



Global crises threaten decades of progress, warns PM Modi in Netherlands

Amsterdam(GNS):Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a visit to the Netherlands. Addressing the Indian community in The Hague, he expressed concern over the current global situation.

Modi said that humanity faces many major challenges today. This decade has become a decade of disasters. The world is grappling with the coronavirus, then war, and now the energy crisis. If the situation does not change, the work of the past several decades will be undone, and a large population of the world will be trapped in the quagmire of poverty.

Get to know the royal family of the Netherlands

The Dutch royal family is considered one of the oldest in Europe. It is known as the House of Orange-Nassau. The current



king of the Netherlands is Willem-Alexander. He ascended the throne after his mother, Queen Beatrix, abdicated in 2013. Willem-Alexander became the first male king of the Netherlands in nearly 100 years. The King's wife is Queen Maxima, who is originally from Argentina. The King and Queen's eldest daughter, Catharina-Amalia, is considered the next Queen of the Netherlands. She holds the title of "Princess of Orange."

Dutch artistes sing 'Raag Durga' in honour of Modi

Dutch artists performed Indian classical music to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Netherlands. The artists performed "Sadho Rama Anupam Bani," based on the raga Durga. During the welcome ceremony, musical

instruments like tanpura, flute, violin and tabla were played along with singing.

Modi said - India is the third largest startup country in the world

Addressing the Indian people in The Hague, Netherlands, Modi said that today's India is dreaming big. He said that the country's youth now want to take India forward in areas like AI and semiconductor manufacturing.

PM Modi said that India is changing rapidly and creating a new identity in the technology and digital sector. He pointed out that India has now become the third largest startup hub in the world. The country's new startups are doing well in areas such as AI, defense, and space. The Prime Minister said that India recently hosted a major AI conference. Prior to this, the G20

Child rescued from borewell after 9 hours Clinging to his mother, he cried as he emerged; he fell while playing and was trapped 30 feet below

Jalandhar/Hoshiarpur (GNS): A 4-year-old boy, who fell into a 30-foot-deep borewell in Hoshiarpur, Punjab, at around 4 p.m. on Friday, was rescued safely after nearly nine hours.

Upon his release, the child hugged his mother and cried. The operation was successful thanks to the cooperation of the NDRF, SDRF, Punjab Police, administrative officials, and local residents.

The child, who fell into a borewell while playing, was trapped approximately 30 feet below. He was pulled out of the borewell around 12:40 a.m.

Friday-Saturday night and immediately taken to a hospital for medical examination. He was declared out of danger.



DC Ashika Jain and SSP Sandeep Kumar Malik led the operation from the beginning. After the successful rescue, the DC stated that the child was taken to the hospital in an ambulance with a medical team for further evaluation. He is currently undergoing treatment.

Five Italian divers died in the Maldives while exploring deep underwater caves; only one body was found

Rome(GNS): Five Italian divers have died in the Maldives' Vaavu Atoll. Local authorities have described it as the country's worst diving accident. The divers had gone to explore caves at a depth of 50 meters but failed to return. Only one body has been recovered so far. Bad weather and rough sea conditions are hampering the rescue operation. According to officials, the bodies of the remaining four divers are believed to still be inside the cave. The search operation will resume on Saturday. The Maldivian government identified the deceased as Monica Montefalcone, Georgia Somakkal, Federico Gualtieri, Muriel Odenino and Gianluca Benedetti. The team had set out on a boat named the Duke of York.

Four divers were associated with the University of Genoa: According to reports, at least four of the five divers were affiliated with the University of Genoa in Italy. Gianluca Benedetti was the boat operations manager on the yacht. His body has only been recovered so far.

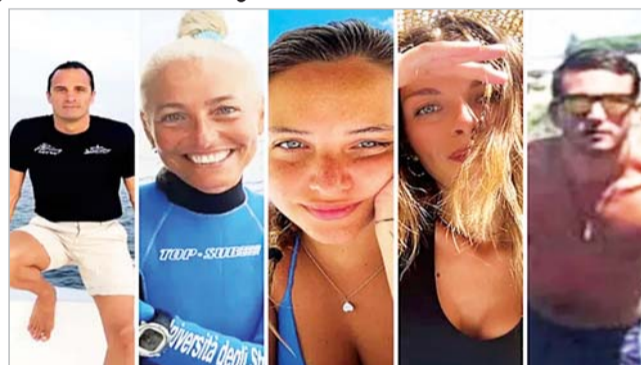
Monica Montefalcone was a marine biologist and professor of tropical

marine ecology and underwater science at the University of Genoa. According to Italian media, she was also the scientific director of an island monitoring campaign in the Maldives.

His daughter, Georgia Somkala, also had a passion for the ocean and diving, and studied biomedical engineering at the same university, the Daily Mail reported.

Muriel Odenino, 31, was a marine biologist and ecologist who had authored several scientific research papers. Federico Gualtieri, 31, had recently completed a degree in marine biology and ecology and was also a certified scuba diving instructor.

Benedetti previously worked in the banking and finance sector. His passion for diving led him to relocate to the Maldives in 2017 and became a boat operations manager.



No stay on arrest of Union Minister Bandi's son

Court defers decision on interim bail in POCSO case; accused of sexually harassing a minor



Hyderabad, (GNS): The Telangana High Court has not stayed the arrest of Union Minister Sanjay Kumar's son, Bandi Bagirath, in a POCSO case. His interim anticipatory bail plea will now be ordered in the next vacation court. Justice T. Madhavi Devi heard the petition on Friday evening. The hearing lasted until around midnight. Bagirath's lawyer requested a stay of arrest pending the order, but the court refused.

FIR against Mamata's nephew Abhishek Banerjee

Allegations: Gave inflammatory speeches during election campaign, made threatening statements about Amit Shah



Kolkata, (GNS): An FIR was filed on Friday against Mamata Banerjee's nephew and TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee, accusing him of making inflammatory speeches and threatening statements against Home Minister Amit Shah during the Bengal Assembly election campaign. The case was registered at the Bidhannagar Cyber Crime Police Station in North 24 Parganas district. Social activist Rajib Sarkar filed a complaint on May 5th, a day after the election results were announced, at the Baguiati police station.

The country will change its heatwave warning system

Kerala has not issued a heatwave alert despite rising temperatures; temperatures exceed 45°C in MP, UP, and Rajasthan

Bhopal/Jaipur/Lucknow/Patna (GNS): The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is preparing to change its rules for issuing heatwave alerts across the country. The department says the current rules are not effective in adapting to the climate in different regions of the country, especially Kerala.

