



Blast at a firecracker factory in MP, 3 killed; 25 injured

Body parts scattered 20-25 feet away; workers from UP and Bihar

Dewas(GNS): A massive explosion occurred at a firecracker factory in the Tonk Kalan area of Dewas district, Madhya Pradesh, around 11:30 a.m. on Thursday. Three workers, Dheeraj, Sunny, and Sumit, were killed in the accident, while 25 others were injured. The workers hailed from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh. The blast was so powerful that body parts were thrown 20 to 25 feet away. The factory walls were also damaged in the explosion. Following the incident, the administration sealed the factory. Police have taken the factory owner, Anil Malviya, into custody.

7 patients were referred to Indore:Dewas Collector Rituraj Singh said, "Twelve injured people are admitted to Dewas District Hospital and are in good condition. They will be discharged by tomorrow evening. Six people are admitted to Amaltas Hospital in Dewas. Three are being treated at MY Hospital in Indore and four at Choithram."



Gunpowder was being made by mixing 2 chemicals

People present at the scene said that gunpowder was being made by mixing two chemicals. The explosion occurred

when the chemical was not properly mixed. According to people, 15 to 20 laborers were working at the site of the explosion. The explosion occurred 15 to 20 minutes before lunch. People said the workers' meals had already arrived, but after the accident, people abandoned their meals and ran for their lives.

The CM directed the Deputy Chief Minister to investigate:Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav expressed grief over the incident. He directed Deputy Chief Minister Jagdish Deora and senior officials to the scene and investigate. The government announced financial assistance of 4 lakh each to the families of the deceased and free treatment for the injured.

Dewas Collector said - 3 dead, 25 injured:Dewas Collector Rituraj Singh said, "Twenty-eight people were injured in the firecracker factory blast. Three of them died. 25 people were injured. Twelve of the injured are admitted to Dewas District Hospital and are in good condition. They will be discharged by tomorrow evening."

Storm in UP kills 104

Man blown away by 80 kmph storm, heat red alert in Rajasthan MP also in the grip of heatwave

Bhopal/Jaipur/Lucknow/Patna, (GNS):The country is experiencing two types of weather. On Wednesday, 104 people died due to a thunderstorm in 30 districts of Uttar Pradesh, including Prayagraj and Ayodhya. The highest number of deaths, 21, occurred in Prayagraj and 17 in Bhadohi.



A storm blew here at a speed of 80 kmph, blowing a man and a tin shed into the air in Bareilly. The temperature in Banda city of the state reached 45.4°C. A severe thunderstorm and rain alert has been issued for 51 districts.

hottest city, was the hottest, reaching 46.1°C for the fourth consecutive day. According to the Meteorological Department, a red alert for intense heat is in effect for Bikaner, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, and Barmer. Heatwave warnings have been issued for 13 districts.

Rajasthan is also experiencing intense heat and a heatwave. On Wednesday, Jaisalmer, the state's

in more than 25 districts of Madhya Pradesh, which could continue until May 18th. On Wednesday, the temperature in Khajuraho reached 45.4°C. An orange heatwave alert has been issued for Indore, Ujjain, Dhar, and Ratlam. A warm night alert has also been issued for these districts. Meanwhile, a heatwave is currently rag-

40 pilgrims died in 25 days during the Char Dham Yatra

Kedarnath saw the highest number of deaths at 22; Badrinath saw 7, and Gangotri and Yamunotri also saw a rise in the number of pilgrims

Dehradun(GNS): The number of pilgrims attending the Char Dham Yatra continues to set new records. Since the pilgrimage began on April 19th, as of May 13th, 1.264 million pilgrims have visited the four holy places. However, the number of deaths during the pilgrimage is also steadily increasing.



According to a report released by the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) at 10 a.m. on May 14, 40 pilgrims have died so far during the Chardham Yatra. Kedarnath recorded the highest number of deaths at 22. Seven pil-

grims died at Badrinath, six at Yamunotri, and five at Gangotri.

The government continues to claim improved healthcare facilities and medical preparedness, but the rising death toll highlights the serious health challenges along the route and the difficulties associated with high altitude. The health department says most deaths were due to heart attacks, high-altitude sickness, hypertension, and other health reasons.

Bengal government makes Vande Mataram compulsory in schools: everyone must sing it in assembly

New notice on cow slaughter - ban on cutting cattle without fitness certificate

Kolkata(GNS):The BJP government in West Bengal has made singing "Vande Mataram" compulsory in morning assemblies in all government and aided schools in the state. All students must participate.

Meanwhile, the government has issued a notice citing the 1950 law on cow slaughter and a 2018 order of the Calcutta High Court. This notice states that the slaughter of any cattle or buffalo without a fitness certificate is completely prohibited.

The Bengal government said fitness certificates will



be issued only in consultation with the chairman of a municipality, the head of a panchayat committee and a government veterinary doctor. This certificate will be issued only if the authority agrees that the animal is over 14 years old, is old and not fit for breeding, is injured and disabled, or is disabled due to an incurable disease.

Public slaughterhouses have also been banned. The government has stated that animals will only be slaughtered in municipal slaughterhouses, or those designated by local authorities.

NEET paper leak: Education Minister shown black flags in Ahmedabad

Rajasthan police say guess paper reached 1,000 students, 5 arrested so far

Ahmedabad, (GNS): Amid nationwide protests over the NEET paper leak, NSUI workers in Ahmedabad showed black flags to Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and tried to stop his convoy, following which the police detained the protesters. The CBI has so far arrested five people in the case. Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court has remanded all of them in custody for seven days. Also arrested are accused Mangi Lal Binwal from Sikar, Rajasthan, his brother Dinesh Binwal from Jamwaramgarh, his son Vikas Binwal, Yash Yadav from Gurugram, Haryana, and Shubham Khaimare from Nashik. Shubham had given Yash the exam.

