



### Girl Arrested For Transporting Ganja in Mangaluru

**Mangaluru(GNS):** Karnataka Police have arrested a BCA student on charges of transporting hybrid ganja worth Rs 35 lakh in Mangaluru city, police said on Wednesday. The accused has been identified as 21-year-old Suhana, a resident of Sagar in Shivamogga district. According to the police, the accused brought ganja from Chennai and sold it to students in the coastal city of Mangaluru. Police further stated that several criminal cases had already been registered against her in Bengaluru and Mangaluru. The Mulki police have registered a case in connection with the present incident and are carrying out an investigation. The accused is a final-year BCA student at a reputed college in Kundapura town of Udupi district. Police nabbed her on Tuesday while she was allegedly selling the narcotic substance on Mulki Railway Station Road. Special police teams from Panambur and Mulki jointly carried out the operation and arrested the accused. Police seized 1.40 kilograms of hybrid ganja worth Rs 35 lakh. The seized ganja is said to have a high market value. Police also confiscated a mobile phone and other documents from her possession. According to the preliminary investigation, Suhana had allegedly transported the narcotic substance from Chennai to Mangaluru. She is accused of selling the narcotics to college students and affluent individuals in the Mangaluru district. The police investigation has also revealed her alleged involvement in serious criminal cases in the past.

### Cabinet Approves Rs 20,667 Cr Project in Gujarat

**New Delhi,(GNS):** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved the Ahmedabad (Sarkhej)-Dholera semi-high-speed double line railway project - the first of the Indian Railways planned with indigenously developed technology, with a total investment of Rs 20,667 crore.

The project section will provide faster connectivity between Ahmedabad, Dholera SIR, the upcoming Dholera Airport and the Lothal National Maritime Heritage Complex (NHMC), a Cabinet statement said.

Connecting Ahmedabad with Dholera will cut down passenger travel time, enabling comfortable daily commuting and same-day return trips. This semi-high-speed railway will not only bring the two cities closer but also benefit people living hundreds of kilometres away. It will serve as a pioneer project, acting as a reference model for the phased expansion of semi-high-speed rail across the country, it added.

# Vijay Wins Trust Vote With Support From Congress And Left parties

**Chennai,(GNS):** Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay successfully cleared the first major test for his newly formed Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)-led government on Wednesday after winning the confidence motion in the Legislative Assembly with 144 votes in favour. While 22 MLAs voted against the motion, five members abstained. Following the completion of the trust vote, the Assembly was adjourned sine die. The floor test witnessed dramatic scenes, including a walkout by the DMK, open divisions within the AIADMK, and heated exchanges between rival camps in the House. Ahead of the voting, Leader of Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin led all DMK MLAs out of the Assembly after sharply criticising the Vijay-led government during the debate on the confidence motion. He accused the Chief Minister of encouraging political defections by meeting rebel AIADMK legislators earlier in the day. Questioning the political developments surrounding the trust vote, Stalin asked whether Tamil Nadu was witnessing "change or exchange" in politics. He also alleged that the TVK government lacked a stable, independent majority and



was surviving through external support and defections. The situation inside the Assembly turned tense when AIADMK general secretary and former Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami announced that all 47 MLAs belonging to his faction would oppose

the confidence motion. Palaniswami also objected to Vijay's reported meeting with rebel AIADMK leaders and questioned the legitimacy of their support for the government. However, commotion erupted after Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar invited rebel AIADMK leader S.P. Velumani to participate in the debate on the trust motion. AIADMK members loyal to Palaniswami strongly protested the move, but the Speaker maintained that he had the authority to permit any member to speak in the House. Amid loud protests from the AIADMK benches, Velumani addressed the Assembly and subsequently

led the rebel MLAs in voting in favour of the TVK government, further exposing the deepening split within the opposition party. Replying to the debate before the vote, Chief Minister Vijay asserted that his administration would remain firmly secular and committed to governance. "This government will function with the speed of a horse and not indulge in horse trading," Vijay said in a sharp political remark directed at the opposition. He also assured the House that all major welfare schemes implemented by previous governments would continue under the TVK administration.

## CM Suwendu Retains Bhabanipur Quits Nandigram Assembly Seat

**Kolkata:** West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Wednesday took oath as the legislator from Bhabanipur constituency in South Kolkata on the floor of the Assembly.

By taking oath as the MLA from Bhabanipur, Adhikari made it clear that he will quit the Nandigram Assembly constituency in East Midnapore district, where he was elected simultaneously in the recently concluded Assembly polls.

In Bhabanipur, Adhikari was elected by defeating the Trinamool Congress candidate and then sitting Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee by a margin of over 15,000 votes. At Nandigram, Adhikari was elected after defeating Trinamool Congress' Pabitra Karby over 9,000 votes.

This was the second time that Adhikari had defeated Mamata Banerjee. In 2021,



Adhikari was elected from Nandigram after defeating Mamata Banerjee by a margin of a little less than 2,000 votes.

Subsequently, in 2021, Mamata Banerjee was elected in a by-election from Bhabanipur and retained the post of the Chief Minister for the third consecutive term. In 2026, not only was her party, the Trinamool Congress, defeated, but she also suffered a loss.

Like Adhikari, Aam Janata Unnyan Party (AJUP) founder Humayun Kabir also got elected this time from two

Assembly constituencies, namely Naoda and Rejinagar, both in the minority dominated Murshidabad district.

But it is not yet clear which seat he will retain and which he will quit.

On Wednesday, Adhikari reached the Assembly premises and then entered the House after bowing and touching his head to the staircase leading to the House. He was welcomed at the House by the pro-tem Speaker and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislator from Maniktala Assembly constituency in North Kolkata, Tapas Roy.

As per protocol, the new Chief Minister was given the "Guard of Honour" at the Assembly premises. Thereafter, Adhikari garlanded and paid floral tributes to the statue of B.R. Ambedkar within the Assembly premises.