This year, Kerala is experiencing intense heat and humidity. For the first time, weather forecasts had to be based on an anti-cyclone system formed off the Karnataka-Maharashtra coast.

According to IMD, several cases of heat stroke were reported in Kerala, but due to the existing regulations, it was difficult to issue a heatwave warning.

The IMD will now formulate new rules to provide timely heatwave warnings to states,



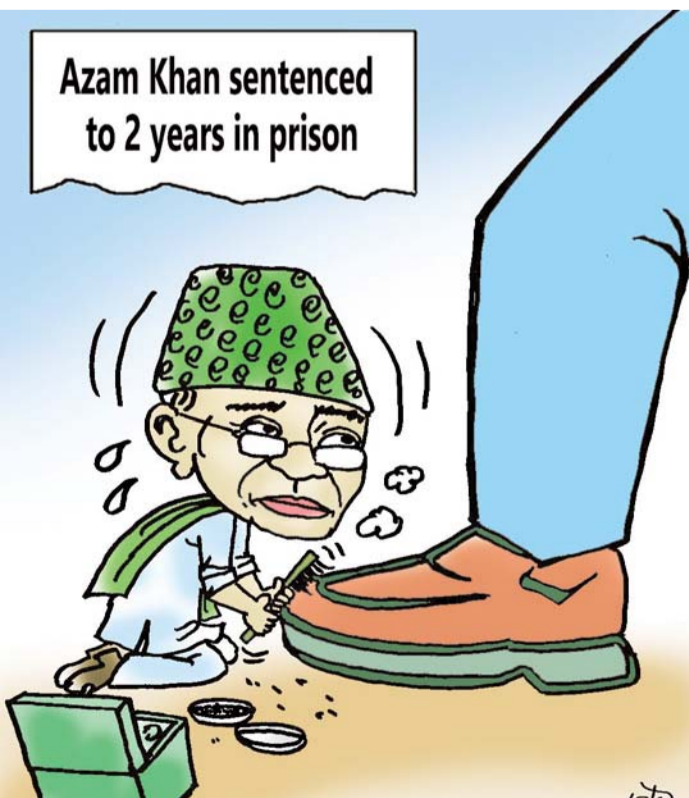
and will also consult with the Disaster Management Authority. Meanwhile, a heatwave alert is in effect today in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Vidarbha. On Friday, temperatures reached 45.6°C in Amravati, Maharashtra, and 44.8°C in Phalodi, Rajasthan.

733 drug traffickers arrested in Jammu and Kashmir in 28 days

47 homes bulldozed; 114 chemist shop licenses suspended

Srinagar, (GNS): In Jammu and Kashmir, 733 people linked to drug trafficking networks have been arrested in the past 28 days, and 47 homes of accused drug peddlers have been bulldozed.

To stop the movement of criminals, 373 driving licenses were suspended and licenses of 114 chemist shops were also suspended for violating the rules. Actually, LG Manoj Sinha had started a 100-day campaign to end drug trafficking in Jammu and Kashmir.



Azam Khan sentenced to 2 years in prison

NEET paper leak case: 9th arrest, Pune lecturer arrested

NTA had deployed experts who explained many Botany and Zoology questions to students

New Delhi, (GNS): The CBI arrested Pune-based biology lecturer Manisha Gurunath Mandhare in connection with the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak case. Mandhare was arrested after questioning at CBI headquarters in Delhi. The agency claims Manisha Mandhare was part of the NTA's expert panel for the NEET exam.

According to officials, Mandhare had complete access to Botany and Zoology questions. He ran special coaching classes at his Pune home before the exams. There, he taught students numerous Botany and Zoology questions, dictated them in notebooks, and marked them in their textbooks. It is alleged that in April 2026, Mandhare gathered NEET candidates through Manisha Waghmare, also a Pune resident. He took lakhs of rupees from students in exchange for providing them with leaked papers.

The CBI arrested Manisha Waghmare on May 14. Mandhare's arrest was based on interrogation of PV Kulkarni, the mastermind behind the paper leak.

Manisha Mandhare's questions matched the real exam: The CBI says that most of the questions taught at Manisha Mandhare's coaching class matched exactly with the question paper of the NEET-UG exam held on May 3. The exam was cancelled following allegations



Manisha Mandhare's

Professor PV Kulkarni. Ahilyanagar. Five of the accused were produced in the panel involved in NEET paper-setting for several years. According to the agency, he held special classes at his home in the last week of April to teach students the questions, options, and answers that would later appear in the exam.

9 accused arrested so far: So far, the CBI has arrested nine accused in this case from Delhi, Jaipur, Gurugram, Nashik, Pune, and

On Friday, the CBI arrested Latur-based chemistry expert

Compassion in captivity: The Panchen Lama and three decades of silence

Nimisha Singh

My article today is dedicated to a child who would be 37 years old today, perhaps still staring out a window, dreaming of his freedom. It is dedicated to thousands of mothers whose children are losing their identities, far away from them, in government buildings. The cruelty of history is often recorded in the pages where power stifles innocence to conceal its own insecurities. Exactly thirty-one years ago, as the snows were melting on the Himalayan peaks, six-year-old Gedhun Choekyi Nyima—identified as the 11th Panchen Lama—was cap-

tured by the Chinese regime. This was not merely a child abduction, but a deliberate, strategic siege aimed at breaking the spiritual and cultural backbone of Tibet. Practically speaking, for China, the position of Panchen Lama is not merely a religious one, but an essential tool of political control. According to Tibetan tradition, the Panchen Lama plays a key role in identifying and confirming the next Dalai Lama. In this context, by removing the Panchen Lama and replacing him with a puppet of its own choosing, the Chinese Communist Party seeks to gain complete control over the selection process for the future Dalai

Lama. This is a political seizure of spiritual succession, designed to root out any voice of rebellion within Tibet in the coming decades. China understands that the Panchen Lama and the Dalai Lama share a master-disciple relationship, and their role in recognizing each other's reincarnations is crucial. Removing Gedhun and imposing its puppet Panchen Lama is an attempt to permanently hold Tibet's future and religious tradition hostage. The Panchen Lama's disappearance is undoubtedly part of a broader campaign known as Sincization. Today, China-run colonial boarding schools in Tibet are a continuation of this repres-

sive policy. Removing nearly one million Tibetan children from their families and placing them in these government-run hostels is not a simple education policy, but a systematic attempt to instill a Han-Chinese identity in them, stripping them of their language, Buddhism, and traditional roots. When an entire generation forgets its roots, cultural conflict naturally dies down. Today, the world talks big about human rights, but the Panchen Lama's case demonstrates the practical helplessness of the United Nations and other international institutions, where China's economic power and veto power have tilted the

scales of justice. The disappearance of a person for three decades, and the world's acceptance of him as a cold shoulder, is the greatest moral failure of modern civilized society.