Mamata Banerjee arrived at the Calcutta High Court wearing a black coat

Pleading in a case related to election violence; upon leaving she was met with slogans of "aunt thief, nephew thief"

Kolkata(GNS):Former West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee once again appeared in court wearing a black coat. She appeared before Calcutta High Court Chief Justice Sujoy Pal and Justice Parthasarathi Sen on Thursday. The case involved a public interest litigation (PIL) related to the electoral violence that followed the recent state assembly election results.

During the hearing, Mamata Banerjee told the



court that widespread violence occurred in the state after the recent assembly elections, including bulldozer action. The police are not granting permission to file an FIR. He accused TMC workers of attacks, arson and murders and demanded security and a fair investigation from the court. Meanwhile, after the hearing, when Mamata Banerjee emerged from the courtroom, a crowd of lawyers gathered in the corridors and began shouting slogans like "Aunty thief, nephew thief" at her.

Woman gang-raped on Bihar bus in Delhi

Vehicle fined 10 lakh; operated as a regular bus with a tourist permit

Patna(GNS):A Nirbhaya-like incident has occurred in Delhi, where a woman was brutally assaulted for two hours on a moving sleeper bus. The suspects then threw her out onto the road and fled. The private bus in which the incident occurred is from Bihar, running on the Delhi-Bihar route.



According to media reports, the woman said that the accused left her in a deserted area after the incident and fled. The victim somehow called the police and reported the incident. After that, the Ranibagh police station examined CCTV footage from the surrounding area and identified the bus. The bus was subsequently seized and both the driver and conductor were arrested. **Woman dragged onto moving bus**

On the night of May 11, the woman was returning home from work as usual, when a sleeper bus stopped at the Saraswati Vihar bus stop. It is said that the woman asked the time from a person standing at the door of the bus, but instead of telling her the time, he forcibly pulled her inside. The accused then drove the bus to Nangloi, where the alleged sexual assault occurred.

I don't care about some people in America: Trump

In Beijing, the US President called Xi Jinping great

Beijing (GNS): US President Donald Trump praised Xi Jinping and said that he has a wonderful relationship with the Chinese leader and the relations between the two countries are going to be even better than before. Trump also called Xi a great leader of a great country and said that despite criticism from some people in America, he says this openly. This visit was originally scheduled for March but was delayed due to the Iran war. Trump last visited China as president in 2017, but this

time he faces a more assertive and powerful China, eager to present itself as a stable global power.



Trump described his meeting with Xi Jinping as the biggest summit ever. Both leaders have begun bilateral talks with their respective delegations. Trump emphasized his personal rapport with Xi, saying it was an honor to meet him and calling him a friend. He also stated that relations between China and the United States will significantly improve. During the summit, President Xi Jinping emphasized the need for stability in relations. He stated that the shared interests between China and the United States far outweigh their differences. Xi Jinping underlined that the success of both countries creates opportunities for each other and that stable bilateral relations are in the interest of the entire world. He also expressed his desire to discuss major global issues with Trump. The two-day visit is considered highly significant as the agenda includes a number of complex issues. President Trump made it clear before his arrival that he would urge China to open its markets to American industries.

Big increase in wholesale inflation



Kerala Chief Minister to be selected in 10 days

Sanat Jain

Following the assembly election results in five states, the most debated issue wasn't limited to victory or defeat, but also the functioning and leadership capabilities of the Congress organization. In Kerala, in particular, despite the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) securing a clear majority, the ten-day delay in selecting a Chief Minister became a topic of discussion and criticism in political circles. It's worth noting that the election results were declared on May 4th, and the Congress had sufficient numbers to form a government. Despite this, the party

was unable to quickly decide on a Chief Minister. President Mallikarjun Kharge had already been given the authority to select the legislative party leader. He held discussions with MLAs and senior leaders, but a consensus was not reached. Ultimately, the party had to send senior leaders like Jairam Ramesh, Mukul Wasnik, Deepa Dasmuni, and Ajay Makhan to Kerala. After two days of deliberations, consensus was reached on the name of V.D. Satheesan, paving the way for him to become Chief Minister. This situation is certainly a cause for concern for a party that was once the

country's strongest political force. Even in a state like Kerala, where Congress MPs and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, have direct political connections, such a prolonged impasse over leadership selection exposes the Congress's internal state. Ironically, the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) and several UDF allies had already openly expressed support for V.D. Satheesan. Satheesan has long been active in the Congress organization and is considered a grassroots leader. Despite this, power imbalances and factionalism within the Congress have been so

strong that it has taken the party leadership considerable time to make decisions. In fact, the Congress's greatest strength appears to be its weakness today. Due to the democratic environment within the party, every leader openly expresses his views and strives to pursue his own interests. If his views are not heeded, he often leaves the party, forming a regional party, or joining the BJP. This trend has intensified since the Congress lost power at the center. Even in states where Congress appears strong today, internal conflicts remain a challenge. Karnataka is a prime example of this. Even after forming a government, dis-

putes over the Chief Minister's post periodically arise. The Congress party spends a significant amount of time balancing its own leaders rather than fighting the opposition. In contrast, the Bharatiya Janata Party has made its organization more centralized and disciplined over the past decade. However, a significant portion of the BJP's political strength also rests on leaders who came from the Congress party. In many states, the BJP has formed governments by aligning influential Congress leaders with its own. Both the Congress and the BJP are well aware of this fact. It is also true that the Congress party still enjoys a

broad support base across the country. Despite being in power at the center, the BJP has not been able to achieve the social acceptance in every state that the Congress has enjoyed for decades. However, personal ambitions and factional conflicts within the Congress party have become its biggest weaknesses. The argument of Congress leaders that the balance of power at the center favors the BJP puts the Congress under constant pressure cannot be completely dismissed. The Congress is facing a struggle for survival amid the disparity in investigative agencies, political campaigns, and resources.