## Cabinet Okays Increase in MSP for 14 Kharif Crops

**New Delhi (GNS):** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for 14 kharif crops for Marketing Season 2026-27 to ensure remunerative prices to farmers. The highest absolute increase in MSP over the previous year has been recommended for sunflower seed at Rs 622 per quintal, followed by cotton (Rs 557 per quintal), nigerseed (Rs 515 per quintal), and sesamum (Rs 500 per quintal), according to an official statement issued on



Wednesday. The increase in MSP for kharif crops for Marketing Season 2026-27 is in line with the Union Budget 2018-19 announcement of fixing the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times of the all-India weighted average cost of production. The expected margin to farmers over their cost of production is estimated to be highest in the case of moong (61 per cent), followed by bajra (56 per cent), maize (56 per cent), and tur/arhar (54 per cent).

## NIA Brings Back Wanted Narco-Terror Accused Iqbal Shera From Portugal



**New Delhi(GNS):** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday arrested wanted narco-terrorist Iqbal Singh alias Shera after successfully securing his extradition from Portugal following prolonged diplomatic and legal efforts, officials said. Shera, who is considered the mastermind of a major Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM) terror financing case, was brought back to India after completion of the due legal process. He was taken into custody by an NIA team at Delhi airport soon after arriving from Portugal, where he had been absconding since 2020. Officials described the successful extradition and arrest as a major breakthrough in the NIA's ongoing crackdown against Pakistan-backed narco-terror and cross-border terror networks operating in India.

## Girls Outshine Boys as CBSE 12th Pass Percentage Falls to 85.20 Percent

**New Delhi(GNS):** The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has announced the results for the Class XII examination for 2026. This year, the board recorded an overall pass percentage of 85.20%, a decline of 3.9% compare to last year. A total of 18,57,517 students registered for the examinations this year. Girls have once again outperformed boys with a pass percentage of 88.86%, compared to 82.13% for boys. Transgender students achieved a perfect 100% pass rate, according to CBSE. While the board does not release a traditional merit list to avoid unhealthy competition, 5.32% of students (94,028 candidates) scored 90% and above, while 0.97% (17,113 candidates) scored 95% and above. Trivandrum emerged as the top-performing region with a pass percentage of 95.62%, followed by Chennai at 93.84% and Bengaluru at 93.19%. In the national capital, the Delhi West region recorded a 92.34% pass rate, while Delhi East stood at 91.73%. Institutional Performance: Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) led among institutions with pass percentages of 98.55% and 98.47%, respectively. In a major shift toward modernisation, CBSE successfully implemented full-scale On-Screen Marking (OSM) for the evaluation of 9,866,622 answer books.



### Suspense over the CM post in Kerala



**New Delhi(GNS):** The Enforcement Directorate Supreme Court on Wednesday adjourned to May 22 the hearing on a plea filed by the

## I-PAC Raid Row: SC to Hear ED Plea Against Mamata on May 22

Enforcement Directorate (ED) alleging interference by then West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and senior state police officials during search operations conducted earlier this year at the office of political consultancy firm Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC) in Kolkata. A Bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and N.V. Anjaria deferred the matter after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the ED through video conferencing, sought an early list-

ing for next week. "I am requesting for next week," SG Mehta submitted, pressing for an expedited hearing after Justice Mishra-led Bench observed that the matter could otherwise be listed in July. During the brief hearing, the Centre's second-highest law officer informed the apex court that the respondents had already concluded their preliminary submissions and that the ED was ready to advance arguments. After hearing the parties, the Justice Mishra-led Bench posted the matter for further hearing on May 22. The matter arises out of search operations conducted by the ED on January 8 in connection with a multi-crore money laundering

probe linked to an alleged coal smuggling scam. The federal anti-money laundering agency has alleged that former Chief Minister Banerjee, accompanied by police personnel and senior officials, entered the I-PAC office and the residence of its co-founder, Pratik Jain, while searches were underway and interfered with the investigation.

# The Great Crisis of the Indian Economy

Sanat Jain

Regarding the Indian economy, the government has consistently claimed rapid growth, expanding infrastructure, and becoming the world's fourth-largest economy. Now, the truth behind these claims is being exposed. Renowned economist Arun Kumar has hinted at a major crisis looming in India's economy, exposing the truth behind the government's rosy claims. He believes that India's economy has been divided into two parts: one is the organized sector, which represents corporate and stock market growth; the other is the unorganized sector, which

employs approximately 94 percent of the country's workforce, which is constantly in crisis. The government does not reveal this reality. According to Prof. Arun Kumar, the biggest crisis is "demand decline." When incomes of ordinary people decline and employment decreases, the rural economy and the unorganized sector are the first to suffer. Demand in the market decreases, directly impacting industrial production, turnover, and investment. This is why, despite high GDP growth, jobs are not being created in the country; instead, jobs are being lost. Internationally,

concerns have been raised for many years about rising unemployment and inequality in India. Economists have repeatedly expressed their concerns about the damage caused to the unorganized sector by demonetization, GST, and the COVID-19 pandemic. The government has paid little attention to this. Small traders, cottage industries, farmers, and daily wage laborers have been the most affected. Professor Arun Kumar claims that government statistics conceal the true situation and manipulate the figures. In reality, the government is blindly patting itself on the back by claiming that GDP

and the economy are improving. The government has not properly incorporated the decline in the unorganized sector into its current GDP measurement system. As a result, the country's economic situation appears to be one thing on paper, and the actual situation is quite different. The current situation is that the stock market is at record levels. Unemployment is continuously rising. Due to these economic changes, people are losing their jobs globally, including in India. Approximately 800 million people in India depend on free rations. If India's economy were truly strong, this

change in employment and people's income would be visible. The rural economy is experiencing a steady decline. Demand, which was previously growing in rural areas, is now rapidly declining. Inflation and lack of income are leading to a steady decline in demand. Youth unemployment and the agrarian crisis are exposing India's so-called development model and economy. Many economists, including Arun Kumar, have consistently expressed concern. If the demand-driven economy is not strengthened, India could fall into a state of stagflation. In this situation, growth slows and inflation

steadily rises, making life difficult for the common man. This crisis cannot be resolved with large expressways, corridors, and capital-intensive projects. The government needs to focus on education, health, agriculture, invest more in small industries and job creation. Increasing incomes in the unorganized and rural sectors, providing debt relief to the unorganized sector, and promoting labor-intensive industries are the most pressing needs of the hour. Unless the purchasing power of ordinary citizens increases, economic growth will remain a mere formal achievement.