Amidst this utter darkness and oppression, India stands firm like a beacon, sheltering Tibetan identity and their sobbing faith in its loving embrace. The echoes of the Tibet liberation movement, which resonate across the world today, originate in the democratic soil of India, where the Dalai Lama resides safely and preaches a message of peace and compassion to the world. This Indian support is not merely diplomatic, but a spiritual

and historical connection that has ensured Tibet's hopes have not died.

As a journalist and social activist, I feel that the Panchen Lama issue is not merely an internal matter of Tibet, but a global question of freedom of consciousness. We often talk about farmers' minimum support prices and workers' rights because they are linked to their very existence and survival. Similarly, a society's right to cultural identity is fundamental to its very existence. If we remain silent on the repression being carried out by the Chinese regime today, we are accepting a future where power will determine truth.

Editorial

You come again for the election

In the pursuit of municipal elections, politics has revealed that the definition of development will change in the future under the guise of this journey. The way the vision shifts from local issues to everyone's behavior will naturally make a difference. With the four municipal corporations, ordinary citizens can understand that politics will have to fine-tune its ambassadors to survive in elections. Sadly, thanks to the success of councilors and mayors, these cities are in a state of confusion, but issues of urban character and accountability have returned. Instead of resolutions, politics has avoided a necessary debate in a monotonous exchange of words, and at times, it seems that the BJP is cursing the government and the Congress is cursing the government in Delhi. If elections are to be held based on the animosity that emerges in traditional politics, then we are not understanding the urban system at all. While parties have formulated election agendas based on certain urban issues, this door has not fully opened for the state. In advocating its vision, the Congress party explained its intention to connect the four cities with its aspirations. It would have been better if the ruling party had used this opportunity to address Himachal's urbanization: what the picture will be in cities across the state in the next decade? What systemic and structural changes would be crucial? A lot of work is possible in local transportation. What will be the new definition of urbanization in terms of water and electricity supply? Certainly, the municipal elections have quietly introduced some issues and resolutions that are looking at cities from a new perspective. For example, tourism has loudly declared to the elections, "I am here." The BJP, seeking a "tourism circuit" in Palampur, has roared, while the elections have seen potential near Mandi's Shivdham and temple circumambulation. Solan's standards still haven't grasped the need to preserve its metropolitan aura. A major battle between the Congress and BJP manifestos unfolded in Dharamshala. When promises become mere blotches on a white sheet, who can truly imagine their peace? This is because every party, and every government, has turned cities into political hotbeds.

NEET-UG paper leak case 2026 re-examination on June 21

Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani

NEET exam to be completely computer-based from 2027 - The question remains: Digital age, paper leaks and the crisis in the education system: Has technology accelerated the network of exam mafias?

Competitive examinations in India are not just a means of employment or admission, they are the lifeline that determines the dreams, social status and future direction of millions of youth.

"The Munnabhai MBBS model has now transformed into technology-driven organized crime, where dummy candidates, digital impersonation, biometric fraud and question paper trading have become a parallel industry.

Globally, India is experiencing a period where, on the one hand, the digital revolution has accelerated governance, administration, education, health, banking, business, and civic amenities, while on the other, this same technological expansion has also empowered cybercrime, data theft, digital fraud, and organized examination mafias. Modern technology has made life easier, but its misuse is challenging the credibility of the system. The penetration of technology-based crimes, particularly in the education sector, has shaken the credibility of the country's most prestigious examinations. Competitive examinations in India are not merely a means of employment or admission, but a lifeline that determines the dreams, social standing, and future direction of millions of youth. When the confidentiality of these examinations is questioned, it becomes not just an administrative failure but a national moral crisis. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavanani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe that the NEET-UG paper leak incident of 2026 is the most significant example of this deepening crisis. The medical entrance exam, NEET-UG, held on May 3, 2026,

was cancelled following allegations of paper leaks and widespread irregularities. The government rescheduled the exam date to June 21, 2026, and also clarified that from 2027, the NEET exam will be conducted entirely in computer-based (CBT) mode. This decision is being seen as a sign of a major change in the Indian examination system. Months of hard work, mental stress, and parental expectations of over 2.2 million students suddenly turned into uncertainty. Student protests across the country, social media campaigns, and sharp questions about the examination system made it clear that India's examination system now demands structural changes, not just administrative reforms. Ironically, this crisis emerged at a time when the government had enacted the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, in 2024. This law has come to be known colloquially as the "Anti-Paper Leak Law." It was claimed that crimes like paper leaks would be decisively curbed, the perpetrators would face harsh punishment, and the examination system would become more secure. This law provided for stringent punishment and heavy fines for crimes like organized cheating, question paper leaks, digital hacking, fraud, and technical interference in the examination process. However, the NEET scandal of 2026 demonstrated that simply enacting a law is not enough; if criminal networks become more technologically advanced and organized, they can easily and accurately exploit legal loopholes and administrative laxity. Friends, today's paper mafia is no longer a traditional criminal organization. It has evolved into a highly organized, multi-layered, and technologically sophisticated network. It includes individuals associated with educational institutions, coaching networks, cyber-criminals, data brokers, local agents, technical experts, and sometimes even corrupt officials.

