The court said that an FIR should be filed against the pilot and staff of the cruise ship

They fled leaving people drowning in Jabalpur; a report was sought from the police within two days

Jabalpur(GNS):A Jabalpur court has ordered an FIR to be filed against the cruise pilot and crew members in connection with the Bargi Dam accident. Taking suo motu cognizance, the court of Judicial Magistrate First Class, DP Sutrar, stated, "The pilot operated the cruise ship recklessly, resulting in the accident and the deaths of many people."

The court said on Tuesday that the pilot was aware of the cruise ship's activities, but he safely evacuated, leaving the passengers to drown. This is a crime under sections 106 and 110 of the Indian Penal Code, 2023. If an FIR and investigation are not



conducted, future cruise or boat operators may accidentally leave passengers to drown. Such incidents may recur. It should be noted that 13 people lost their lives when a cruise ship capsized at Jabalpur's Bargi Dam on April 30th. These included eight women, four children, and one man. After a nearly 60-hour rescue operation, all the bodies were recovered.

The case will be heard directly in court

The magistrate stated that prima facie, this case appears to be one of serious negligence, which cannot be ignored under any circumstances. He clarified that the case will now be heard directly in court. The magistrate also remarked that the driver was aware of the potential danger, yet he considered it more important to save his own life and leave the tourists to drown, which shows prima facie negligence.

He also praised those who saved lives

The court noted that no legal action has been taken against anyone in this incident so far. The police have also not filed an FIR against anyone. The court directed the Jabalpur police to register an FIR in the case and inform the court within two days.

The court also commended those who saved the lives of the tourists on the cruise.

Preparations to buy 5 new squadrons of S-400:

1 Squadron with 8 launchers and 4 missiles per launcher, a deal worth Rs 1 lakh crore



New Delhi(GNS): The Indian government is preparing to acquire five new squadrons of S-400 missiles. Each squadron consists of eight launchers, each containing four missile containers. This would amount to approximately 32 large missiles.

In Operation Sindoor, which took place between May 7 and 10 last year, the S-400 missiles of our air defence system had wreaked havoc by penetrating 300 kilometres inside Pakistan; now their number is going to increase in our defence fleet.

Discussions with Russia have made positive progress toward the purchase. The first deal for five S-400s for the Air Force was signed in 2018. Three systems have been delivered. Russia has assured that the remaining two systems and the missile batteries spent during Operation Sindoor will be delivered within the next six months.

According to Russia, new squadrons will follow. The two deals will be worth approximately 1 lakh crore. DRDO is developing interceptor missiles similar to the S-400. This is called Project Kusha. The project involves the M-1, 2, and 3 missiles, which will have a range of 105 to 350 km.

Akhilesh Yadav has supported Mamta Didi.



The winner is the king, victory always goes to the strong

Sanat Jain

The Bharatiya Janata Party has won the West Bengal elections with a landslide victory. Before contesting the elections, the BJP had established its goal. To achieve that goal, it used all means necessary, from all means necessary to win, to using all constitutional powers, to sending spies into the TMC. All is fair in love and war. The goal of both war and love is to win. BJP strategists know this well. Winning elections is no easy task. It has no morality, rules, or laws. When Lord Rama can use tactics like the one in which Vibhishana and Lord Krishna killed Ashwatthama to win an unethical battle, then the accusations leveled against the BJP are justified. It can only be said that

victory is the primary goal. The winner holds power. The one in power controls all the powers. When the battle between Rama and Ravana was going on, all nine planets were imprisoned by Ravana. If Hanuman ji had not been there, if he had not freed the nine planets from Ravana's captivity, then Lord Ram's victory would not have been possible.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has won the West Bengal elections. Mamata Didi and her party, the TMC, have been soundly defeated. This is the outcome of the war; the winner is the winner. After this, keep fighting the legal battles, nothing will change. Whoever holds power will have all the stars and planets dancing to their tune. These same stars and planets will

make the loser dance to their tune. This is what has been happening for the past few years. It is said that in a democracy, the people are the masters. The people rule. For the past decade, the people have been sitting silently. Officials in power and constitutional institutions are making the people dance to their tune, at the behest of the government. Driven by fear and greed, the people are silently watching the spectacle. Until the public awakens, they will remain enslaved by power. When the people realize their own strength and learn to fight their own battles, only then will they live a life of freedom. Right now, the people are dependent on power. The BJP knows how to win elections and seize power. As long as it has the power, no one

can harm it. This is what has been happening in India for some time now. The Supreme Court ruled that the Governor of Maharashtra had unconstitutionally toppled Chief Minister Thackeray's government. The illegally formed government completed its term. The judiciary and justice have yet to reach a decision. Mamata Banerjee has stated that she will not resign as Chief Minister; she is not ready to accept defeat. This will achieve nothing. The Governor has the authority to dismiss the Chief Minister, issue a notification for the formation of a new assembly, and form a new government. A new government will be formed. This is the truth, and the BJP will be the one to rule. Anyone with a complaint regarding the elections should file a petition

in the High Court within 45 days; the hearing will drag on for years. Whether the Supreme Court and the High Court will be followed through on any decision will be a matter of future decisions. Previously, the Supreme Court had issued orders regarding the elections. The Election Commission did not follow these guidelines in Haryana and other petitions, and people are still roaming around. More than two years have passed. Neither the control panel, EVM machines, nor the BVPAT slips have been counted yet. The game of postponing dates continues. By the time the petition is decided, another government may have been formed. Such decisions have no meaning. That's why it is said, "The winner is the king."