Editorial

Testing troubles: On the National Testing Agency, NEET-UG 2026

Once bitten, twice shy: this saying surely does not apply to the National Testing Agency (NTA). Given the number of times that the Agency has run into trouble in the conduct of common entrance exams, it would have been logical to expect those at the helm to have learnt their lessons. However, this week's cancellation of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)-UG affecting over 22 lakh students is a serious blow to the agency's reputation. The NTA, on May 12, 2026, announced the cancellation of the exam held on May 3, amid allegations of paper leak, as the government tasked the CBI with carrying out a comprehensive inquiry. The decision followed investigations revealing that a 'guess paper' — a collection of predicted, high-importance questions created to help students prepare — matched numerous questions in chemistry and biology. Media reports said that this material had reached coaching hubs in Rajasthan nearly a month ahead, and had been sold to aspirants for huge sums. This led to investigations by the Rajasthan Police Special Operations Group and 15 people were arrested. In the face of such obvious fraud, the NTA maintained the line that the decision to cancel the exam was taken "in the interest of students and in recognition of the trust on which the national examination system rests". The question though, is: does the NTA still enjoy that trust? NEET has been dogged by controversy right from the start, with several States opposing the format. But even after it was rolled out across the country, the NTA, as the agency conducting the exam, has suffered several dents to its credibility, with various charges and controversies coming up with depressing regularity. This includes the 2019 impersonation scam in Tamil Nadu where students used proxies to write the exam; the 2022 controversy of frisking girl examinees in Kerala, and the 2024 paper leak and grace marks controversy. The K. Radhakrishnan committee, which was constituted to recommend reforms in the examination process, recommended a restructuring of the NTA, and creating strong institutional linkages with State and district authorities in order to produce a secure test administration apparatus.

Politics is no longer just a game of ideological commitment, but has become a highly complex model of electoral management, regional influence, social equations and strategic expansion

Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani

Globally, in Indian politics, ideology, organization, and mass support have always been considered the greatest strengths of any party. For a long time, the belief persisted that only those leaders who fought for years, fought for the party's ideological battles, and strengthened the organization on the ground ultimately reached the highest positions of power. However, in the past decade, the face of Indian politics has rapidly changed. Politics is no longer merely a game of ideological commitment; it has become a highly complex model of electoral management, regional influence, social alignment, and strategic expansion. In this changing political era, a new trend has rapidly emerged: establishing dominance over regional politics by giving top positions such as Chief Minister or Deputy Chief Minister to leaders from other parties. Suwendu Adhikari's rise to Chief Minister in West Bengal, including Bihar and Arunachal Pradesh, and Himanta Biswa Sarma's continued rise to power in Assam are not mere individual political successes, but rather part of a broader strategic strategy that the BJP has systematically developed over the past decade. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe that this strategy is not limited to winning elections, but rather aims to build a lasting political base in states where the party's support base was once considered weak. The BJP has realized that regional strongholds cannot be conquered through organizational expansion alone; rather, by aligning influential regional figures with its party, political equations can be altered. In fact, defection is not a new phenomenon in Indian politics. The "come-and-go" politics has been a part of Indian democracy for decades. However, in the past, defection was often limited to personal ambition or immediate

political gain. Today, the situation is different. Political parties are now using defection as a strategic investment. Leaders coming from other parties are not only being inducted into the party, but by giving them the highest positions of power, the message is being conveyed that election-winning ability, regional influence, and support base have become more important than organizational seniority.

Friends, if we consider West Bengal, this is a prime example. For a long time, Bengal was considered a difficult political terrain for the BJP. The Trinamool Congress dominated here, and Mamata Banerjee's support base was extremely strong. Instead of fighting based solely on ideological politics, the BJP adopted a strategy of identifying discontent and ambitions within the Trinamool Congress. Suwendu Adhikari, once considered one of Mamata Banerjee's most trusted leaders, became the face of the BJP that gave the party an aggressive political identity in Bengal. Ultimately, his becoming Chief Minister after the BJP's victory demonstrates that the party is no longer hesitant to elevate leaders from other parties to the top, provided they possess the potential to deliver electoral success. Similarly, the political journey of Himanta Biswa Sarma in Assam is a significant story of the changing dynamics of Indian politics. When Himanta Sarma, once considered a Congress strategist, joined the BJP, few could have imagined that he would become the BJP's most influential figure in the Northeast. The BJP not only accepted him, but also made him a central figure in Northeast politics by appointing him Chief Minister of Assam. Today, Himanta Biswa Sarma is largely credited with the BJP's expansion in Northeast India. This reflects the BJP's political acumen, aligning regional leaders with the party's national strategy.

The PM and Home Minister duo have elevated electoral strategy to a new level in Indian politics. Both leaders realized that in many states, the BJP possesses ideological cadres, but lacks influential figures capable of influencing local social equations. In such a situation, bringing disgruntled or ambitious leaders from opposition parties into their fold and entrusting them with leadership could prove to be a more practical political strategy. This is why leaders who join the BJP now receive not only political asylum but also decisive roles in both governance and organization. Samrat Chaudhary's election as Chief Minister in Bihar is being seen as a new example of this political experiment. He had previously been a member of the Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Janata Dal United. However, the rapid rise in his political stature after joining the BJP has made it clear that the party has moved beyond the old-vs-new debate. The most important leader for the party is one who can manage social equations, weaken the opposition, and ensure electoral victory. This trend is evident in states like Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, and Manipur. The rapid rise of Manik Saha in Tripura, Pema Khandu's transition from the Congress to the BJP in Arunachal Pradesh, and N. Biren Singh's departure from the Congress to the BJP in Manipur demonstrate the BJP's mastery of reshaping regional leadership. The events in Arunachal Pradesh will be counted among the most interesting chapters in Indian politics, where Pema Khandu, a former Congress Chief Minister, first defected along with the entire government and then joined the BJP. This was not merely a defection, but an example of a complete restructuring of the power structure.

Friends, an important aspect of this entire strategy is the idea of ??a double-engine government. The BJP has consistently promot-

ed the message that development work progresses faster when the same party is in power at the center and in the state. However, to make this model successful, strong regional leaders were needed in the states. This is why the party promoted leaders who had a strong personal hold in their respective regions. This provided the BJP with a dual benefit: on the one hand, the opposition was weakened, and on the other, the party gained acceptance at the local level. However, this strategy has led to electoral success for the BJP.