This is why question paper leaks are no longer limited to a single state or exam. The problem has spread nationally. The use of technology is no longer limited to studies or online applications; instead, organized fraud is being carried out with ease and precision through Bluetooth devices, micro-earpieces, encrypted messaging, dark web channels, and digital payment networks. Friends, following the NEET-UG 2026 controversy, the Union Education Minister held a press conference on May 15, 2026, and made several important announcements. He clearly stated that the culprits would be found, even from the depths of the earth, and that no perpetrators would be spared at any level. This statement was not merely a political reaction, but a reflection of the public outrage that was evident across the country. The government announced the re-examination date as June 21, 2026, and also clarified that from 2027, the NEET exam will be conducted entirely in computer-based (CBT) mode. This decision is being seen as a sign of a major change in the Indian examination system. Several important changes related to the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination were announced. It was decided to allow students to change their exam center city so that students from areas where irregularities were suspected could take the exam in the city of their choice. Admit cards were announced to be released by June 14th, and the exam time was set from 2 pm to 5:15 pm, with an additional 15 minutes added. Most importantly, no additional fees would be charged from students for the re-examination. This decision was taken to reduce the mental and financial pressure on students. But the real issue isn't just about re-examination. The bigger question is why such incidents keep happening again and again? Has India's traditional pen-and-paper examination system become irrelevant? Has the examination

mafia technologically outpaced the administration? And will simply switching to the CBT mode solve this problem? Friends, to answer these questions, we must understand India's exam culture and its socio-economic pressures. Competitive exams in India are not merely academic pursuits. Admission to fields like medicine and engineering is linked to social prestige, financial security, and family honor. Millions of families spend their entire savings on coaching, hostels, and study materials. Many students take years off to prepare. In such a situation, when the pressure to succeed becomes overwhelming, the allure of illegal avenues also increases. This is the very ground where the exam mafia builds its network. Friends, the reference to the famous film Munnabhai M.B.B.S., released in 2003, seems extremely relevant here. At the time, audiences viewed the film as an entertaining comedy-drama that satirized the flaws in the medical education system and the fake admissions culture. However, real-life incidents today have made us realize that it was not just a film fantasy. The "Munnabhai" model has now evolved into technology-driven organized crime, where dummy candidates, digital impersonation, biometric fraud, and question paper peddling have become a high-profile parallel industry. Friends, this nexus between cybercrime and the examination system has posed new challenges for the administration. Previously, question papers were leaked at the printing press or during transportation, but now digital servers, encrypted data transfer, and network security are also at risk. If examination data is not managed with adequate cybersecurity, the entire system could be compromised through hacking, data theft, and insider collusion. This is why experts are emphasizing not only legal strictness but also the upgrading of cyber infrastructure.

Indian judiciary is discussed all over the world

Sanat Jain

The job of the judiciary is to dispense justice...

The Indian judiciary has long been seen as the most trusted pillar of democracy. India's judicial system was celebrated worldwide because its written Constitution, established legal traditions, and the independence of the judiciary were considered the soul of democracy. The black blindfold on the eyes of the Goddess of Justice symbolized that the courts would dispense justice without discrimination, based solely on

the Constitution and the law. This is why numerous landmark decisions by the High Courts and the Supreme Court have earned the Indian judiciary global respect. However, in recent years, questions have been raised about the functioning of the judiciary. At the center of criticism is the perception that the courts are no longer as fearless and a symbol of public trust as they once were. There is a growing feeling among the public that the timing of hearings and decisions in many sensitive cases appears to be

decided according to the political convenience of governments. The judiciary's responsibility is not only to interpret the law, but also to protect the fundamental and constitutional rights of citizens. If this trust begins to weaken, the foundations of democracy are also affected. There was a time when Supreme Court Justice P.N. Bhagwati expanded the concept of public interest litigation, opening the doors of the courts to ordinary citizens. People began accessing justice through postcards and simple let-

ters. The 1975 decision declaring Indira Gandhi's election invalid was considered a symbol of the judiciary's independence. During that period, the courts often delivered harsh judgments against governments and protected civil rights.

The current situation appears even more complex. Many important constitutional cases remain pending for years. The lack of timely decisions on issues such as elections, civil rights, the actions of investigative agencies, freedom of expression, and laws

based on religious grounds raises questions about the role of the judiciary. If a decision is reached after its impact has already waned, the very essence of justice is weakened. Therefore, it is said that justice delayed is justice denied. Concerns have also grown regarding transparency and accountability within the judiciary. Allegations of corruption against judges, the complex process of impeachment, and the cessation of proceedings following resignations create confusion among the public. While the

independence of the judiciary is essential, a balance between independence and accountability is equally crucial. In a democracy, no institution can be above criticism. In recent years, some comments made during court hearings have sparked debate. If judges' comments appear to be socially or politically biased, the trust of ordinary citizens is compromised. There is already widespread discontent among the youth over issues related to unemployment, paper leaks, pending appointments, and civil rights.

At such a time, it is natural to expect a sensitive and balanced approach from the courts.

It is also important to remember that the Constitution entrusts the judiciary with the responsibility of protecting the most vulnerable citizens. The legislature and executive are inherently powerful institutions, while ordinary citizens often struggle with them to reach the courts. Therefore, the primary objective of the judiciary should not be to protect power, but to protect the Constitution and civil rights.

Massive fire breaks out at warehouse



New Delhi (GNS): A massive fire broke out at the warehouse of a soap and detergent manufacturing company in Sector 27D under the Sarai Khwaja police station area of Faridabad on Friday afternoon, triggering panic in the area.

The fire spread rapidly and engulfed the company's office and a nearby warehouse within a short time. No casualties were reported, but the company suffered heavy financial losses.

After receiving information, authorities pressed eight fire engines into service and firefighting operations were under way. Fire officials said around 30 employees were working in the warehouse when the fire broke out, but all evacuated safely.

Marijuana worth Rs 17.9 crore seized at Delhi airport; 2 arrested

New Delhi (GNS): Customs officials at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in Delhi have seized 17.927 kg of suspected marijuana/ganja, valued at approximately Rs 17.9 crore, and arrested two Indian passengers in connection with an alleged smuggling attempt.

According to Customs officials, the action was carried out by the Air Intelligence Unit (AIU) after the two passengers, who arrived separately from Bangkok and Abu Dhabi on May 12, 2026, were intercepted on the basis of profiling. During X-ray screening and detailed examination of their personal and checked in baggage at the Green Channel, officers recovered 18 polythene packets containing the suspected narcotic substance concealed inside a dark blue trolley bag. "The total net weight of the recovered substance was found to be 17,927 grams," officials said. The seized substance was subjected to diagnostic testing, which prima facie confirmed it to be ganja/marijuana.

Customs officials stated that the passengers were found to be in violation of Section 8 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, and are liable for punishment under Sections 20, 23 and 29 of the Act.