Editorial

Childhood lost in the glare of mobile phones

Walk through any neighborhood park or colony this evening and you'll find a silence. The hustle and bustle, the sounds of children's chatter, and the games of hide and seek are all but nonexistent. Even if some children are visible, they're often huddled together on a bench, their heads bowed, lost in their mobile screens. Their thumbs are moving rapidly across the screen, where their digital player is sprinting on the field, but in reality, their own feet are still.

This scene reveals the harsh reality of today, where childhood has been cut off from playgrounds and confined to five-inch screens. May 7th is celebrated worldwide as World Athletics Day. While this day might seem like an opportunity to promote sports, as a society, it poses some questions. The biggest question is: is the connection between the field and the soil in our lives being severed? Athletics isn't a grand word; it's a fundamental part of all of us. Running, jumping, and sprinting with all our might are things a child begins to do automatically as soon as they learn to walk. But as we have moved towards modern conveniences, we have confined this inner athlete within children to their homes in the name of safety and education. There was a time when running barefoot on village paths or sweating on the rough school grounds was the ultimate joy of the day. Back then, there were no expensive shoes, no special diets, and no air-conditioned gyms. Still the body remained strong and there was tremendous enthusiasm in the mind.

Today, technology has given us everything, but that sweat-filled connection to the land has been left behind. Today's children are running in an invisible race of schoolwork, heavy tuition, and endless competitions, leaving them mentally exhausted and their bodies sluggish. Whenever major sports events like the Olympics are held, the entire country takes pride in the success of athletes like Neeraj Chopra or Hima Das. Social media showers them with praise.

Mamata Didi should respect the sovereignty of the people

Sanjay Goswami

After the defeat of Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has said that she has not lost the election and hence will not resign. It is not right to say this. The defeat of TMC in the West Bengal Assembly elections has made the future political journey of Mamata Banerjee very difficult. Mamata Banerjee not only lost power but also her traditional seat, Bhawanipur. Now, to say that the counting was rigged and that she won't resign is wrong. This is a democratic country, and the public's decision is paramount. Violence after the election results in West Bengal is absolutely wrong. It is the state government's responsibility. Therefore, such incidents should be dealt with firmly, and appropriate action should be taken against any party involved in rioting. In this election, Congress and TMC saw their votes cut. The Left and AIMIM also cut votes. Congress may have been the happiest in this election, as it was worried about Mamata Banerjee's growing stature in the opposition. Now, Congress has become a major party in the opposition. Even though the number of seats is small, it has cut a significant number of minority votes. In a democracy, the decision of the people is paramount and should be respected. Accepting defeat, even in the opposition, the public's decision should be respected. Democracy is a system of governance in which the power of the country rests in the hands of the people. Citizens elect their representatives, and those representatives govern in the public's interest. Simple definition: Democracy is a system of governance in which the people have the right to elect their rulers. The ultimate source of power is the people. Representatives are elected at regular intervals. Equality: All citizens have equal rights before the law. Liberty:

Freedom of thought, expression, religion, and association. Rule of law: All citizens and rulers are subject to the law. The strength of democracy lies in majority rule and respect for the minority, where decisions are made by the majority, but the rights of the minority are protected. This includes the independence of the judiciary, which ensures that courts are independent and impartial. Accountability and transparency are concerned before elections, where rulers are answerable to the public and governance is transparent. This means, in practical terms, that the public's sovereignty is protected: citizens change the government. Elections are held every five years, so by focusing on mistakes and serving the public even while in the opposition, one can win re-election. There should be no discrimination based on caste, religion, or gender. Anyone can express their opinions and form organizations. Rule of law: No one is above the law. Rule of the majority, respect for the minority: The majority forms the government, but the minority is also heard. Accountability and transparency: The government is required to account for its actions. The minimum characteristics of democracy are: sovereignty of the people, equality, freedom, rule of law, and accountability. Only through these can a government be called democratic. If there is a suspicion of irregularities in the counting, there is the court, which has the right to present its case before the judiciary, which is not under government pressure. Therefore, nothing can be done after the election results are declared. The candidate with the most seats will be elected as the leader of their legislative party and will meet with the Governor to stake a claim to form the government. Based on the number of legislative parties, the Governor will administer the oath of office