Friends, but this is also accompanied by numerous controversies and criticisms. The most prominent allegation is that the BJP operates like a washing machine. The opposition claims that the leaders the BJP accuses of corruption while in opposition are declared clean as soon as they join the BJP. The Suwendu Adhikari case has brought this debate back to the forefront. The BJP used the Narada sting operation against the Trinamool Congress for years. At that time, BJP leaders accused several Trinamool leaders, including Suwendu Adhikari, of serious corruption. But when the same Suwendu Adhikari joined the BJP and eventually became Chief Minister, the opposition accused the BJP of abandoning political ethics. Many opposition leaders, including the Shiv Sena (UBT) leader, said that the BJP is not fighting corruption but is instead changing its standards to suit political gain. In fact, this debate is not limited to the BJP. Almost all major parties in Indian politics have used defectors in their respective eras. The Congress, too, for a long time, increased its power by engaging regional leaders. Many regional parties have also expanded their power by inducting opposition leaders. The only difference is that the BJP has implemented this strategy in a more aggressive and organized manner.

Paper Leak – Side Effects of Poor Justice Process

Dr. Yogendra Srivastava

The NEET UG exam has been cancelled once again. This is the fourth time in the last ten years that a paper leak has occurred in one of the country's most important examinations, NEET UG. Besides NEET, nearly a hundred competitive examinations have been cancelled in the last ten years. This is a deeply shameful incident for a country that claims to be a world leader. Competitive exams not only destroy the hard work and ambition of

candidates, but also shatter the dreams of their families, and all their sacrifices and support go to waste. Furthermore, the country's resources are wasted and students' precious time is lost. In an era of advanced technology, if a country fails to develop a secure and reliable examination system, it is a grave failure of the system. In addition to wasting time and resources, such incidents also damage the country's reputation.

The question is, why does this happen? There are many factors behind

this, such as the ambition of students and, more importantly, their families, cutthroat competition, racketeering among coaching institutes, and black money. In fact, any competitive exam related to education or employment becomes a lucrative opportunity for the education system's agents and the masterminds of coaching racketeering. Paper leaks are just the first step; after that, evaluation irregularities, merit list manipulation, and allocation manipulation, all of which are controlled by the educa-

tion mafia. If a mistake is made, there's an outcry, otherwise, these scams continue unabated.

But the biggest factor is our poor judicial process! The rising crime rate in every sphere of society is actually a side effect of a weak judicial process. For example, papers have been leaked dozens of times, or recruitment processes have been canceled, yet our governments seem to be unlearning. People will surely remember the much-discussed and infamous Vyapam scam

in Madhya Pradesh in 2013, in which many ineligible candidates were granted admission to medical colleges and jobs in various other departments. But no one remembers that despite nearly 3,000 people being named in the police charge sheet, barely 100 were convicted, and that too after lengthy trials, bail applications, and appeals. This is the case with almost every scam: media uproar upon detection, assurances of strict action against the accused, investigations, and then a lengthy legal process.

Sometimes, the charge sheet is presented in court years later. Taking advantage of this delay, clever criminals released on bail complicate the case in a maze of evidence and witnesses. Ultimately, the case is closed by punishing a few individuals. In this entire process, high-ranking officials in the system are left scot-free because there is no record of their unwritten orders. This spectacle isn't limited to paper leaks and exam management, but is evident in all forms of corruption. Whether it's the ED, Income Tax, Anti-

Corruption Bureau, GST, or any other agency, the end result is generally the same. Even in serious crimes like robbery, rape, and murder, the weaknesses and delays in the judicial process ultimately benefit the criminals. The public often forgets past cases in the excitement of new scandals that are constantly exposed. The criminals' morale is so high that even being released on bail is celebrated. Clearly, being released on bail is considered a success for the criminal, as the trial is bound to drag on for years.

PM Modi to focus on energy security, strategic ties during UAE visit; two pacts on cards

New Delhi(GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to the United Arab Emirates on May 15 with energy security, strategic investments and deeper technology cooperation set to dominate discussions with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Ministry of External Affairs officials said on Wednesday.

The UAE leg will mark the beginning of Modi's five-nation tour spanning the Gulf and Europe from May 15 to 20, amid growing geopolitical uncertainties in West Asia and India's increasing push to secure long-term energy partnerships.

Official sources indicated that the two countries could sign agreements on "strategic oil reserves and LPG" during



PM Modi's high-stakes stopover in Abu Dhabi.

Addressing a special media briefing ahead of the visit, Secretary (West) Sibi George said the discussions between the two leaders would focus on strengthening the "comprehensive strategic partnership" across trade, investment, technology, energy, culture and people-to-people ties.

"Discussions will also focus

on strengthening our energy security. I repeat, energy security, which is an important aspect of our relationship," George said, underlining the centrality of the UAE in India's energy matrix.

The visit comes against the backdrop of heightened tensions in the Gulf region and concerns over maritime security around the Strait of Hormuz, through which a significant portion of India's crude imports pass.

The MEA said the UAE currently accounts for nearly 11 per cent of India's crude oil requirements, making it India's fourth-largest crude supplier. Abu Dhabi has also emerged as a key long-term LNG partner for India, with Indian firms signing cumulative supply agreements

of 4.5 million metric tonnes per annum with ADNOC Gas.

Additional Secretary (Gulf) Aseem Mahajan said recent deals signed by Indian public sector companies, including IOC, GAIL and HPCL, had further deepened the energy partnership, making India the largest buyer of UAE LNG.

The UAE is also India's largest supplier of LPG, meeting nearly 40 per cent of the country's domestic requirement, while Indian companies have invested over \$1.2 billion in upstream oil assets in Abu Dhabi. In a significant development, Bharat PetroResources Ltd earlier this year confirmed an oil discovery in Abu Dhabi's Onshore Block-1 - among India's first successful upstream investments in the Gulf region.

3 killed, including child, in Delhi's Alipur hit-and-run; dumper driver held

New Delhi(GNS): Three people, including a six-year-old girl, were killed and four others seriously injured in a hit-and-run after a dumper truck allegedly rammed into a shared autorickshaw in outer Delhi's Alipur on Wednesday morning. The driver has been apprehended.