Meet Abhay, your new shield against 'digital arrest'

New Delhi (GNS): Did you get a call or were shown a CBI notice threatening "digital arrest"? Abhay will come to the rescue. All you have to do now is log on to CBI's website (www.cbi.gov.in) and check its veracity. The Central Bureau of Investigation has rolled out "an AI-based helpbot for authentication of CBI notices, marking a significant milestone as India's first real-time notice verification system." It is called Abhay. This innovative tool, the CBI said, was designed to shield citizens from the escalating threat of cyber fraud and digital arrest scams. As cyber-enabled frauds become more complex, the rapid evolution of AI and deepfake technology has made it harder for the average person to tell the difference between a legitimate official document and a fabricated one. One of the most malicious versions of this crime is the "digital arrest" scam, which thrives on creating intense fear. The process usually begins with a fraudulent notice that mimics the branding of a law enforcement agency, falsely accusing the recipient of serious criminal involvement. Once the victim feels intimidated, the fraudsters initiate a sham legal process, maintaining constant surveillance over the individual for days. They call this a "digital arrest," a term and practice that have absolutely no legal standing or existence. Recognising that citizens often feel powerless when confronted with such tactics, Union home minister Amit Shah instructed CBI to develop this software to place the power of verification directly in the hands of the people. CBI director Praveen Sood formed a team which facilitated Abhay's rollout on priority, sources said.

It is accessible 24/7 on the CBI portal. "If you receive a notice claiming to be from the CBI, you simply need to visit the website, click on the Abhay logo, and complete a quick OTP verification using your mobile number. Once verified, you upload a scanned copy or photo of the notice," said a senior CBI officer. Within minutes, Abhay analyses the document and tells if it is a genuine CBI communication or a fraudulent extortion bid. CBI has issued an advisory for the public to remain vigilant. It reiterated that there is no such thing as a "digital arrest," and citizens should never panic or comply with demands and report these immediately to the national cyber-crime portal.

LG reviews progress of Delhi deregulation reforms

New Delhi (GNS): Lieutenant governor TS Sandhu on Friday reviewed the progress of amendments proposed and implemented under Delhi's deregulation exercise, aimed at simplifying governance procedures and improving ease of living and ease of doing business in the capital.

Officials said key reforms implemented under Phase I of the deregulation exercise for 2025-26 include simplification of the building plan approval process, deemed approval by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi for factory licences, integration of general trade licences with property tax, reforms under the Jan Vishwas Act, measures allowing women to work night shifts - including in hazardous industries - and permission for 24x7 business operations in Delhi.



Reviewing the progress, Sandhu directed departments to complete all pending reform measures under Phases I and II by June 30.

Officials informed Sandhu that the deregulation exercise is being carried out in two

phases in line with Cabinet Secretariat directions. Phase I was launched in Jan 2025, followed by Phase II in Jan 2026.

Most of the pending Phase I reforms relate to the Delhi Development Authority, or DDA, and are linked to the proposed Master Plan for Delhi 2041. Of the 28 reforms proposed under Phase II of the deregulation exercise, three have already been implemented, while the remaining have been assigned to departments concerned. "While we are fast-tracking the Omnibus Ease of Doing Business Bill, 2026, to streamline approvals, it is equally important to ensure that quality of service and safety standards are upheld across all sectors," Sandhu said.

Online process for new ration cards begins

New Delhi (GNS): The govt on Friday opened the process for submitting new ration card applications and requests to add family members through the e-District portal. Several old and long-pending applications have also been sent back to applicants' e-District accounts for fresh submission, said an official.



Delhi currently has over 17 lakh ration card holders covering nearly 73 lakh beneficiaries under the public distribution system (PDS), who receive subsidised food grains through about 2,000 fair price shops. Earlier this year, chief minister Rekha Gupta had announced that around two lakh new ration cards would be issued in 2026.

The department of food supplies and consumer affairs said applicants facing difficulties can seek assistance through the helpline number 1967.

NDMC announces 50 pc parking concession for EVs

New Delhi (GNS): In a major push towards sustainable urban transport and green mobility, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on Friday announced a 50 per cent concession in parking charges for electric vehicles (EVs) across all notified NDMC parking sites and launched a series of eco-friendly transport initiatives for employees and residents. The announcement was made by NDMC Vice-Chairman Kuljeet Singh Chahal, who said the initiatives were inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for fuel conservation, energy efficiency and promotion of environmentally sustainable transportation.



Narendra Modi's call for fuel conservation, energy efficiency and promotion of environmentally sustainable transportation. According to the NDMC, the concession for electric vehicles will come into effect from May 18 and will apply to all notified parking sites managed by the civic body's Parking Management System Department. EV owners will be required to verify their vehicles through valid registration certificates and related documents. Chahal said the initiative was aimed at encouraging the adoption of electric vehicles, reducing pollution levels and promoting cleaner urban mobility in the national capital.

As part of the green mobility drive, the NDMC also launched EV auto services connecting Palika Kendra with nearby Metro stations, including Patel Chowk, Rajiv Chowk and Janpath, besides routes linking Palika Kendra with SBS Gole Market and various NDMC field offices. The civic body additionally flagged off a new NDMC shuttle bus service from the NDMC Housing Complex at Aliganj. Chahal, along with senior officials, travelled on the inaugural ride to Palika Kendra.

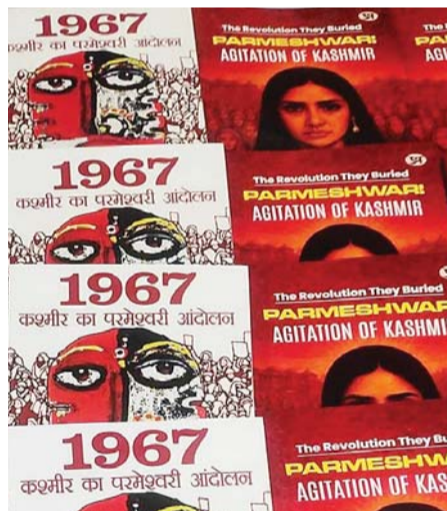
In the first phase, the shuttle service will cover major NDMC residential colonies, including Sarojini Nagar, Jor Bagh, Chanakyapuri, Mandir Marg and nearby council housing complexes. An EV scooter service has also been introduced to provide last-mile connectivity for field staff and employees working across NDMC areas. Chahal said the NDMC remained committed to promoting "Green India", sustainable development and cleaner public transport systems in the Capital.

New book revisits 1967 Parmeshwari Agitation

New Delhi (GNS): The Revolution They Buried - Parmeshwari Agitation of Kashmir, a new book by Ashish Kaul and published by Prabhat Prakashan, was launched at the Samvet Auditorium of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) on Friday. The event renewed focus on a largely overlooked chapter of post-Independence Kashmir history.