## Editorial

### Possibility of economic emergency

Is India heading towards an economic crisis? Is there a possibility of an economic emergency, and could the Indian government take some drastic and major decisions? Could some restrictions also be imposed? Is Prime Minister Modi's appeal only for the common man? Why isn't "saving" mandatory for the elite? We analyzed the Prime Minister's appeal and instructions. The flip side is that the institutions that assess the country's economic health—the Reserve Bank, Moody's, S&P, World Bank, Fitch, and Asian Development Bank—have reduced India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate. Clearly, our economy has contracted. In any case, India is now the sixth-largest economy in the world, not the fourth. Further decline is expected. This assessment is the first sign of an impending economic crisis. The Prime Minister himself has acknowledged that while the coronavirus pandemic was a global crisis, the Iran war is the biggest crisis of this decade. Prime Minister Modi has not appealed to the nation due to the economic crisis and the shortage of petroleum products. He is also not in favor of any kind of "charity," as was done during the prime ministers of Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. The Prime Minister is in favor of reducing imports to save foreign exchange. At the beginning of the Iran war, India's foreign exchange reserves were \$720 billion, but after about 75 days of the war, this reserve has decreased to \$690 billion. Therefore, the Prime Minister has appealed to reduce expenses that require dollar expenditure. About 80 percent of crude oil and more than 70 percent of gold imports are made in dollars. The historic fall of the Indian currency, the rupee, to 95.28 against the dollar has deepened the crisis. Currently, the rupee is the second-weakest currency in the world, having devalued by 12%. The Prime Minister has appealed to abstain from buying gold for a year, yet the Indian government has purchased 168 tons of gold from abroad. India's total gold reserves now stand at 880 tons. This is being linked to "national security."

# NEET crisis: Questioning the credibility of the exam system

Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

India's competitive examination system is not just an admission process but a foundation of social justice, opportunity, and talent testing. When irregularities, doubts, or cancellations occur in a national examination like the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), it not only impacts a single exam but also shatters the trust, time, and mental balance of millions of students. An examination is not merely a technical event; it symbolizes the trust that the state ensures that hard work, ability, and preparation will be properly rewarded. Therefore, the credibility of the examination system is the backbone of any democratic education system.

The most worrying factor in cases like NEET is not just the occurrence of a single incident, but why such incidents recur. When a national examination comes under scrutiny, public confidence is shaken. Students, parents, teachers, coaching institutes, and the administration all grapple with a question that cannot be answered merely by press releases. The question is: is our examination system truly robust enough to simultaneously deliver on all three fronts: transparency, fairness, and security? If not, the problem isn't specific to a single exam, but to the entire system.

Crises in the examination system don't arise suddenly. They stem from small weaknesses that aren't addressed promptly. If even one link at all these levels—question paper preparation, confidential material protection, logistics transportation, monitoring of examination centers, technical verification, identification, and answer sheet handling—is weak, the entire system can be thrown into doubt. In modern times, examinations are no longer merely pen-and-paper events; they have become systems interconnected by a highly complex net-

work of information, security, and control. Therefore, negligence at any level directly impacts the future of students.

It must also be understood that trust in the examination system is built not only on transparency but also on consistency. If a student lacks assurance that the value of their hard work is stable and secure, their preparation becomes uncertain. Even before a conscientious student reaches the examination center, many questions arise—will the question paper be secure? Will no one gain unfair advantage? Will the entire process be fair? When such questions become commonplace, it's important to understand that the crisis is not merely administrative, but also moral. The fundamental objective of education is equality of opportunity, and if that is weakened, the system deviates from its purpose.

This concern becomes even more acute in an exam like the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test, as it is not just a professional entrance exam but the center of the socio-economic dreams of millions of families. Students from rural areas, lower-middle-class candidates, and youth from small towns dream of advancing through their abilities despite limited resources. But when the integrity of the exam is questioned, these same students suffer the most. Those with influence, resources, or networks often overcome the system's weaknesses; but those with only hard work are the most affected. Therefore, transparency in exams is not just a question of administrative reform but also of social justice. The crisis in the examination system also has a profound impact on students' mental health. Preparing for competitive exams is already extremely stressful. Students live for long periods of time amid strict discipline, limited social life, family expectations, and uncertainty about the future. When the future of the exam itself

becomes uncertain, the mental pressure increases exponentially. Some students become frustrated, some repeatedly change their strategies, and some even fall into deep depression. Therefore, examination administrations must understand that they are not merely announcing dates or setting up examination centers, but are also entrusting the future of young people with their trust.

The digital age has brought both conveniences and new challenges to examination administration. Systems like online registration, digital identity, CCTV surveillance, encrypted data, and centralized control have modernized the examination system. However, this has also increased technological risks. Data leaks, software tampering, internal collusion, cyber intrusions, and the spread of misinformation have all emerged as new challenges. Therefore, simply adopting technology is not enough; security, audit, and accountability must also be equally robust. If the technology itself is weak, claims of transparency will prove hollow.

Improving examination systems requires establishing accountability first. When an examination becomes controversial, attention often focuses solely on the incident. But the real question is whose negligence allowed the incident to occur. A review of the roles of the examination-organizing body, the relevant ministry, security agencies, central-level officials, and the local administration is essential. Accountability means not just removing a single official but re-evaluating the entire structure. If the culprits are not caught, the shortcomings in the process are not made public, and corrective steps are not taken, the same crisis will repeat itself.

Another requirement is independent and timely audits. Secure records must be maintained at every stage, from question paper preparation to the completion of

the examination. To ensure immediate investigation in case of any suspicious activity, a system is needed that is both transparent and swift. Additionally, a multi-layered monitoring system must be developed in examination management, where no single individual or department has a monopoly oversight of the entire process. Decentralization of control and centralization of monitoring—this balance can form the foundation of a secure examination system.

The third requirement is a reliable communication system. In the age of social media, rumors spread rapidly. Therefore, institutions must provide not only accurate information but also timely information. Ambiguity breeds doubt. If students are unclear about their next steps, when results will be released, or whether re-examinations will be held, they become unnecessarily stressed. Therefore, examination administrations must transform their communication from formality to a credible public service.