The deceased were identified as Nishi (6), autorickshaw driver Raju Sharma (52), and another passenger whose identity is yet to be ascertained. The injured are Nishi's father Mukesh (48), mother Pinki (40), brother Veer (9), and another passenger, Chhatu Pandit (28).

Police said a PCR call was received from NH-44 near the Singhu Border, following which a team rushed the victims to a nearby hospital. Nishi, Sharma and the unidentified passenger were declared brought dead. The driver fled the spot with the vehicle, police said.

Based on CCTV footage, the driver, Anil (23), was traced and apprehended. The dumper truck has been seized



and interrogation is underway.

Veer has suffered leg fractures, while Pinki is stable. Mukesh remains critical and is undergoing treatment. The family has not yet been informed of the child's death. They were returning from their native village in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh, to their home in Tikri Kalan. Mukesh is a fruit vendor. Police said the autorickshaw was travelling from the Mori Gate bus stand, where the family boarded. The other two passengers were picked up en route. Raju Sharma, a resident of Karawal Nagar in northeast Delhi, was the sole breadwinner of his family.

Man held for duping people on pretext of overseas jobs, visas

New Delhi(GNS): The Delhi Police Cyber Cell in the North-West district has arrested a man from Maharashtra for allegedly duping people of lakhs of rupees on the pretext of arranging overseas jobs and visas, officials said on Wednesday. The accused, identified as Anup Dharmole (37), a resident of Parner in Maharashtra's Ahilya Nagar district, was allegedly operating under a fake identity and living in hotels across Mumbai and nearby areas to evade arrest. The police said he cheated a Delhi resident of Rs 9.25 lakh by promising visa processing and overseas employment opportunities.

According to the police, the complainant, a resident of Shalimar Bagh, had applied for overseas jobs through a job portal and was later contacted on WhatsApp by the accused posing as a visa consultant. Over time, the victim was allegedly persuaded to transfer money under various heads, including visa processing fees and clearance charges.

Following the complaint, an e-FIR was registered at the Cyber police station, North-West district, under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita on March 24, 2026. During the probe, investigators found that the phone number used by the accused was registered using a fake identity. The money trail led the police to several bank accounts belonging to managers working at clubs in Mumbai. Initially, officers suspected the accounts to be mule accounts, but further questioning revealed a different pattern. The police said Dharmole would frequent clubs, build rapport with staff using a false identity - "Praveen Sudhakar Deshmukh" - and transfer cheated money into their accounts. The excess amount would then be used to settle his expenses at the clubs while helping him avoid direct financial scrutiny.

Investigators also discovered that the accused had severed ties with his family around three years ago and had since been constantly changing hotels and identities to avoid detection. After sustained technical surveillance and multiple raids over a week, the police finally traced and arrested him from a hotel in Panvel, Maharashtra.



Massive snarls near Ghazipur border due to NH-9 repair work

New Delhi(GNS): On Wednesday morning, Akhilesh had barely crossed Indirapuram when the red brake lights ahead came to a standstill. Cars on NH-9 towards Delhi were stuck bumper to bumper, while bikers squeezed through narrow gaps. For nearly half an hour, his vehicle barely moved. "After a point, drivers just started nudging into whatever space they could find," said an exasperated Akhilesh.

Ongoing civil work on NH-9, which connects Ghaziabad, Indirapuram and east Delhi, one of the capital's busiest entry corridors, has significantly narrowed a 1.5-km stretch near the Ghazipur border.



der. With two lanes barricaded by safety cones, traffic is being squeezed into a tight bottleneck during peak hours, turning the daily commute into a crawl.

"First they were repairing the Delhi-to-Noida side, and now it's the Delhi-bound stretch," said Arshdeep, another commuter. "During peak hours, the jam easily adds 45 minutes to the journey every day." Videos circulating online showed endless queues of vehicles trapped on the highway, with commuters complaining about the lack of visible traffic personnel and diver-

er signage. One commuter posted online: "A long jam has been ongoing on the Ghazipur-to-Delhi route due to road repairs. People have been stuck for hours and traffic is extremely slow. Due to the lack of basic management, the situation has become even more difficult." Another user wrote: "Road repairs are underway on the Ghazipur-to-Delhi stretch, and people are stuck in massive traffic jams. If there had been proper management, officials could have deployed personnel, put up signboards and created a fast-moving lane. But everyone has simply accepted the jam as part of daily life." Meanwhile, traffic officials said an advisory regarding the repair work was

already issued two days ago. According to the advisory, commuters travelling between Ghaziabad and Delhi are likely to face congestion over the coming weeks as NHAI is undertaking maintenance and carpeting work on the NH-9 stretch connecting Ghaziabad to Sarai Kale Khan.

Lane restrictions have been imposed on parts of the carriageway, and the work is expected to continue till June. The authorities have advised commuters to avoid the stretch where possible and use NH-24 as the alternative route. "We have already tried easing toll traffic to an extent, but this is civil work and our hands are tied too," a traffic official said.

Hailstorm in parts of Delhi, strong winds bring maximum temp down by up to 10°C

New Delhi(GNS): After a hot day, the weather took a sudden turn on Wednesday night as rain and gusty winds of up to 98 kmph swept across the city. It led to a drop in mercury by 10 degrees Celsius. Parts of Delhi, including Green Park, Dhaula Kuan, Uttam Nagar and Moti Bagh, also witnessed hailstorms. Due to the thunderstorm, six Delhi-bound flights were diverted to Chandigarh, Jaipur and Lucknow, while six flights initiated a go-around. A go-around is a procedure in which an aircraft aborts its landing and returns into the air for another attempt. According to FlightRadar24, a live flight-tracking website, over 500 flights were delayed during the day. Palam recorded the maximum wind speed of 98 kmph at 8 pm, while the wind speed was



72 kmph at Safdarjung and Pusa. It touched 46 kmph at Pitampura, 31 kmph at Mayur Vihar and 30 kmph at Janakpuri. The maximum temperature was recorded at 39.2 degrees Celsius, which is near normal for this time of the year, at the city's base station, Safdarjung, on Wednesday. It was 39 degrees Celsius a day earlier. The heat index, or "feels-like" temperature, was 43.9 degrees Celsius at 5.30 pm on Wednesday.