to the candidate, also at the Raj Bhavan. Just as once, after the Maharashtra elections, Devendra Pharnavis and NCP leader Ajit Pawar were sworn in. Later, due to a lack of majority, Devendra Pharnavis had to resign as Chief Minister. In West Bengal, the Assembly will be dissolved in a few days after the completion of five years. Later, the new MLAs will be sworn in by the Pro Tem Speaker in the House. Therefore, there is no confusion here. After the election results are declared, the Returning Officer issues a certificate to the winning candidate. The Election Commission manages all election-related arrangements. The Election Commission sets up polling stations, where people come to cast their votes on election day. Only those whose names are on the voter list can vote. After voting, all votes are kept in a secure place and are only opened on the day of counting. Thus, the candidate with the most votes wins the election. This process is repeated in all elections, across all constituencies and wards. Therefore, during the counting process, the opposition agents bring Form C, which is prepared on election day, to the counting counter and compare everything like the EVM number, VVPAT, number of electoral votes, etc. Every hour, the results from each booth's EVM are checked on the rounding table. This process continues every hour. The Returning Officer gives the tabulating officer the sheet, which he then sends online to the Election Commission. Only then is the result declared. All this is done under CCTV surveillance. Therefore, once the Election Commissioner declares a candidate's victory, nothing can be done. Later, a petition for rigging can be filed in court, not in the media. The court, if it decides if there has been election rigging, uses its discretion based on evidence. Usually, the Election

Commissioner's decision is considered legitimate. Therefore, now that the election results are out, nothing can be done. The Governor will immediately order the largest party to form the government and administer the oath. What will they do? If you don't resign, the Governor will spoil the game. So, resign. It is necessary and the decision of the public should be respected because even in this situation BJP will form its government and if resignation is not given at that time, the name will be unnecessarily tarnished in the media and only the court can give any decision and not by speaking in the media. This is repeated in all constituencies and wards. Therefore, during the counting process, the opposition agents bring Form C, which is prepared on election day, to the counting counter and compare everything like the EVM number, VVPAT, number of electoral votes, etc.

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Tagore is a symbol of India's cultural identity

Yogesh Kumar Goyal

(Special on Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary (May 7))

Born on May 7, 1861, into an aristocratic and wealthy family in Kolkata, steeped in literary ambiance, Rabindranath Tagore was a poet, a highly regarded literary figure, a novelist, a playwright, a music lover, a renowned painter, and a philosopher. Tagore was the first person in Asia to be awarded the Nobel Prize. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913 for his work on the world-famous epic poem "Gitanjali." However, he did not receive

the award in person at the ceremony; instead, a British ambassador delivered it to him. Tagore used the approximately one hundred and eight thousand rupees he received as part of the Nobel Prize to establish agricultural banks and cooperative societies for the betterment of farmers and to build schools for the education of landless children. Tagore's magnum opus, "Gitanjali," was published in 1910. This collection of 157 poems was later published in many languages. It was published by Macmillan & Co. of London in March 1913 and went into print in ten editions before the Nobel Prize was announced on 13 November

1913.

Some of Tagore's poems are even part of the school curriculum in Bangladesh. As for India's national song, "Jana Gana Mana," it was first sung on December 27, 1911, before the start of the second day of the Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress. Although there was some controversy at the time about whether he wrote the song in praise of the British, Tagore clarified that the "Bharat Bhagya Vidhata" mentioned in the song could have only two meanings: the people of the country or the almighty God, whether called God or Dev. Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore held

different views on various issues, including nationalism, patriotism, and rationality, but they also held each other in high regard. After receiving the Nobel Prize for Literature, Gandhi was the first to call Tagore "Gurudev," while Tagore bestowed the title of Mahatma on Gandhi. On 12 April 1919, he wrote a letter to Gandhi addressing him as 'Mahatma', only after that Gandhi started being called Mahatma. Rabindranath Tagore wrote his first poem at the age of eight and began writing stories and plays at 16. With dreams of becoming a barrister, he left for England in 1878 but returned to India two years later without a

degree. After leaving Sealdah in 1901 and moving to Shantiniketan, located in rural West Bengal, Rabindranath Tagore established the small Shantiniketan School with just five students, nestled in a natural environment surrounded by trees, gardens, and a library. In 1921, Tagore became a thriving university called Visva-Bharati. In 1919, he also laid the foundation for Kala Bhavan, a school of arts in Shantiniketan, which became part of Visva-Bharati University two years later. Gurudev wrote many of his literary works in Shantiniketan, and his home there remains a historical

landmark. Most of his literary works were poetic, and many of his works are famous in the form of songs. In the 1880s he published several books of poetry and in 1890 wrote 'Manasi'. Poetry, songs, novels, short stories, dramas, essays, craftsmanship, and so on are rare literary genres in which he hasn't composed. His major works include Gitanjali, Geetali, Geetamalya, Katha O Kahani, Shishu, Shishu Bholanath, Kanika, Kshanika, Kheya Haimanti, Kshudita, and Musalmanir Golpo. He translated numerous books into English, and his works have been read and appreciated worldwide.