The book revisits the 1967 Parmeshwari agitation, a movement that once shook the Kashmir Valley but gradually faded from mainstream discourse. Through archival research, personal accounts and historical reflection, the book reconstructs the events surrounding the disappearance of a 17-year-old girl and the resistance led by her widowed mother - an episode that triggered widespread unrest and left a lasting impact on Kashmir's socio-political landscape. The launch event was chaired by Sachchidanand Joshi and attended by speakers including Utpal Kaul, Amitabh Mattoo, Jaideep Karnik and Ramesh C Gaur.

During the discussion, Ashish Kaul spoke about the years of research, documentation and personal effort behind the book. Speakers also reflected on the experiences of Kashmiri Pandits, the historical relevance of the agitation and the importance of preserving social and cultural memory.



Ramesh Chandra Gaur, Dean (Administration) and Head of IGNCA's Kala Nidhi Division, appreciated the work and said such movements offer important lessons for future generations. The book carries a foreword by Sachchidanand Joshi. Buried seeks to reopen conversations around narratives long absent from mainstream historical discussions. The event drew scholars, historians, media professionals, students and members of the public, leading to an engaging discussion on Kashmir's layered modern history and the role of historical memory in contemporary discourse.

CAQM gives nod to stringent draft measures for vehicle registration from 2027

New Delhi (GNS): The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Friday gave its nod to sweeping draft measures aimed at tackling chronic air pollution that called for the registration of only electric three-wheelers in the L5 vehicle category from 2027 onwards. L5 is a category of vehicles that carry passengers and goods. The vehicles, which may be electric, petrol- or diesel-powered, can exceed 25 kmph, are slightly high-powered and have a curb weight less than 1,500 kg. The commission said the move would be implemented across Delhi-NCR in a phased manner. Under the proposal, only electric three-wheelers will be registered in Delhi from Jan 1, 2027, followed by high vehicle density districts such as Gurgaon, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Noida from Jan 1, 2028, and the remaining NCR districts from Jan 1, 2029. The commission also called for stricter curbs on polluting vehicles and action against stubble burning.

The CAQM panel approved several other draft directions targeting transport, agriculture and industry emissions. The commission said in a statement that a recent report by air quality experts had "identified the vehicle sector as one of the major contributors of PM2.5 emissions in Delhi-NCR and emphasised accelerated transition towards cleaner mobility". The commission also approved another measure under which fuel stations across NCR may dispense fuel only to vehicles carrying a valid Pollution Under Control Certificate (PUC) from Oct 1, 2026.

Stay clear of Aravalis till we decide its definition, says SC

New Delhi (GNS): Five months after staying its judgment accepting the controversial 100 metre-elevation definition for Aravali hills, Supreme Court on Friday said not an inch of Aravali would be allowed to be used for mining till an expert committee, to be constituted by the apex court, redefined what constitutes Aravali hills and ranges. As lawyers appearing for mining lease holders and those aspiring to get mining leases said the process for renewal and grant of leases could proceed without their finalisation, a bench of CJJ Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said, "We will not pass any order to allow resumption of mining activities in Aravalis."

"We will not allow an inch of Aravali to be used for any purpose unless we are satisfied with the new definition that will be proposed by the expert committee to be constituted by us, taking into account the names suggested by amicus curiae K Parmeshwar, Union govt and parties," CJJ said.

Hailing from Haryana and aware of the deleterious impact of decades of illegal mining on environment and ecology of Aravalis, considered the green lung of north-western India, CJJ Kant said, "The whole problem has arisen because of the powerful mining lobby. We are very clear in our minds. No activity will be permitted without us getting the report and satisfying us about the protective umbrella that needs to be put." On Dec 29 last year, a bench led by CJJ Kant had taken suo motu cognisance of the uproarious concern expressed by environmentalists over Supreme Court's Nov 20 judgment accepting the 100-metre elevation definition for Aravali hills.

The accused was wanted in a case registered in 2013 at the Singhana police station in Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu district. A court had declared him a proclaimed offender. The Khorji police station team arrested the accused from the Tauru Sadar police station area on Thursday. "The Nuh police are continuously coordinating with police teams from other states to apprehend criminals. In the past too, teams from other states, including the Rajasthan police, have been assisted in arresting criminals, and such operations will continue in future," a Nuh police spokesperson said.

Don't pass final order against Apple till July 15: HC to CCI

New Delhi (GNS): Delhi HC Friday asked the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to not pass any final order till July 15 in its proceedings against tech giant Apple over allegations of abusing its dominant position on its app store. The bench of Chief Justice DK Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia, however, clarified that the anti-trust regulator can proceed with the matter in the meantime. "Lay your hands off till July 15. Proceed with the matter. They will cooperate but you will not pass a final order," the bench said on Apple's petition challenging the amendment to the Competition Act, 2002.

Cops nab 13-year fugitive

New Delhi (GNS): The Nuh police arrested a criminal carrying a reward of Rs 2,000 after he remained absconding for 13 years. The accused was identified as Kasam, a resident of Saunkh village in Nuh district. He was currently living in Kulawat under the Tapukara police station area in Rajasthan. The accused was wanted in a case registered in 2013 at the Singhana police station in Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu district. A court had declared him a proclaimed offender. The Khorji police station team arrested the accused from the Tauru Sadar police station area on Thursday. "The Nuh police are continuously coordinating with police teams from other states to apprehend criminals. In the past too, teams from other states, including the Rajasthan police, have been assisted in arresting criminals, and such operations will continue in future," a Nuh police spokesperson said.



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Fix last-mile walk before asking Delhiites to ditch cars, say experts

New Delhi (GNS): Amid rising fuel prices and PM Modi's appeal to people to reduce dependence on oil by choosing public transport, Delhiites are asking a question: What happens after our metro or bus rides end?

A commuter steps out of a metro station knowing a 10-minute walk will take him home. However, within seconds, the footpath disappears under a row of parked scooters, before an open drain forces him on the edge of the road, with buses and cars whizzing past barely inches away.

Contrast this with most of the cities across the world, where commuters step out of stations and safely walk home on uncluttered footpaths. In Delhi, however, negotiating



that 'last-mile stretch' often means dodging parked bikes, broken pavements, open drains and speeding traffic.