The fourth and most important requirement is a strict and definitive punishment system. Mere moral condemnation is not enough for irregularities such as question paper leaks, cheating, hacking, or internal support. Until perpetrators receive swift and definitive punishment, system reform will remain incomplete. The purpose of punishment in the education sector should be deterrence, not retribution. The system should ensure that those who commit irregularities understand that they will suffer immediate harm, not gain. Only then will honest students feel confident that their hard work is protected.

India now needs an examination culture in which students feel secure, not suspicious; in which the administration acts as a responsible guardian, not a mere dictator. And in which transparency is not just in words, but in every process.

# When abuse becomes swag, then understand that the society has become indecent

Dilip Kumar Pathak

Today is May 14th. The calendar says it's National Decency Day. It might sound a little strange, wondering if we need to set aside a special day to be polite? But if we look at the digital world around us, the comment boxes on social media, TV debates, politicians' speeches, and the noise around us, we realize that perhaps it's the most needed in today's times. We're making tremendous progress, reaching the moon, but our language and behavior are losing their decency. Especially in the internet

world, it seems as if rudeness has become the new fashion, a way to appear cool.

Our elders used to say that a person's true identity isn't determined by their clothes or wealth, but by their speech. Words are a reflection of a person's inner values. But today's reality is different. Platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and X have given us a mask. Hidden behind our mobile screens, we have begun to consider ourselves great warriors. We easily write things we might not have the courage to say face to face. If we don't like some-

one's point, instead of explaining our point logically, we resort to abuse. We bring their family into the picture to humiliate them or label them with hateful labels. This growing troll culture has completely destroyed the sweetness of communication in our society. Surprisingly, using abusive language is now considered a form of bravery. Our current popular culture also plays a major role in this.

Whether it's web series on OTT platforms or stand-up comedy, swearing has become an integral part of dialogue. When

famous stars swear on the big screen or mobile screens, our children at home believe that this is today's modern language. They believe that speaking with politeness and courtesy is something that people of the past do. The result is that today's youth is resorting to abusive language, not logic, to make their point. They believe that the more harsh and vulgar they speak, the more impressive they will appear. Why just social media? Just look at our TV debates. There, the speaker who shouts louder and interrupts others is considered stronger. We have

developed a belief that the polite one is weak, and the rude one is stronger. The truth is that shouting requires only the sound of lungs, but maintaining calm and expressing one's views with strength and dignity requires immense self-control. Decency does not mean being afraid or keeping quiet.

Our country's greatest figures changed the world and shook the foundations of power, yet their language never betrayed filth. The words of people like Gandhi, Nehru, Shastri, or Kalam Sahib carried weight, not bitterness. Even their protests pos-

sessed a decency that compelled others to reflect. Today, we are connected to the entire world through the internet, but we are losing space in each other's hearts. As our fingers type on the keyboard, we often forget that there is a living, breathing human being on the other end of the phone, who too has emotions. We fail to realize the immense mental pain a small, indecent comment can cause. Freedom of expression does not mean we forget our limits. Freedom always comes with responsibility, and as citizens, it is our responsibility

to maintain the dignity of our language. It is time to step beyond our mobile screens and reflect on our habits. May this day remind us that we are human, and our greatest beauty lies in the decency of our language. If we cannot restore decency to our language and behavior, all our education, degrees, and modern gadgets are useless. Decency isn't something you can buy; it's a culture that begins at the doorstep and is reflected in our behavior. Let's bring back a little silence, a little decency, and a lot of humanity amidst this digital noise.

# 'Restored My Faith': Over 12,600 People Get Stolen Phones Back

**New Delhi(GNS):** On Sept 21, 2024, Reema Kumari, then 43, felt as though her entire world had collapsed in a single day. Her husband had met with a devastating accident that resulted in the amputation of one of his legs, while her son had to be rushed to a hospital in Delhi's Jaffarpur Kalan after suffering a seizure. Amid the panic and rush inside the emergency ward, Kumari faced yet another blow when her mobile phone was allegedly stolen. The phone, lovingly bought for her by her daughters on monthly EMI payments, was not merely a device but her only lifeline at the time. "The phone cover also had my debit card and Rs 5,000 cash. I was left stranded with no way to pay for my son's treatment,"



she said, her eyes brimming with tears as she tightly clutched the recovered phone she finally received nearly two years later under Operation Vishwas.

Kumari was among the 12,600 people who got their stolen or lost phones back at an event organised on Tuesday across various districts of Delhi. The main function, held at North Campus, was attended by lieutenant governor T S Sandhu and police commis-

sioner Satish Golchha. For the recipients, the recovered phones represented far more than just gadgets. They carried memories, livelihoods, financial security, and, for some, a sense of relief and closure after deeply traumatic experiences. Among them was 51-year-old Anand Khatri, a property businessman from Bhalswa Dairy. Two years ago, he was travelling to Jaipur for work in the sweltering summer heat when he was allegedly attacked by a group of men who robbed him of both his car and phone. "The incident left me traumatised for a long time. Getting my phone back today feels like getting hope and faith back," he said. The recovered

mobile phones also symbolised livelihood and survival for many.

Deepak Sharma, a 22-year-old resident of Rohini, works as a delivery executive and depends entirely on his phone for daily earnings. His phone was allegedly stolen by an autorickshaw driver after he met with an accident on Jan 25 that left him with a fractured shoulder. "As a delivery executive, I need my phone to earn. I had purchased an Rs 18,500 phone on EMI just a month before the incident," he said, pointing towards his shoulder, which is still healing.

Sharma said after losing the device, he was forced to immediately buy another phone for work, leaving him burdened with the EMIs of two phones simultaneously.

## Delhi braces for thunderstorm, lightning heat to intensify from May 15, says IMD

**New Delhi(GNS):** Delhi is set to see a mix of scorching heat and unstable weather conditions over the next 24 hours, with the possibility of thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds returning to parts of the capital later in the day.