Vivek Vihar fire: CM seeks minute-by-minute report, warns of action on lapses

New Delhi, (GNS):

In the wake of the Vivek Vihar fire tragedy last week, chief minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday said Delhi govt would take action against those responsible if lapses on the part of any agency or official are found, to ensure that such incidents are not repeated in future. She also directed the East Delhi district magistrate to submit a detailed report with a complete, minute-by-minute timeline of the incident.

The chief minister has called a high-powered meeting involving multiple departments, including Delhi Fire Service, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), Delhi Police



and the health department, on Wednesday. Officials said the meeting will review the Vivek Vihar fire as well as the recent blaze in Palam. Expressing anger over reported lapses following the Vivek Vihar tragedy, Gupta said accountability would be fixed at every level. "The chief minister has sought a detailed, time-bound report

fixing accountability at each stage—from when the first distress call was received, to when fire tenders reached the spot, what issues were faced, and when the fire was finally brought under control," an official said. Gupta directed all departments concerned to fix responsibility for negligence and ensure strict enforcement of fire safety norms. Issuing a stern warning to officials, she said any compromise on fire safety standards would invite strict action. The remarks came after the chief minister met the families of the victims and assured them of full support from the govt. "Today, I met the families of the victims of the fire accident in Vivek Vihar. In this

hour of grief, we stand with them with sensitivity and resolve, and we are committed to providing every possible assistance," Gupta said in a post on X. Calling the incident a "grave warning", she said instructions had been issued to all departments to ensure such incidents do not recur and that fire safety norms are strictly followed. A major fire tore through a residential building in east Delhi's Vivek Vihar early Sunday morning, killing nine people and injuring several others. Initial findings suggested that the blaze was triggered by an air-conditioner explosion. It took around four to five hours to bring the fire under control, and the charred bodies were recovered during a subsequent search of the building.

Illegal property of criminals demolished in Gurugram

New Delhi, (GNS): The Gurugram police on Tuesday razed an eight-storied illegal PG accommodation of drug smuggler Satpal, alias Kalu, at Kanhai village. The police administration, in collaboration with the Municipal Corporation, carried out the demolition drive in the presence of a large police force.

According to the police, the Anti-Narcotics Cell identified the illegal property of drug smuggler Satpal, who has been convicted under the NDPS Act and faces more than half a dozen cases. Upon investigation, the police found that he had acquired this property using proceeds from drug trafficking.

Officials stated that more than 50 municipal employees were deployed to demolish the PG. During the action, there was an argument between the nodal officer RS Bath and the family of the accused, but the team demolished the property.

"The residents of this PG were



being charged at the rate of approximately Rs 7,000 per person, and this money was also being used for drug trafficking. On the orders of the Chief Minister, a joint team of all departments has been formed to carry out this type of action", said nodal officer Bath. Cops also demolished the property of a woman drug peddler, who had illegally occupied about 200 yards of government land belonging to the HSIIDC in Naharpur village. The police team used bulldozers on illegal occupation and the government land was got freed.

Delhi high court to appoint amicus for Arvind Kejriwal, others in excise case

New Delhi, (GNS):

Taking note that former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and two other AAP functionaries facing CBI's appeal against their discharge in the liquor policy case have chosen not to appear, Delhi high court on Tuesday said it would appoint senior lawyers as amicus to argue their stand. Kejriwal, former deputy CM Manish Sisodia and Durgesh Pathak informed the court last week about their intention to "boycott" the hearing before Justice Swarasa Kanta Sharma after the judge refused to recuse herself on their applications alleging conflict of interest and apprehension of bias.

"Who all are not represent-



ed? Three are not appearing, I will appoint a senior lawyer as amicus for them. So I think it will be appropriate that I hear the argument of CBI once I appoint an amicus. Now we will list it on Friday when I will pass an order regarding ami-

cus, and then I will start hearing. I will appoint somebody. I will appoint three seniors in this case," Justice Sharma orally observed, deferring the hearing on the CBI's petition challenging the trial court decision till May 8. Media had last week

highlighted how - following the letter by Kejriwal announcing his decision not to appear - HC may appoint an amicus curiae (friend of the court) to ensure the matter gets heard and decided on merits where a fair evaluation of all legal contentions is made. A key reason for bringing in independent lawyers as amicus is Supreme Court's mandate that criminal revision/appeals can't be "dismissed in default", that is, there is no procedure to end the case without hearing the parties even if they remain absent. Media had pointed out that the apex court stressed the revision/appeal had to be decided on merits, casting it as the duty of the court.

After Justice Sharma dismissed their applications on April 20, Kejriwal, Sisodia and Pathak wrote to the court stating they would not appear before her personally or through a lawyer and would follow "Mahatma Gandhi's path of Satyagraha".