However, after rain accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, gusty winds and a hailstorm hit Delhi, it led to a sudden drop in temperatures. The mercury was 35 degrees Celsius before the thunderstorm at Safdarjung, which dipped to 25 degrees Celsius following the thunderstorm. At Palam, the mercury dropped by 9 degrees Celsius; by 11 degrees Celsius at Najafgarh; 10.1 degrees Celsius at Ayanagar; 8.1 degrees Celsius at Janakpuri; and 5.2 degrees Celsius at Pragati Maidan following the thunderstorm.

Parts of Delhi saw a drizzle on Wednesday morning and another spell of rain at night. Safdarjung, along with Palam and Lodhi Road, saw just 'trace' rainfall between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm, while the Ridge observatory in north Delhi logged 0.2 mm of rainfall.

BSF soldier dies in road mishap in Gurugram's Bhondsi area

New Delhi(GNS): A BSF soldier was crushed to death by a speeding vehicle in front of the 95th Battalion BSF campus in the Bhondsi area late last night. An FIR was registered against the driver, who fled with his vehicle after the mishap.

According to the police, the deceased was identified as Sepoy Ravinder, a resident of Najafgarh in Delhi.

He was posted with the 31st Battalion of the BSF. He had returned to duty after completing a 28-day leave. He had to travel from Delhi to Srinagar by air courier service, for which he reported to the 95th Battalion's transit camp on May 11. At around 10.40 pm on May 12, he was crossing the Sohna-Gurugram road 200m from Gate No. 1 of the campus when an unknown vehicle



struck him. He suffered serious head and chest injuries and became critical at the spot. A civilian alerted the sentry posted at the gate about the accident. The battalion's Quick Reaction Team, Adjutant and medical staff immediately arrived with an ambulance. Cops from the Bhondsi police station also arrived at the scene. The soldier was immediately taken to the Civil Hospital in Sector 10, where doctors declared him dead. The medical report stated fatal injuries to the head and chest.

Firefighting Under Severe Strain

New Delhi(GNS): Delhi Fire Services (DFS) is facing a serious manpower crunch, with nearly 80% of its fire station officer posts lying vacant. Against a sanctioned strength of 90 station officers, only 18 positions are filled while 72 remain vacant. Station officers, among the department's most critical field positions, are responsible for leading and supervising firefighting and rescue operations at the fire station level and act as key field-level operational commanders.

The last recruitment for the post was conducted in 2011-12, and despite the staff shortage faced by Delhi govt's firefighting agency, no major effort was made to fill the gap. Overall, there are 1,030 vacancies at various levels against a sanctioned strength of 3,633 posts, and 412 posts are held by contractual employees. The department operates through 71 fire stations, including 67 regular stations and four daytime stations, across the capital.

The manpower shortage extends to frontline personnel



too, who respond to fires and emergencies, operate firefighting equipment and conduct rescue operations, apart from handling other urgent situations. In the fire operator category, which forms the backbone of firefighting operations, there are 2,367 sanctioned posts, out of which 1,815 have been filled, leaving 552 posts vacant. To address this shortfall, 312 contractual fire operators have been engaged by the department. Meanwhile, data accessed by TOI shows DFS received 36,877 emergency calls in 2025-26 - the highest recorded in the

past six years - with fire-related incidents accounting for 55.2% of the total calls. The rising volume of emergencies has put increasing pressure on the department's already stretched personnel and vehicle fleet.

The emergency call data also reveals changing patterns in the department's workload. Fire calls peaked at 21,668 in 2024-25 before marginally declining to 20,379 in 2025-26. However, overall emergency calls continued to rise due to increases in rescue and miscellaneous operations, indicating that DFS is increasingly functioning as a

multi-hazard emergency response agency rather than only a firefighting force.

"The large volume of rescue calls, accident-related responses and other non-fire emergencies shows the work pressure and the need for manpower," said an official.

A 2011 MHA-commissioned fire risk study identified major gaps in manpower and other aspects of fire services in Delhi. According to the report, DFS had only 1,631 personnel deployed across 53 fire stations, whereas the requirement for existing operational stations alone was estimated at 4,278 personnel, indicating a gap of 2,647 staff. When future urban expansion and proposed new fire stations were included, the total manpower shortfall rose sharply to 5,766 personnel across 99 fire stations.

An official said considering the high vacancy of station officers, the department is considering promoting eligible officers within the fire services to fill key vacancies.

CBSE Class XII: Fewer students score above 90%, 95% in 2026

New Delhi(GNS): The number of students scoring above 90% and 95% in the CBSE Class XII board examinations declined sharply in 2026 compared with last year, reinforcing a gradual move away from the unusually high scores recorded during the pandemic years.

Data released by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) shows that 94,028 students scored 90% and above this year, down from nearly 1.1 lakh in 2025. The number of candidates securing 95% and above fell significantly to 17,113 from 24,867 last year. The drop in top scorers also coincided with a decline in the overall Class XII pass percentage, which slipped from 88.39% in 2025 to 85.2% in 2026. CBSE's data shows a sharp spike in high scores during the Covid-19 period, when board examinations were disrupted and alternative assessment methods were adopted. In 2021 alone, over 70,000 students scored 95% and above, the highest figure in recent years.



Post-pandemic, the trend has steadily reversed. The number of students scoring above 95% fell to 33,432 in 2022 and 22,622 in 2023, before inching up slightly to around 24,000 in 2024 and 2025. This year saw a marked decline. A similar pattern was observed among those scoring above 90%, with the count dropping below one lakh for the first time in recent years. Education experts have attributed the pandemic-era spike to relaxed evaluation norms and moderation practices. "The latest figures indicate a return to more rigorous and conventional marking standards," a board official said.