The Regional Weather Forecast Centre, Delhi, on Wednesday forecast thunderstorm accompanied by lightning and strong winds gusting up to 50 kmph for Delhi tonight, with maximum temperatures expected to range between 37 and 39 degrees Celsius. According to the IMD's Daily Weather Report and Forecast Bulletin issued on Tuesday evening, maximum temperatures in Delhi are set to rise gradually by 3 to 5 degrees Celsius over the next seven days, with no large change in minimum temperatures expected during the next four days. On Tuesday, the maximum temperature at Safdarjung, Delhi's base station, was recorded at 39.0 degrees Celsius, a departure of minus 0.5 degrees from normal, while the



minimum temperature was 27.6 degrees Celsius, above normal by 2.2 degrees. Humidity ranged between 39 and 68 per cent during the day. Easterly winds prevailed at 15 kmph. Across the Delhi-NCR region, maximum temperatures ranged between 35.2 degrees Celsius at Mayur Vihar and 39.0 degrees at Safdarjung, while minimum temperatures ranged between 25.5 degrees at Palam and 29 degrees at Noida.

For Wednesday, May 13, the IMD has forecast partly cloudy skies with a possibility of very light rain accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning and strong winds gusting up to 50 kmph during the forenoon hours.

## HC stays Delhi govt's SOP allowing pruning of trees without prior nod

**New Delhi(GNS):** Delhi High Court has stayed a standard operating procedure (SOP) issued by Delhi govt allowing pruning of certain tree branches without prior approval, saying that the removal of the mandatory nod of a tree officer to carry out pruning is "in teeth of" an earlier ruling.

HC acted on a contempt petition moved by one Bhavreen Kandhari, drawing its attention to its May 29, 2023, judgment that there was no provision under the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act permitting pruning of branches with a girth of up to 15.7 cm without specific permission from such an officer. The plea highlighted that despite the 2023 HC order, govt issued the SOP last year for tending and pruning of trees. The SOP stated that no permission was required for "general tending and light pruning" where the branch girth was less than 15.7 cm. It also allowed agencies like MCD, NDMC, DDA and PWD to undertake pruning in public areas in certain cases.

"By virtue of the notification, the respondent is undoing the (2023) judgment, which to my mind cannot be so done," Justice Jasmeet Singh has noted, while staying the SOP. The court pointed out that its judgment, which had already attained finality, was binding on the authorities and they couldn't nullify or bypass the effect of a judicial decision through an executive notification. It asked govt to file a response in the form of an affidavit within four weeks and posted the matter for further hearing on July 20, 2026.

In 2023, HC had similarly set aside earlier guidelines permitting regular pruning of tree branches with a girth of up to 15.7 cm without prior permission, and also ordered that no trimming would be permitted except in accordance with the law.

At that time, it had referred to "glaring examples of misuse of the generous permission" to prune such trees, noting that the "so-called permission" under the guidelines sought to overreach the statute, which laid down the manner of pruning.



## Outbound leisure travel already under pressure, PM's appeal may further dampen demand, say agents

**New Delhi(GNS):** Usually by May, flights to Bangkok, Dubai and Singapore are packed, WhatsApp family groups are flooded with holiday itineraries and travel agents are busy handling last-minute summer bookings. But this year, travel industry stakeholders say the mood is far more cautious.

On Sunday, PM Narendra Modi urged citizens to reconsider non-essential foreign travel and instead promote domestic tourism, citing global uncertainties and pressure on foreign exchange outflows. The appeal comes at a time when outbound leisure travel was



already under strain due to rising fuel surcharges, elevated airfares and expensive forex rates. Anil Kalsi, vice-president, Travel Agents Federation of India, said even before PM's remarks, leisure travel demand had weakened significantly. "Summer vacation is usually peak season, but even now

seats to destinations like Bangkok are available. Earlier, flights would be running full by this time," he said.

Fares to Western Europe and the US are extremely high, and even relatively affordable destinations such as Thailand are no longer economical. "A Bangkok package that once cost around

Rs 20,000 is now nearing Rs 44,000. For many middle-class families, international holidays have become difficult to afford," Kalsi said.

However, he noted that leisure travel accounts only for 25-30% of India's outbound travel market, while education, business and family-related travel would continue largely unaffected. However, he warned that discretionary holiday travel was likely to decline further. "Travellers who were still undecided about booking holidays may now postpone plans altogether. Messaging from the country's top leadership inevitably shapes public

sentiment," he said. According to industry stakeholders, Indian airlines are also grappling with operational disruptions caused by geopolitical tensions in West Asia. Several carriers are being forced to take longer routes due to airspace restrictions, increasing fuel consumption and operational costs. Airlines are also witnessing weaker passenger demand on some international sectors. Kalsi said routes connecting India with West Asia and Central Asia, particularly key revenue-generating sectors such as Dubai and Abu Dhabi, were already beginning to feel the impact.

## VP to AIIMS graduates: AI can't replace moral weight of a doctor at patient's bedside;

**New Delhi(GNS):** Amid rapid expansion of artificial intelligence in healthcare, Vice President CP Radhakrishnan on Tuesday told graduating students at the 51st convocation of AIIMS that no technology could replace "the moral weight of a doctor's presence at the patient's bedside."

Addressing students at Bharat Mandapam, the Vice President said AIIMS Delhi was no longer merely keeping pace with the world but was "actively setting the tempo for the future of medicine". He urged young doctors and scientists to carry forward values of compassion, innovation and public trust.

The institute awarded 523 degrees across undergraduate, postgraduate, super-speciality, doctoral, nursing and allied health sciences pro-



grammes during the convocation ceremony.

Union health minister Jagat Prakash Nadda said India's medical education capacity expanded sharply over the past decade, with the number of medical colleges increasing from around 390 to 825 and medical seats reaching 1.25 lakh. He said the govt planned

to add another 75,000 undergraduate and postgraduate medical seats over the next two to three years.

Nadda said India now had 23 AIIMS institutions, including 16 established in recent years, and added that AIIMS Delhi carried a special responsibility in mentoring newer institutions across the country. During the ceremony, graduating students took the Charak Oath. Degrees awarded included DM, MCh, MD, MS, MDS, MBBS, PhD, nursing and allied health sciences qualifications, along with fellowships in emerging specialties. AIIMS director Dr Nikhil Tandon said the institute emerged as a leader in AI-driven healthcare innovations, including AI-assisted screening tools for diabetic retinopathy, oral cancer and radiology applications.