In Feb, the trial court had discharged Kejriwal, Sisodia and 21 others in the liquor policy case, observing that it was wholly unable to survive judicial scrutiny and stood discredited in its entirety. On March 9, Justice Sharma's bench stayed the trial court's recommendation on the initiation of departmental action against CBI's investigating officer in the liquor policy case.



Vivek Vihar blaze: Probe into AC blast, wiring fault suspected in fire incident

New Delhi, (GNS): Police are probing if faulty wiring sparked the East Delhi's Vivek Vihar fire that claimed nine lives in a four-storey house on Sunday.

An electrical inspection of the premises was conducted on Tuesday. Investigators are checking if ageing or substandard wiring caused a short circuit, sparking an air-conditioner explosion and the subsequent fire.

Police plan to summon the builder and others after the report to check if construction and safety norms were followed, especially wiring quality and its load-bearing capacity. The house is located close to a drain. It is also being examined whether an air-conditioner gas leak that may have mixed with toxic gases emanating from the drain, potentially triggered the blast. Police said certain air-conditioner gases can be highly flammable under specific conditions, which may have contributed to the intensity of the explosion.

Police said that forensic reports are still awaited. "We are probing every possible angle in the case," a police officer said.

The incident was reported around 3.48 am. The building where the incident occurred is divided into multiple flats, with a total of eight flats in the building, which houses eight families.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Fire Services is planning to establish a centralised command and control centre equipped with artificial intelligence, GPS and GIS-based systems. To improve coordination, fire tenders will be fitted with Mobile Data Terminals, and vehicles will also be fitted with cameras for live operational monitoring.

Graduate arrested for Rs 50 lakh overseas job and visa scam

New Delhi, (GNS):

A BCom graduate was arrested for allegedly duping people of around Rs 50 lakh on the pretext of facilitating overseas travel and employment, police said. The accused, identified as S R Aggarwal, earlier worked in the BPO sector until 2016. Police said that in the post-Covid period, he set up an immigration consultancy operating from Jaipur and Delhi, through which he allegedly cheated many people by promising visas and jobs abroad.

According to police, a complaint was filed by 23 individuals who claimed they were collectively defrauded of several lakh rupees after being promised work permits and visas for countries such as the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada. The complainants said each of them was made to



sign service agreements on non-judicial stamp papers of Rs 100 to Rs 500 at the consultancy's office.

After collecting payments, Aggarwal allegedly stopped responding to calls and messages, though he continued to hold occasional meetings to reassure clients that their visa processes were underway, police said. However, no visas or job offers materialised.

Several complainants also alleged that they were issued

refund cheques, which later bounced due to insufficient funds. During the probe, police found that the accused allegedly induced victims with false assurances of overseas employment and work permit visas. After the alleged offences, he vacated his rented premises in Delhi and Rajasthan and shut down his mobile phones, email accounts and other communication channels to evade action, police said.

Delhi horror: Class 9 student found dead in Bhatti Mines jungle

New Delhi, (GNS): A 14-year-old Class 9 student was found dead in a forested area near Bhatti Mines on Wednesday, officials said.

The body of the teenager was discovered in the national capital, following which police launched an investigation into the incident, according to news agency Media.

According to police, preliminary findings indicate that the victim may have been strangled. In a separate incident in Uttar Pradesh, a 7-year-old child who had been missing since May 2 was found dead in a maize field on May 5.

Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), East Hardoi, Subodh Gautam, said the complaint regarding the child's disappearance was registered at Mallawan police station.



Police then formed two teams to trace the child and investigate the case.

After three days of searches, the child's body was recovered from a maize field. Police and forensic teams inspected the spot and collected evidence. The body was later sent for post-mortem examination to ascertain the exact cause of death. Earlier, on May 3, four children drowned while taking selfies in the Ganga River near Shivrampur Ghat in Ballia district.

18 charged in Delhi's Uttam Nagar Holi murder, 2 minors also involved

New Delhi, (GNS):

Delhi Police has charged 18 people in connection with the killing of Tarun Butolia during Holi celebrations in Uttam Nagar in March. Two others allegedly involved are minors, against whom preliminary enquiry reports (PIRs) have been submitted before the Juvenile Justice Board, according to sources. The chargesheet was filed at Dwarka court on Sunday. Running over 500 pages, it outlines a wide range of offences against the accused. Eighteen of the 20 people have been booked under sections related to murder, unlawful assembly, rioting, common intention, trespass, voluntarily causing hurt and relevant provisions of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Following the revelation about the alleged role of the minors, police have added BNS Section 95, which deals with hiring, employing or engaging a child to commit an



offence. Later, Section 103(2) (group of five or more acting in concert to commit murder on ground of race, caste/community, sex, place of birth, language, personal belief) was also added. All 20 people are related to each other. Two suspects remain absconding, and non-bailable warrants have been issued against them.