Pass % Dips, But Delhi Stays Ahead Of Class

New Delhi(GNS): Delhi recorded an overall pass percentage of 92.1 in the CBSE Class XII examinations this year, remaining above the national average of 85.2%, despite a decline from last year's performance.

The pass percentage in Delhi region stood at 95.2 in 2025, showing that although there has been a dip this year, the capital continues to maintain a strong overall performance in the board exams.

The results also continued the trend of girls maintaining a clear lead over boys in Class XII exams. Girls in Delhi region registered a pass percentage of 94.5, significantly higher than 89.7 recorded by boys.

In 2025, the pass percentage among girls stood at 96.7, while boys recorded 93.7. In 2024, the overall pass percentage was 87.9; the figures for girls and boys were 91.5% and 85.1%, respectively. According to data released by CBSE, a total of 3,01,977 students registered for Class XII boards across the Delhi region this year. Of these, 3,00,732 appeared for the exams and 2,76,583 successfully cleared them, taking the overall pass percentage in the capital region to 92.1. The figures indicate that a large majority of students in Delhi managed to clear the boards despite the overall national pass percentage declining this year.

A closer look at the regional breakup showed that Delhi West recorded a pass percentage of 92.3 this time, marginally better than Delhi East's 91.7. In Delhi West, 1,20,276 students registered for the exams and 1,19,737 appeared in them, of whom 1,10,564 were successful. Delhi East saw 1,81,701 registrations, with 1,80,995 students writing the tests and 1,66,019 clearing them. Govt schools accounted for the highest number of candidates taking the exams in both regions. In Delhi East, 95,937 candidates from such schools appeared in them, while independent schools accounted for 73,711 students. Govt-aided schools had 4,330 candidates, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) 60 and Kendriya Vidyalayas accounted for 6,254 students.

In Delhi West, 67,370 students from govt schools appeared for the boards, while independent schools accounted for 42,537 candidates. Govt-aided schools had 7,045 candidates appearing from the region. JNVs accounted for 48 students, while 2,440 appeared from Kendriya Vidyalayas.

AIIMS revives rare dual-organ transplant programme after 18 years

New Delhi(GNS): AIIMS Delhi has revived its simultaneous kidney-pancreas (SPK) transplant programme after 18 years, successfully performing the rare and complex dual-organ transplant on a 30-year-old patient from Haryana suffering from end-stage kidney failure caused by long-standing Type 1 diabetes.

The surgery can potentially free patients from both lifelong insulin dependence and dialysis by treating diabetes and kidney failure together. AIIMS officials said the patient, operated upon on April 14, is stable with good graft function and near-normal blood sugar levels with minimal insulin requirement. The patient had severe diabetic complications, including neuropathy, retinopathy and cardiomyopathy, with his heart's ejection fraction reduced to 25%, making the surgery highly complex. The transplant lasted about two-and-a-half hours, after which blood sugar levels improved rapidly and kidney function stabilised without further dialysis. The patient was discharged after about two weeks.

AIIMS had previously performed only two such procedures - India's first successful SPK transplant in 2004 on Type 1 diabetes patient Sagar Aggarwal, followed by another successful dual transplant in 2008 on Delhi-based patient Mohammad Nadeem. Doctors had then reported that both patients became free from insulin injections and dialysis after surgery. The latest transplant was performed by Prof V K Bansal and Prof Asuri Krishna, along with Dr Sanjeet Rai and Dr Sushant Soren, with support from renal transplant specialists, Prof Ashish Sharma and Dr Deepesh from PGIMER Chandigarh. The multidisciplinary team included specialists from surgery, nephrology, endocrinology and anaesthesiology, with the anaesthesia team led by Prof Rahul and Dr Nishant, nephrology support provided by Prof Dipankar Bhowmik and Prof Sandeep Mahajan, and endocrinology expertise contributed by Prof Nikhil Tandon. Pancreas transplantation is particularly challenging because, unlike kidneys, the organ cannot be donated by a living donor and requires a brain-dead cadaver donor. In this case, the organs came from a 50-year-old brain-dead donor at PGIMS Rohtak. AIIMS teams travelled overnight for retrieval, while coordination between NOTTO, ORBO, Haryana Police and Delhi Police helped create a green corridor for rapid transport to Delhi. Doctors described pancreas transplantation as among the most technically demanding organ transplants because the pancreas is extremely soft and sensitive and can get damaged easily during retrieval or surgery, leading to complications such as pancreatitis, bleeding or graft failure. They said only five or six centres in India actively perform pancreas transplants, with the total number of such procedures estimated at only 150-200 so far.

'Ganga Jal' to flow into NCR: Faridabad gets dedicated pipeline project

New Delhi(GNS): In a landmark development for the National Capital Region, the Haryana Government has finalised the strategic master plan and a pipeline route to bring Ganga water to Faridabad. This ambitious project aims to resolve the city's long-standing water crisis by providing a direct supply of Ganga water to every household.

The project, which has been a priority for the state administration, moved into its final stages following a comprehensive technical survey.

The proposed pipeline will transport water from the Upper Ganges Canal to dedicated treatment plants in Faridabad before being distributed across the city's residential and industrial sectors.



A high-level meeting chaired by the Chief Minister is scheduled to take place soon to give the final nod to the commencement of construction and budget allocation.

A boost for urban infrastructure: The master plan

outlines a robust network of pipelines designed to bypass congested areas, ensuring minimal disruption during the laying process while maximising flow efficiency. This project is expected to significantly reduce Faridabad's dependence

on depleting groundwater levels and the Yamuna's fluctuating water quality.

Speaking on the progress of the project, Vipul Goel, Faridabad MLA and Union Minister for Urban Local Bodies (ULB), hailed the initiative as a "new era of development" for the city. "The dream of bringing Ganga Jal to the doorsteps of Faridabad residents is now turning into a reality. We have finalised a foolproof route and master plan that ensures sustainable water security for the next 50 years. Our government is committed to providing clean, holy, and adequate water to every citizen, and this project is a testament to our vision for a modern Faridabad," said Minister Vipul Goel.