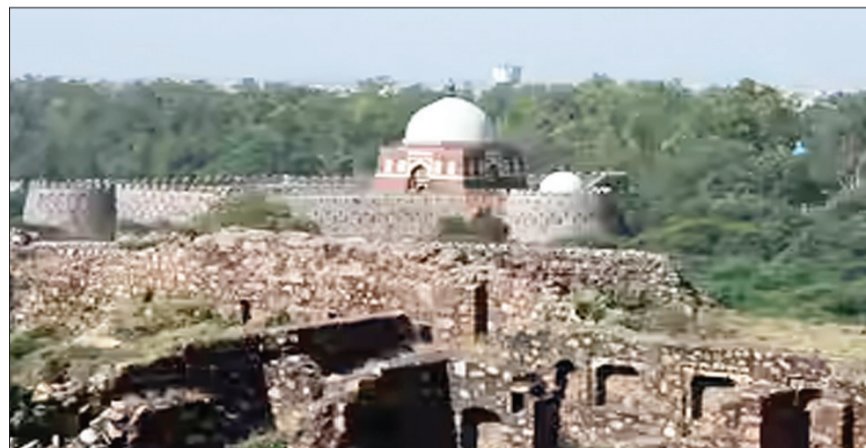
## Tughlaqabad Fort Survey work gets stalled

**New Delhi(GNS):** Despite being monitored by Delhi High Court and occasionally even by Supreme Court, work on a survey to weed out encroachers and preserve the historic Tughlaqabad Fort appears to be going around in circles. HC was surprised to learn on Tuesday that even as the apex court in April stopped a move to outsource the survey work to a private entity and instead roped in IIT-Delhi, the institute plans to issue a tender for the work, indicating it may engage a private player.

The counsel for Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) told a bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia that IIT doesn't appear to have in-house expertise for such work.

"Please inform Supreme Court that even IIT is floating a tender. Otherwise, such a move may run contrary to the SC order," the bench advised ASI, as it noted that the apex court had frowned upon outsourcing of the project.

HC, which last year appointed a high-powered panel to



complete the work of surveying the fort, was reviewing the progress in the matter on Tuesday. It was the first hearing since Supreme Court this April took serious exception to the committee outsourcing the survey work of identifying encroachments to a private firm and stayed the move.

An SC bench of Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and N K Singh had then questioned ASI why it couldn't send its own officials to carry out the survey, wondering "what the department was doing" and said roping in a private agency "reeks of

bureaucratic red-tapism". To streamline the survey work, SC had then modified the HC order and handed over the project to IIT-Delhi and School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), further directing the committee members and police to coordinate with these institutes.

SC had said that departmental heads can't "abdicate their responsibility and outsource matters which can be totally done in-house" while requesting the directors of IIT-Delhi and SPA to constitute a team and "work in tandem with the

committee".

Last Oct, HC described Tughlaqabad Fort as a monument of national importance that must remain free of encroachment to preserve its historical heritage. It set up a high-level committee with representatives from the Union housing and urban affairs ministry, the urban development department, MCD, police, state govt, ASI and DDA to take steps to get the survey conducted and devise a joint policy decision not only for removal of encroachment, but also to rehabilitate those who may be displaced.

Reviewing its progress this March, HC recorded that the committee zeroed in on a private agency to carry out the survey and fixed a timeline for a work order to be issued in 10 days - a direction that was modified by SC. With IIT-Delhi, too, signalling it may outsource the survey work, HC directed ASI to apprise SC, which is monitoring the conservation status of 173 notified heritage sites in Delhi where it has also appointed an amicus.

## Newlywed woman found dead in locked room

**New Delhi(GNS):** Barely a week after her marriage, a 28-year-old woman was allegedly murdered in central Delhi's Nabi Karim area, with her decomposed body found in a locked rented room after neighbours complained of a foul smell, police said on Monday. The suspect, her husband, Mohammad Ejaz, 39, a resident of Vaishali district in Bihar, has been absconding since May 2. Police teams have been sent to Bihar to trace him. Police have identified the deceased as Nisha Parveen, a resident of Haldwani in Uttarakhand. A PCR call was received at Nabi Karim police station on the night of May 8 from the landlord of a house in Laxmanpuri, reporting a strong stench coming from a tenant's room. The landlord said the tenant had not been seen for days, police said. A team broke open the locked room and found the woman's decomposed body lying on the bed. "Nisha got married to Ejaz on April 26. Ejaz worked at a bag-manufacturing unit in the Nabi Karim area and lived in the rented room at Laxmanpuri," a senior police officer said. According to investiga-



tors, Ejaz brought Nisha to Delhi from Haldwani on April 29. Her family later alleged that soon after arriving in Delhi, she was harassed and assaulted over dowry demands. Police said Nisha had informed her family about the alleged abuse. Investigators suspect that after an altercation on May 2, Ejaz killed his wife, locked the room and fled. "The landlord asked Ejaz about his departure, to which he replied that he was travelling to Uttarakhand for work. The room remained locked for days, with the fan still running, as the smell gradually grew stronger," said a police source. Neighbours told police they noticed the room remained locked from May 2 and initially believed a dead animal was causing the stench.

## Four accused in Nehru Place assault on women arrested

**New Delhi(GNS):** Four men were arrested on Tuesday for allegedly manhandling two women in southeast Delhi's Nehru Place, two days after the incident. Delhi Police said the accused-Mohammad Fahad, a computer operator; Mohammad Savej, a contract worker; Mohammad Arif, a worker at a mobile store and Aman-are residents of Jakir Nagar in Okhla. The incident occurred on Sunday morning at a tea stall near a hotel, where two women-one from Assam and the other from Bihar-were allegedly catcalled, triggering an altercation. The accused have been booked under sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at Kalkaji police station.

## Temple theft accused wanted across states arrested in Delhi

**New Delhi(GNS):**Police have arrested a man accused of carrying out temple thefts across states. The accused, Mohit Sharma, a resident of Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh, has been on the run for a prolonged period and was declared a proclaimed offender by a Punjab court in connection with a temple theft case in 2024. Investigators said Sharma was involved in multiple temple thefts across states and deliberately targeted isolated or poorly guarded shrines. He allegedly stole silver idols, donation boxes, religious ornaments and other valuables from temple premises. To evade arrest, Sharma frequently changed hideouts and travelled across states. He was wanted in at least four major temple theft cases - two in Kerala, one in Karnataka and one in Punjab.