The murder took place two months ago, on March 4. An 11-year-old girl, a relative of Tarun, was throwing water balloons during Holi festivities when one of them accidentally splashed on a woman from

another community, who also happened to be their neighbour. The incident triggered an argument that escalated into a violent confrontation between the sides, in which three from one side and five from the other sustained injuries.

Tarun's family alleged they were assaulted by the accused, who also allegedly raised caste-based slogans against them. Based on these allegations, provisions of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act were subsequently incorporated into the chargesheet.

"Tarun was returning home after celebrating Holi with his friends when he was waylaid near his residence by his neighbours. He was allegedly attacked brutally with sticks and sustained severe injuries. He succumbed to his injuries on March 5," a police officer said. Investigators said the location data analysis of the accused, along with statements from nearly 45 witnesses, including local residents, played a crucial role in identifying and apprehending the suspects. Forensic examination also revealed fingerprints on the sticks allegedly used in the attack, further strengthening the evidence collected in the case.

After the incident, several inflammatory posts began circulating on social media. Police coordinated with social media platforms to get the content removed. More than 14 takedown requests were sent to X and eight to Instagram.

Traffic diversions across key Delhi stretches on May 6 for Rajghat event



New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Traffic Police has issued a traffic advisory ahead of an event scheduled at Rajghat on May 6. The event, expected to be attended by several dignitaries, is likely to impact vehicle movement in and around central and east Delhi in the morning. The advisory says diversions may be put in place as needed at key junctions such as Rajghat Chowk, ITO Chowk, Delhi Gate Chowk, Guru Nanak Chowk, Rajghat DTC Depot and the IP Flyover. The authorities have also indicated that restrictions could extend to major connecting stretches such as ITO Chowk to Delhi Gate on Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,

Shanti Van to IP flyover, and Ashaf Ali Road up to NS Marg. Additional diversions may be enforced along Shantivan Chowk to Nishad Raj Marg, Guru Nanak Chowk to Ranjeet Singh flyover, and from Rajghat DTC Depot towards the Ring Road bypass.

The curbs are expected to remain in place between 9 am and 11 am, depending on the traffic conditions.

Commuters, especially those heading to the airport or railway stations, have been advised to plan their journeys according to the changes. Officials have also urged motorists to park only in designated areas and avoid roadside parking to ensure smooth traffic flow.

Delhi Govt orders removal of JE over minor girl's death in open drain

New Delhi, (GNS): The Delhi Government on Tuesday said it has dismissed a contractual Junior Engineer (JE) from service and ordered a safety audit after a two-year-old girl died after falling into an open drain near her home in the Mukundpur Part-II area of outer Delhi. Reacting to the incident, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta expressed deep sorrow, calling it "extremely distressing and alarming," and asserted that such negligence was not acceptable under any circumstances.

Acting on her directives, the Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) Department has dismissed a contractual JE from service with immediate effect. "Accountability for negligence will be fixed and culprits will not be spared," said CM Rekha. The Chief Minister stressed that



ensuring the safety of citizens, especially children, is the government's top priority. She directed all departments concerned to immediately identify open drains and other hazardous locations within their juris-

dictions and take urgent corrective measures. The police said on May 3, they received information at the Bhalswa Dairy police station that a toddler fell into a drain. After getting information, the police launched an intensive search operation. During the operation, the toddler was found inside a drain located about 15 metres away from her residence. She was rushed to BJRM Hospital where doctors declared her dead on arrival.

According to the police, family members suspect no foul play. Prima facie, the incident appears to be accidental fall and drowning. The girl was playing outside when she accidentally fell into the open drain. She could not come out of it due to its depth, an official said. The police said an appropriate action would be taken after an enquiry, including the post-mortem report, or in case any

complaint is received from the family members.

Incident took place on May 3: The police said on May 3, they received information at the Bhalswa Dairy police station that a toddler fell into a drain. After getting information, the police launched an intensive search operation. During the operation, the toddler was found inside a drain located about 15 metres away from her residence. She was rushed to BJRM Hospital where doctors declared her dead on arrival.

due to civic apathy
February 5, 2026 (Janakpuri): 25-year-old Kamal Dhayani died after his motorcycle fell into an uncovered, unbarricaded pit dug by the Delhi Jal Board.

February 10, 2026 (Rohini): A 32-year-old labourer, Birju Kumar, died after falling into an open drain in Sector 32.

Rain, hailstorm cool city, bring flight disruptions

New Delhi, (GNS): Parts of Delhi got intense spells of rain and hailstorm on Tuesday evening, which made the already pleasant weather cooler.

The extreme weather, particularly in the south-west, led to five flight diversions at Indira Gandhi International Airport between 2 pm and 3.30 pm, airport officials said. Several areas saw gusty winds, intense rain and hail towards late evening. While IMD issued no colour-coded warning for Wednesday, a thundery development is expected towards late evening. The prevailing western disturbance is likely to be over soon and temperatures will begin to rise.

On Tuesday, the maximum at Safdarjung was 33.6 degrees C, six notches above normal. IMD expects a gradual rise in temperatures from Thursday onwards, starting at 35-37°C and touching 40°C by Sunday.