Delhi Police arrest influencer over social media post on businessman Sunjay Kapur's death

New Delhi (GNS): Delhi Police on Wednesday arrested a social media influencer, following a court order. The suspect, who went by the handle @skindocor13,



was accused in a case registered against him around two months ago for a post on X about the death of businessman Sunjay Kapur.

He was called in for questioning and subsequently placed under arrest.

After passive euthanasia nod, Harish Rana's family donated his corneas and heart valve

New Delhi(GNS): In a rare and emotional moment during proceedings linked to passive euthanasia, the Supreme Court praised the family of Harish Rana for donating his corneas and heart valve after permission was granted to withdraw life support, observing that his "life continues in others" through tissue donation.

Rana had remained in a permanent vegetative state since 2013 after falling from a building. On March 11, the Supreme Court allowed



his family's plea to withdraw life support after concluding that there was no possibility of recovery. He passed away on March 24 after being shifted from his residence to palliative care at AIIMS New Delhi

in accordance with the court's order.

Even in grief, the family chose tissue donation so that Rana's corneas and heart valve could help patients in need. "This litigation has taught many things to

one and all, including two of us as judges," the bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and K V Viswanathan observed. "His family chose generosity through the selfless decision to donate his corneas and heart valve. Through this act, his life continues in others. His legacy will live on in the lives of those he saved," the court said.

Dr Seema Misra, prof and head of onco-anaesthesia and palliative medicine at AIIMS, said the family had undergone years of emotional suffering and legal

struggle before reaching the final stage of the process. "Even if families prepare themselves legally and medically, the actual moment of loss is emotionally overwhelming," she said.

According to Dr Misra, doctors held detailed discussions with the family after the Supreme Court order to explore whether any form of donation was medically feasible. Since conventional organ donation was not possible in this situation, AIIMS teams assessed the possibility of tissue

donation, including corneas and heart valves. She said specialised retrieval teams were involved and the process was carried out swiftly after Rana's death. "Those moments are extremely stressful because on one hand the family is losing someone close to them, but at the same time they took a very noble decision after multiple counselling sessions. I think they found some satisfaction in knowing that they were doing something meaningful for society," she said.

Delhi horror: Woman alleges gangrape inside private bus, 2 arrested

New Delhi(GNS): Delhi Police have registered a case after a woman alleged that she was gang-raped in a private bus, officials said on Thursday. Based on the woman's statement, an FIR has been registered and an investigation has been launched into the matter.

Police said the bus has been seized and both accused have been arrested.

Officials added that the probe is being conducted from all possible angles.

The bus involved in the incident has been identified as Royal Travels & Cargo, whose head office is listed at Shop No. 10, Basement, Shri Hari Plaza, Faridabad.

In a post on 'X', AAP leader Saurbh Bhardwaj said, "Big Shame - Nirbhaya repeated. 30-year-old woman was picked up in the bus at night



on pretext of asking time. Then she was raped by multiple people in the moving bus for around 2 hours.

Bus kept moving in Rani Bagh area of Delhi covering 7 km. What else do you expect

from Delhi Police whose head Lt Gov Delhi wants us to watch his reels eating Chhole bhature & jalebi.

He doesn't have time to meet us for 3 yr old school girl rape."

CBSE Says On Screen Marking Improved Accuracy and Transparency

New Delhi(GNS): This year, Central Board of Secondary Education introduced the on-screen marking (OSM) system for evaluating Class XII answer sheets, replacing the traditional physical checking process with a digital assessment platform.

According to the board, the initiative has seen positive feedback from teachers across the country for improving efficiency, accuracy and transparency in evaluation. Under the new system, scanned answer sheets were assessed online by examiners directly on computer screens. CBSE said the shift aimed to speed up the evaluation process, eliminate totalling errors and ensure greater accuracy in marking. The board stated that teachers appreciated the fairness and reliability of the digital system, particularly because it removed common manual errors in totalling and uploading marks. According to CBSE, the OSM process ensured that students' performances were reflected more accurately while also promoting objective assessment

standards. "The digital platform improved transparency by reducing the possibility of oversight and making the evaluation process more accountable. Teachers also reportedly observed that the system reduced clerical workload, allowing evaluators to focus more on academic assessment rather than manual processes. While examiners initially required training to adapt to the new format, the board said most teachers found the platform user-friendly and adjusted quickly to the digital interface," an official said. The board also described OSM as an environmentally friendly initiative, noting that the process reduced dependence on physical handling and movement of answer books.

CBSE said that errors related to totalling, posting of marks and incomplete evaluation were eliminated through the OSM. The board also highlighted that transportation of physical answer sheets was no longer required, significantly reducing the chances of loss or damage.

Cockroach found in food at RML doctors' hostel mess, probe ordered

New Delhi(GNS): An inquiry has been initiated at Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital after a cockroach was allegedly found in dal served at the doctors' hostel mess on Tuesday, triggering concerns over food safety and hygiene standards within the hospital premises.

The issue surfaced after a hostel resident shared photo-



graphs of the food item and alleged that the matter was reported immediately to mess authorities, but the initial response was "extremely

casual." "This is not just about taste or hygiene preference anymore - this is a basic food safety concern," the complainant said, seeking stricter monitoring of kitchen hygiene standards and accountability of mess staff. "Strict action will be taken against those found responsible for not maintaining hygiene standards in the Doctors' Mess.

Foot overbridge opens for seamless connectivity at Sarai Kale Khan

New Delhi(GNS): The foot overbridge connecting Sarai Kale Khan Namu Bharat station with Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station has now been opened to the public for seamless connectivity. Though the entire Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor was opened on Feb 22, this FOB became operational only last Sunday.

Lakhs of people travel daily through the various modes of public transport available at Sarai Kale Khan, where commuters had to brave heavy crowds, chaotic traffic and walk long distances to move from one mode of transport to another," said an official of the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), which executed Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS project. The official added that this FOB will address these challenges and offer a long-term, safe and efficient solution. Sarai Kale Khan, the originating station of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor, is integrated with major modes of public transport, including metro, railways, ISBT, city bus services and Ring Road connectivity.