Investigators said the accused conducted reconnaissance of temples before striking, usually during late-night or early-morning hours. During interrogation, he told police that he learned the modus operandi of temple thefts from a man identified as Kulwant Singh while working at a dairy in his village.

A crime branch team arrested Sharma on Monday following a tip-off. Police laid a trap near Patiala House Court, where he was spotted near a school while arriving to meet an associate. On noticing the police team, he attempted to flee but was apprehended after a brief chase. Subsequent verification confirmed that he was declared a proclaimed offender by a Punjab court on March 12 this year. Besides the temple theft cases, Sharma is also allegedly involved in earlier cases of theft, robbery, attempted murder, violations under the Arms Act and offences under the Gangsters Act registered in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. Following his arrest, he has been booked under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and will be produced before the court.

Following his arrest, he was booked under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and will be produced before the court.

## Jungle Book: Asola To Mark Core Zones For Leopards And Jackals

**New Delhi(GNS):** A 10-year management plan for Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, drawn up by Wildlife Institute of India (WII), has documented the presence of 23 mammal species, including leopards, striped hyenas, common palm civets and golden jackals, within the sanctuary.

The plan proposes the designation of 9 sq km as core zone and 7.6 sq km as tourist zone. It recommends fixing the sanctuary's 'carrying capacity' on the number of visitors to maintain an ecological balance.

Using 23 camera traps, WII recorded 18 wild and five stray or domestic mammal species. "Rhesus macaques, nilgais and golden jackals were most frequently captured on the camera traps, showing wide habitat tolerance. Rare detections included leopards, striped hyenas, common palm civets and sambar, indicating their low densities and restricted distribution." WII, an autonomous institution of the Union ministry of environment and forests, states.

The presence of predators like leopards and hyenas was mostly recorded in the less-disturbed patches, while herbivores, such as nilgai and chital, were widespread across open scrub and plantation zones.

Camera-trap data also revealed that stray cattle were widely distributed across the sanctuary, making them the second-most abundant mammal group after rhesus macaques. Four main types of livestock were recorded, with cows being the most common (7%), buffaloes (4%), pigs (0.6%) and camels (0.4%). Other species sighted include ruddy mongooses, Indian boars, Indian hares and Indian crested porcupines. The plan, which is set to remain in force till 2034-35, recommends scientific assessments to estimate the rhesus macaque population, phasing out of artificial feeding and implementation of scientifically managed sterilisation for sustainable management of wildlife population. It emphasises the proposed division of the sanctuary into five zones based on carnivore movement patterns, ecological restoration requirements, tourism activities and the complexities of managing urban fringes.

# Mixed reactions to PM Modi's appeal over gold, travel, spending habits

**New Delhi(GNS):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent appeal urging citizens to reduce gold purchases, avoid unnecessary foreign travel and adopt work-from-home practices has triggered strong reactions among Delhi residents, with many questioning why ordinary taxpayers are repeatedly being asked to tighten their belts amid economic uncertainty. While some citizens supported the call as a measure aimed at reducing pressure on the economy and stabilising the rupee, several others criticised the appeal as impractical and disconnected from the financial realities of the middle class.

Anamika, a Delhi resident, said rising gold prices had already made the precious metal inaccessible for most Indians. "Who buys



gold these days anyway? It's touching nearly Rs 1.4 lakh per 10 grams now," she said, adding that gold ownership had increasingly become a luxury reserved for the ultra-rich. Breaking down the economic divide, she remarked that lower-income groups could not

even dream of buying gold anymore, while for the middle class it had become more of an emotional attachment than a realistic purchase. "At this point, gold jewellery is slowly becoming a museum item for the common Indian," she added. Others questioned the government's repeated appeals for personal sacrifice from taxpayers.

Yash, a marble trader from Delhi, described the appeal against travel as "absurd," saying his work required constant movement. "It is my money, so I will do what I feel like doing with my money," he said. Students too expressed frustration. Shreyansh, a college student awaiting his summer break, said such appeals overlooked the pressures young people were already facing.

## Speaker backs uniform legislative procedures

**New Delhi(GNS):** Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta on Tuesday strongly advocated for a nationally harmonised framework of legislative procedures, calling it an "institutional necessity" in the era of digital governance and technology-driven legislatures.



Speaking at the preliminary meeting of the Committee of Presiding Officers to frame a Uniform Model of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business for Legislative Bodies in Mysore, Gupta said common procedural standards would strengthen transparency, executive accountability and consistency across democratic institutions in the country.

## 523 graduates, future docs set to meet public healthcare pressure

**New Delhi(GNS):** Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) marked its 51st convocation on Monday, with a message that blended scale, science and service, as 523 graduates stepped out of one of India's most sought-after medical institutions amid repeated reminders that healthcare, despite rapid advances in artificial intelligence (AI), still rests on empathy at the patient's bedside.

Held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, the convocation brought together the



Vice President of India CP Radhakrishnan, Union Health Minister JP Nadda (who is also AIIMS Delhi's President), faculty, students and families, many of whom watched years of demanding training culminate in the ceremonial conferring of degrees.

What emerged through the ceremony was not merely a formal graduation event, but the portrait of an institution trying to balance crushing patient load, global healthcare driven initiatives.

changing medical landscape.

The institute's director Nikhil Tandon described the daily pressure under which the institute functions, saying AIIMS handles nearly 14,000 outpatients every day, alongside around 800 emergency visits, 1,000 admissions, 1,000 surgeries, 3,000 radiology procedures and more than two lakh laboratory tests daily. He said the institution had continued to climb international rankings while expanding research and technology driven healthcare initiatives.

The graduating class received degrees across undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral, super-speciality, nursing and allied health sciences programmes. The qualifications included MBBS, MD, MS, DM, MCh, fellowships and allied health courses, ranging from optometry to operation theatre technology.