Safdarjung recorded 4.6 mm rainfall till 8.30 am, with trace rainfall in the next nine hours. Palam logged trace rainfall till 8.30 am, but 9.8 mm till 5.30 pm. The Ridge got 11.9 mm till 8.30 am. Najafgarh logged 0.5 mm till 8.30 am, and 6.5 mm in the next nine hours.

"There were intense showers and reports of hail, from southwest Delhi in particular," he said. A maximum wind speed of 39 km/hr was recorded at Pitampura.

New classrooms, no fire NOC at DU school for workers' children

New Delhi, (GNS): For the children of guards, sweepers and gardeners employed with Delhi University, the promise of new classrooms has come before the promise of safety. Ten months after chief minister Rekha Gupta and education minister Ashish Sood inaugurated a four-storey block at Delhi University Social Centre Co-Ed Secondary School with much fanfare, the building still does not have a mandatory fire NOC -- even as Classes XI and XII are already being held there. Built for the children of DU's Class IV staff and other low-income families, the North Campus school has begun using rooms on the ground floor of the block because of space constraints, even though key approvals like fire clearance are pending. Under the Delhi Fire Service rules, educational buildings above 9 metres or higher than G+2 must secure fire clearance before they can be occupied, as part of mandatory fire prevention and life safety norms.

The lapse comes at a time when multiple fire incidents have been reported across DU colleges in recent months and an RTI showed several campuses were operating with expired fire extinguishers. In April, a fire broke out in Hindu College's computer lab. In the same month, another fire was reported in the portacabins of the students' union office at Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College. The head of the school, Garima Bharti, said the school has not yet applied for a fire NOC and it was still unclear who was responsible for doing so.

"Since the land belongs to Delhi University and this is a govt-aided school, there is still a lack of clarity on who will apply for the fire NOC. We have not applied yet. We will first seek clarity on that and then proceed," she said.

Bharti said the shift was temporary and driven by necessity, not readiness.

"There is a space crunch in the old building, so for now, some rooms are being used. The building has otherwise been handed over, but the fire NOC, lift clearance and some electrical work is still pending. We are hoping these will come through in the next few months and the plan is to shift after the ongoing admission cycle is over," she said.

In past 3 years, Delhi's power subsidy net expanded steadily

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi's power subsidy pattern in the summer months shows a clear shift over the past three financial years, with 2025-26 standing out for keeping more households within the subsidy net despite rising consumption and a growing consumer base. An analysis of data for April to Aug for the past three fiscals, adjusted for total domestic consumers rising from 59.4 lakh in 2023-24 to 62 lakh in 2024-25 and 63.5 lakh in 2025-26, indicates that while electricity use typically increases in summer, a larger share of households is still managing to remain within the subsidised bracket of 0-400 units. Delhi govt provides

100% relief for households consuming up to 200 units monthly (zero bill) and a 50% subsidy (up to Rs 800) for 201-400 units. In April 2023-24, around 80% of households (47.5 lakh) availed the subsidy. This rose to about 84% (52.3 lakh) in 2024-25 and further to nearly 87% (55 lakh) in 2025-26, showing a steady expansion in coverage even after accounting for more consumers.

In May, the proportion of beneficiaries remains largely unchanged, hovering around 72-74% across all three years, despite an increase in absolute numbers, from about 44 lakh to nearly 47 lakh. According to a senior official, this suggests

the rise is driven mainly by more users rather than a deeper subsidy reach.

June highlights the contrast between years. While 2023-24 saw about 65% of households receiving subsidy (38.8 lakh), the share dropped sharply to around 55% (33.9 lakh) in 2024-25, likely due to higher consumption pushing users beyond the 400-unit threshold. However, 2025-26 shows the coverage climbing back to about 64% (40.4 lakh), indicating improved retention within subsidy limits.

July and Aug further underline how 2025-26 differs. In July, the share of beneficiaries rose modestly from around

60% (35.8 lakh) in 2023-24 to about 62-63% (39.7 lakh) in 2025-26. The shift is sharper in Aug, where subsidy coverage jumps significantly - from roughly 49% (29.1 lakh) in 2023-24 to nearly 67% (42.5 lakh) in 2025-26, marking the strongest expansion in summer coverage across the three years.

The official said the main reason behind this trend is the movement of consumers between slabs. In earlier years, a larger share of households stayed within the 0-200-unit bracket, receiving full subsidy or zero bills. However, during the summer season, especially in 2025-26, many households move into the 201-400-unit

range due to increased cooling needs. Instead of losing subsidy altogether, they continue to receive the 50% benefit. For instance, in June, the number of consumers in the 201-400 slab increases to about 21 lakh in 2025-26, compared to roughly 19-20 lakh in 2023-24. Similar patterns are visible in July and May, indicating that higher consumption is not necessarily pushing households out of the subsidy system, but rather redistributing them within it, he said. Following a scheme announced by the then AAP govt in 2019, electricity in Delhi has been free for households consuming up to 200 units a month.