A debate resurfaced online on Friday after a social media post on Delhi's poor walking conditions struck a chord with many of its residents. The post said, "As an upper-middle-class resident of Delhi, I am happy to give up the car altogether. I can't drive and I don't

have anyone to chauffeur me around. I like to walk, and walking seven or eight km a day is okay. Public transport or Uber for the rest. This is what I do whenever I am outside India. With zero hassles. Give me footpaths, which are usable, and safe streets. Why are austerity-peddlers not talking about this? Is it because they have not walked in recent times and have no clue what it is to be a woman in a north Indian city and walk?"

The thread echoed similar frustrations. One user posted, "Footpaths have vanished and nobody seems bothered unless they are forced to walk on the road themselves." Another wrote that Delhi's middle class remains deeply dependent on

cars, making walkability a low priority in public discussions.

Geetam Tiwari, a transport expert, said these concerns are valid. Pedestrian infrastructure remains the most critical yet ignored part of public transport planning in Delhi. "If we want people to shift from private vehicles to public transport, accessibility becomes the key issue. Studies show that for nearly 80% of public transport users, the access mode is walking."

That means pedestrian infrastructure is the basic prerequisite for public transport to work effectively, yet it remains one of the most underrated aspects of urban planning. Foot overbridges alone are not enough. We need to seriously focus on footpaths and walkability," she said.

NDMC roads to see infra update by June 15

New Delhi (GNS): Several roads connecting key roundabouts in Lutyens' Delhi are set to witness infrastructure upgrades, including installation of iron grilles, fresh road markings, redesigned bus stops and repair of potholes. New Delhi Municipal Council has decided to address 19 infrastructure and traffic management issues flagged by Delhi Traffic Police in central and south Delhi following a survey in April. Officials said the civic body had set June 15 as the deadline. "The process of preparing estimates is underway," an official said.

The Delhi Cantonment traffic circle highlighted the absence or inadequacy of iron grilles along central verges on Parade Road and Thimayya Marg, while the construction of dedicated bus bays were recommended at several locations, including near Dhaura Kuan and Murti Marg. The Chanakyapuri traffic circle was marked as a major congestion hotspot, mainly due to poorly designed bus stops on Sardar Patel Marg and Shantipath.



Congestion near the Kautilya roundabout was attributed to insufficient road width. Issues were also identified at multiple roundabouts, including Q-Point at Man Singh Road, near Taj Man Singh Hotel at the Shahjahan Road-Man Singh Road junction, and at the roundabout connecting Prithviraj Road with Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Road. An official, however, said, "Making structural changes to the roundabouts is not feasible immediately due to factors such as physical space constraints, mature trees, underground utilities and roadside infrastructure."

Man killed as DTC bus hits him near Dhaura Kuan, driver flees

New Delhi (GNS): A 40-year-old man was killed after a speeding DTC bus allegedly hit him near Dhaura Kuan Metro Station in Delhi Cantonment on Friday before fleeing the scene, police said.

The deceased was identified as Vijay Singh, a native of Unnao district in Uttar Pradesh, who was living in Mahipalpur. He is survived by his wife and a six-year-old son. His wife is six months pregnant. The family was living in rented accommodation. Relatives said Singh moved to Delhi in search of work and was earning a living through driving jobs in the city.

Police said the accident occurred near the exit gate of Dhaura Kuan Metro Station when Singh was crossing the road. An orange-coloured DTC bus allegedly struck him at high speed, throwing him onto the road. He died on the spot due to the impact.

The bus driver allegedly escaped with the vehicle immediately after the accident.

A motorcyclist also suffered minor injuries in the incident. The rider, identified as Ahsan, was travelling from Wazirabad to Gurugram, where he works at a private firm. Police said Singh's body fell in front of Ahsan's motorcycle after the collision, causing him to lose balance and suffer injuries. A crime team inspected the spot, and the body was later shifted to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital for post-mortem examination. Police said efforts are on to identify the bus and trace the driver. A case has been registered. Officers said CCTV footage from the area is being analysed to establish the sequence of events and track the route taken by the bus after the accident.

The incident has renewed concerns over hit-and-run cases involving heavy vehicles on city roads. On April 5, two people were killed in separate accidents involving DTC buses in the city. A 25-year-old autorickshaw driver died after his vehicle was hit on Humayun Road in central Delhi, while a 19-year-old was killed in a similar accident in north Delhi's Azadpur area.

DMC audit for 2019-2025 reveals major irregularities

New Delhi (GNS): A special govt audit of Delhi Medical Council (DMC) has flagged major "financial and administrative irregularities" between Dec 1, 2019, and Feb 10, 2025.

The report, prepared by Delhi govt's directorate of audit and submitted to its health and family welfare department, has held Dr Girish Tyagi, former registrar of DMC, "responsible for a Rs 5.5-crore loss to govt exchequer" as a result of his "receiving less fees from doctors for renewal of their DMC registrations".

The report also holds Tyagi responsible for "financial irregularities" amounting to



Rs 1.2 crore. Moreover, it alleges that he unlawfully continued to draw a salary and availed himself of monetary benefits for five years by extending his own retirement age from 60 to 65 years - a "complete violation of orders" issued by the Centre and Delhi govt. The report seeks to

recover Rs 3.2 crore from him on this count.

Asked to resign in Nov 2024, Dr Tyagi ultimately quit as DMC registrar in Feb 2025.

Delhi health minister Dr Pankaj Kumar Singh said appropriate action will be taken following a review of the audit report. "Delhi govt has a zero-tolerance policy towards corruption, financial mismanagement and procedural violations in public institutions. Any irregularity affecting public resources or institutional integrity will be dealt with strictly in accordance with the law and established procedures," he said.

Speaking to Media, Dr Tyagi said he is yet to read the

report. Once he does, he will explore legal options and respond accordingly, he said.

Regarding the alleged Rs 1.2-crore financial irregularities, the audit report holds Dr Tyagi liable on multiple counts, including "regularisation of multi-tasking staff (MTS) staff to lower-division clerks, irregular payment made to M/Ss Meltwater and irregular expenditure on medical insurance of council members." It also mentions "irregularities regarding foreign visits for private affairs" by Dr Tyagi and "discrepancies in maintenance of service book".