In his address, the Vice President called AIIMS "the nation's primary engine of medical innovation" and said the institution had managed to maintain affordability while setting high stan-

dards in patient care. Referring to the annual patient footfall, he noted that AIIMS handles nearly 50 lakh outpatients every year, a figure he said exceeded the population of several countries.

He also struck a cautionary note on the growing dependence on technology in healthcare.

"While AI-driven technologies are transforming every sector, including healthcare, no technology can ever replace the moral weight of a doctor's presence at the patient's bedside," he said.

## CBI nabs Delhi Police inspector who was on the run after 48.9 lakh cash haul

**New Delhi(GNS):** The CBI has arrested Delhi Police inspector Subhash Yadav, who was posted in the narcotics department of Dwarka district, weeks after Rs 48.9 lakh was recovered during raids at the office.

The inspector was absconding after CBI conducted a raid at the Dwarka anti-narcotics cell last month and arrested a head constable, Ajay, while he was accepting a bribe.

During the searches, investigators found a large amount of cash, including Rs 48.9 lakh in Yadav's room in the office.

Yadav was arrested by CBI after remaining on the run for several days and was produced before a court on Tuesday. Officials said the probe is now focused on his alleged role in the bribery network and the source of the cash. Sources



added that investigators are also examining his assets.

The case stems from a complaint by a resident of Uttam Nagar, who alleged that officials claiming to be from the narcotics department raided her house on April 20. In her complaint to CBI, she alleged that the officials forcibly entered her home, conducted a search and threatened to implicate her in a cannabis possession case.

The complainant alleged that one of the officials, identified as Ajay, brought a bag from their vehicle and placed

it inside her house, claiming a case of ganja possession would be registered against her.

According to the complaint, Ajay initially demanded Rs 25 lakh and after she protested, he made a phone call to a person named "Subhash", following which the demand was allegedly reduced to Rs 15 lakh. She claimed Ajay later directed her to pay Rs 5 lakh near the narcotics cell office in Dwarka Sector 16 and arrange for the remaining amount within a few days.

Acting on the complaint, CBI registered a case on April 22 against head constable Ajay and other persons. A trap was laid the same day and Ajay was allegedly caught red-handed while accepting Rs 2 lakh as part payment of the bribe. Subsequent searches at the cell's office led to the recovery of more cash.

## 1700 kg of narcotics worth Rs 72 crore destroyed by police

**New Delhi(GNS):** Around 1700 kg of narcotics worth Rs 72 crore were destroyed at the ninth drug destruction event by lieutenant governor TS Sandhu, along with commissioner of police Satish Golchha, on Tuesday. LG Sandhu also announced the establishment of Delhi's first dedicated Anti-Narcotics Task Force police station during the event.

As a part of the campaign to make Delhi 'Drug-Free' by 2027, police said it has destroyed 46,500 kg of drugs, worth Rs 13,830 crore in the international market. Among the drugs destroyed on Tuesday were 1610 kg of cannabis, 21 kg of charas, 11 kg of heroin, 591 grams of cocaine, 21 kg of cannabis sativa and 30 kg of alprazolam tablets. The event was held at a waste management



company in the SSI Industrial area. A total of 1,129 cases under the NDPS Act were registered in Delhi up to April 30, leading to the arrest of 1,397 alleged drug traffickers. During the investigation of these cases, assets worth around Rs 11.3 crore have been seized. This year, detention orders under the PIT-NDPS Act were issued against nine alleged drug peddlers, of whom two were lodged in Chennai Jail. Proposals against 48 repeat offenders allegedly involved in narco-smuggling and drug trafficking are also under process.

## Drug peddler held with Paper solver gang, 135 questions, multi-state trail'

**Inside intricate web of NEET-UG 2026 leak scandal**

**New Delhi(GNS):** The Nuh police arrested a drug peddler with a large quantity of banned medicines. The police recovered 34 bottles of Onerex cough syrup, 6,784 narcotic capsules and cash worth Rs 2.28 lakh from his possession. The accused was identified as Tahir, a resident of Manota village. The police have registered a case against two persons at Punhana Sadar police station. Acting on the tip-off, a police team conducted a raid after completing the required legal formalities. The accused allegedly tried to flee after spotting the police vehicle. However, he was overpowered on the spot. The shop was searched in the presence of the village sarpanch and ward panch. During the search, the police recovered 34 bottles of banned cough syrup and 6,784 capsules. Cash worth Rs 2.28 lakh was also seized from the shop. The police suspect the money was earned through the sale of narcotic substances. The



matter was immediately reported to the Drugs Inspector, Gurugram, who confirmed that the seized medicines are prohibited under the NDPS Act. During questioning, the accused failed to produce any bills, licences or valid documents related to the drugs. He disclosed that he purchased the banned medicines from a man identified as Irshad. Efforts are on to trace and arrest him," said a spokesperson for the Nuh police.

**New Delhi(GNS):** The alleged leak of the NEET-UG 2026 question paper has widened into a sprawling multi-state investigation, with Rajasthan Police's Special Operations Group (SOG) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probing a network that investigators say stretched from Maharashtra to Haryana and Rajasthan.

The Centre cancelled the May 3 medical entrance examination, taken by nearly 22.79 lakh candidates across more than 5,400 centres in India and abroad, after concerns emerged over the integrity of the test.

The CBI has since registered a case under charges including criminal conspiracy, cheating, corruption and provisions of the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024.

At the centre of the Rajasthan probe is Sikar-based "paper solver" and "consultant" Rakesh



Mandawaria, who was detained by the SOG on May 8 after allegedly boasting that more than 120 questions from a "guess paper" circulated among clients had appeared in the examination.

Investigators say the leaked material allegedly contained all 90 Biology questions and 45 Chemistry questions from the exam, with copies reportedly sold for between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 25 lakh through a network spanning Rajasthan, Haryana, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Kerala. A coaching institute teacher later lodged a com-

plaint at Sikar's Udyog Nagar police station.

"We have questioned 150 students and 70 others so far," an SOG official said.

"We suspect the questions were meant to be shared with only a few select buyers, but greed took over and someone leaked them outside the designated network." Briefing reporters in Jaipur, Rajasthan SOG inspector general Ajay Pal Lamba said coordinated questioning across several districts had helped investigators trace the suspected movement of the paper before the examination.