Vocational, special training centre teachers get salary boost

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi govt on Tuesday approved a significant salary hike for vocational teachers and educators working under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, chief minister Rekha Gupta said after a Cabinet meeting.

The decision also covers teachers posted at special training centres, which cater to children who have dropped out of school or never enrolled. Around 1,131 vocational teachers in the city will now earn Rs 38,100 per month, up from Rs 20,000-Rs 23,000. These teachers provide skill-based training across multiple disciplines. Similarly, salaries of teachers working at 784 special training centres under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan have been raised from Rs 21,000 to Rs 35,420 per month.

"These revised salaries bring



Samagra Shiksha teachers at par with primary and upper primary teachers. This is not merely a financial decision but recognition of their commitment to working in challenging conditions to bring children back into education," the chief minister said.

She added that the hike would improve financial security, boost morale and strengthen learning outcomes.

Samagra Shiksha is a centrally sponsored scheme aimed

at strengthening school education, with a focus on access, equity and learning outcomes. It supports infrastructure upgrades, teacher training, digital learning initiatives and vocational education in govt and aided schools. Gupta said the govt's priority is to ensure that no child in Delhi is excluded from the education system. "Special training centres serve as a lifeline for children who have never attended school or have dropped out.

Delhi Police arrest associate of conman Sukash Chandrasekhar from Dubai

New Delhi, (GNS): The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi Police has arrested a close associate of alleged conman Sukash Chandrasekhar in Dubai following the issuance of a Red Corner Notice, officials said on Tuesday.

The accused, identified as Navas Kakkat Ismail, alias Navas KI, is believed to be a key financial conduit and hawala operator of Sukash. He had been absconding since 2021, they added. Deputy Commissioner of Police (EOW) Amit Verma said a case was registered under relevant sections of BNS, Section 66-D of the IT Act and Sections 3/4 of the MCOC Act at the police station special cell against Sukash and others related to allegations of running an



extortion racket from Rohini Jail. Complainant Aditi Singh accused Sukash and his associates of extorting Rs 217 crore. So far, a total of 22 persons, including Sukash and his wife, Leena Paulos, have been arrested, Verma added.

The cop mentioned that the investigation of the case revealed that the accused, Navas Kakkat Ismail, was his main conduit and hawala operator, who helped him in parking, layering and transferring the crime proceeds.

Noida, Ghaziabad high-rise societies facing high fire risk

New Delhi, (GNS): Days after a fire gutted eight luxury flats at Gaur Green Avenue in Ghaziabad's Indirapuram area, a Tribune ground investigation has thrown up several gaps in fire response systems across high-rise apartments of Delhi-NCR.

The Wednesday blaze in Indirapuram had damaged multiple homes, revealing how fire-fighting mechanisms are struggling to match the rapid vertical growth of cities such as Ghaziabad and Noida.

The Tribune correspondent surveyed the area today and found that in Ghaziabad, where residential towers rise up to 40 floors in areas like Indirapuram, Vaishali and Raj Nagar Extension, the fire department's primary ladder reaches only 12 to 14 metres, roughly the fourth floor.

The contrast is most visible in Noida. The city has at least



25 skyscrapers exceeding 150 metres, with projects such as Supernova Spira expected to reach 300 metres. However, the tallest firefighting ladder available can extend only up

to 42 metres, or about the 14th floor, leaving higher levels beyond the reach of rescue.

At the site of the fire at Gaur Green Avenue, these limitations were evident. Fire ten-

ders could not access the building directly and were stationed about 100 metres away. Residents from neighbouring towers used an in-house fire system in an attempt to control the flames, highlighting the lack of immediate response capability from the public machinery system.

NOFAA (Noida Federation of Apartment Owners Associations) groups have questioned how such buildings receive safety approvals. "There is so much vertical growth in the city, and we live in the farthest corner of it. To know that there isn't sufficient equipment to douse flames is truly questionable," said a member of NOFAA.

Concerns extend beyond equipment. Several residential complexes in Noida and Ghaziabad lack proper refuge areas, which are meant to serve as safe evacuation spaces during fires. In some cases, these are missing, poorly designed or encroached

upon, limiting options for residents during emergencies. Speaking on this, a former RWA chair holder Ajay Chaurasiya said, "On what basis is the authority giving fire clearances to these skyscraper projects?"

This delay, combined with limited height access, increases the risk to residents.

Fire officials state that high-rise buildings are required to be self-sufficient, with sprinkler systems, internal hydrants, pressurised staircases and refuge areas. However, both residents and officials acknowledge that maintenance and inspections are inconsistent.

The authorities say a 102-metre hydraulic platform is planned, along with the exploration of drones and advanced ladders. For now, these measures remain under process, even as construction continues to push the skyline higher, leaving unresolved questions about preparedness and accountability.