Seeking to recover Rs 3.2 crore from him, the report claims that he ran up con-

veyance expenses ("hiring of vehicles") of Rs 27.3 lakh, court expenses of Rs 5 lakh and telephone bills of Rs 1.8 lakh between 2019 and 2024. It also alleges that he violated rules for non-maintenance of records of "costly gift items purchased for Diwali for Rs 65.4 lakh in these five years". The report adds, "Further, Rs 13 lakh may also be recovered (from Dr Tyagi) in lieu of three months' notice period, which is prerequisite for tendering resignation, according to provisions in the DMC Act."

Dr Tyagi told Media, "My tenure from 2019 to 2024 was based on a decision by the council. The matter is pending in court following a petition.

CBSE Class X students begin second board exams

New Delhi (GNS): Students across the country are appearing for the second phase of the Class X Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) board examinations starting Friday. Mathematics standard and mathematics basic papers were scheduled on the opening day of the optional improvement and compartment exam cycle.

The board has received nearly 6.7 lakh applications for the second examination, introduced for the first time from the 2026 academic session as part of CBSE's new two-board-exam format for Class X students. Most candidates who registered for the ongoing cycle are seeking to improve their marks in the main board examinations held earlier this year.



According to CBSE data, 6,68,854 regular students have applied for the exams. Among them, 5,25,655 candidates registered under the improvement category, while 85,285 students applied under the compartment category. Another 57,914 candidates opted for both improvement and compartment examinations. As per the schedule,

English communicative and English language and literature papers will be conducted on May 16. Several languages and elective subject examinations, including Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi and Gujarati, along with some foreign languages, are scheduled for May 19. Home science and a few vocational subject papers will also be held on the same day.

Students will appear for Sanskrit, painting, information technology and artificial intelligence examinations on May 20, while the second examination cycle will conclude on May 21 with the social science paper.

Under the revised format, the first board examination conducted in Feb remains compulsory, while the second phase is optional.

Al Falah case: HC seeks ED reply on bail plea

New Delhi (GNS): Delhi High Court on Friday sought the stand of Enforcement Directorate on a bail plea by Al Falah University group chairman Jawad Ahmed Siddiqui in a money laundering case.

While Justice Saurabh Banerjee listed the main bail plea for hearing in July, Siddiqui's plea for interim bail will be heard at the end of this month. The trial court had rejected Siddiqui's bail application on May 2.

Siddiqui was arrested for his alleged involvement in a money laundering case linked to the generation of illicit funds from the fees paid by students at his educational institution in Faridabad. He was arrested on Nov 18, 2025, in the case registered by ED under Prevention of Money Laundering Act.



The ED probe stems from two FIRs filed by Delhi Police's crime branch alleging that Al Falah University falsely projected NAAC accreditation and UGC recognition to mislead students and parents.

The university had also come under scrutiny in a 'white-collar terror' probe in which two doctors linked to it were arrested, while another doctor, Umar-un-Nabi, associated with its hospital, was identified as the suicide bomber in the Nov 10 blast outside Red Fort.

Arvind Kejriwal calls Goa his 'lucky charm' after Delhi high court judge recuses herself from excise policy case

New Delhi (GNS): AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal described Goa as his "lucky charm," saying a major legal development in the Delhi excise policy case coincided with his visit to the coastal state. Addressing a gathering in Velim, the former Delhi chief minister targeted the Centre while recalling his six-month imprisonment in connection with the alleged Delhi liquor scam, charges he has repeatedly termed fabricated.

His remarks came after Delhi High Court judge Swarna Kanta Sharma recused herself from hearing the excise policy case.

Reflecting on his time in prison and the subsequent court battles, Arvind Kejriwal said, "These people levelled grave allegations against me and sent me to jail for six months, claiming that Kejriwal had committed a massive liquor scam. I returned from Goa on the night of February



26th, and on February 27th, an order was issued declaring Kejriwal innocent. The CBI and the Modi government were very disturbed by how such an order could have been passed. They approached the High Court, and before the presiding judge, we filed an application requesting recusal due to a direct conflict of interest, which was initially refused. However, I arrived in Goa the day before yesterday, and yesterday she recused herself, so Goa is very lucky for

me." The Aam Aadmi Party termed it a major legal "victory" after Delhi High Court judge Swarna Kanta Sharma recused herself from hearing the excise policy case.

The recusal came following weeks of legal arguments by Arvind Kejriwal and other accused, who had raised concerns over their right to a fair and unbiased hearing.

According to the AAP, Justice Sharma stepped aside from the matter after repeated objections from Kejriwal and

other accused regarding the fairness of the trial proceedings. Describing the development as a significant victory for Kejriwal, the party said the decision validated the stand consistently maintained by its leadership since the beginning of the case. On this development, AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal stated, "Truth has prevailed. Gandhi Ji's Satyagraha has once again emerged victorious."

In a statement, the Aam Aadmi Party said that Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia and other accused had repeatedly urged Delhi High Court judge Swarna Kanta Sharma to recuse herself from the matter, citing concerns over conflict of interest and the possibility of an unfair trial. The party further claimed that Kejriwal had written a detailed letter to Justice Sharma outlining ten reasons and expressing hope that she would voluntarily step away from hearing the case.

Theatre Review: Letters give voice to two star-crossed lovers

New Delhi (GNS): AR Gurney's internationally celebrated theatrical hit *Letters* is exactly that - a heartfelt ode to the art of letter writing. This deeply moving two-character play traces the lives of Andrew (Andy) Makepeace Ladd III and Melissa Gardner from 1937 to 1985, following them from childhood and adolescence to adulthood.

The friendship between these two individuals with contrasting temperaments evolves over nearly 50 years, unfolding through an extensive exchange of letters. What begins as children with a birthday invitation and thank you notes matures through various phases. Playful, flirtatious scribbles about youthful crushes give way to conversations around hopes and despair. And through it all, Andy and Melissa become each other's confidants, with Andy's shy, gentle demeanour acting as the perfect foil to Melissa's rebellious streak.

Sunit Tandon as the poised Andy and Sohaila Kapur as the free-spirited Melissa breathe life into the lead characters through dramatised



readings of their letters, some brief season's greetings marking the passage of time, others detailed chronicles of their lives. Although Andy and Melissa are separated by geography, on stage, the two actors sit side by side at their desks, reading aloud the letters exchanged by the protagonists. Tandon and Kapur had first staged the play for the Indian audience almost three decades ago. From Dean Martin's *That's Amore* to Donna Summer's *Love to Love You Baby*, with a sprinkling of Christmas carols, the play beautifully captures shifts in time and mood through a carefully curated selection of songs that fill the silences between the actors' readings of the letters.