



Heat action plans incomplete in 19 cities, including Jaipur and Bhopal

Implemented only in Ahmedabad among 20 cities; 40,000 cases and 110 deaths in 2025

New Delhi(GNS): The heat action plan designed to protect cities from heat is mostly limited to setting up drinking water stalls in cities, issuing advisories and making temporary arrangements in hospi-

tals. In 2016, the government launched this scheme in the first phase for 20 cities, including Delhi, Ahmedabad, Indore, Bhopal, Jaipur, and Chennai. The aim was to mitigate the

effects of heat waves and maintain normal operations during the summer.

Except for Ahmedabad, most cities have not implemented measures like cool roofs, increasing green cover, and identifying heat-sensitive areas. In 2024, 25,000 cases of heat stroke and 56 deaths were recorded. In 2025, this figure increased to 40,000 cases and 110 deaths. In 2026, Maharashtra alone has recorded 236 cases and 6 deaths.

In response to rising tem-

peratures and the impact of El Niño, the Indian Meteorological Department is preparing to revise its heat-wave warning standards. Currently, heatwave warnings are based solely on temperature, which is considered inaccurate for coastal states like Kerala. The new standards may also include humidity and heat stress. This will allow for more accurate warnings in areas where heatwaves are more prevalent despite relatively low temperatures.

Fire breaks out in 2 coaches of Trivandrum-Delhi Rajdhani Express



● **Guard alerts loco pilot, 68 passengers evacuated in 15 minutes; all safe**

Kota(GNS):Two coaches of the Trivandrum-Hazrat Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express (12431) caught fire on the Kota division. The accident occurred at around 5:15 a.m. Sunday between Luni Richha and Vikramgarh Alot (Madhya Pradesh) stations on the Kota division. The fire broke out in coach number B-1 and the

second luggage-cum-guard van behind it. Upon receiving information about the accident, sirens sounded at Kota Junction. Relief and rescue teams rushed to the scene. Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Saurabh Jain said that there were 68 passengers on board the coach. The guard first informed the loco pilot about the fire. The train was then stopped. Passengers were evacuated. The entire coach was evacuated in about 15 minutes. The fire spread throughout the coach within minutes. However, there were no casualties. Railway officials said some passengers' luggage was

destroyed in the fire. The cause of the fire is under investigation. The train reached Kota at 1:15 PM. As soon as the train reached Kota, the passengers travelling in B1 expressed their displeasure over the railway arrangements. They also demanded financial assistance for the loss of luggage. The railways gave them envelopes containing Rs 5,000 each. Some passengers refused to accept it. The train departed from Kota after an hour and 15 minutes at around 2:30 PM. Some passengers did not board the train. They remained adamant on their demand of registering an FIR.

Gujarat will also lead the country in the field of technology: Amit Shah

Ahmedabad,(GNS) Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, while inaugurating the 'Million Minds Tech Park' and 'Ganesh Real Estate Management Institute' in Ahmedabad on Sunday, said that just as Gujarat has guided the country since independence, similarly Gujarat will now lead the entire country in the field of technology and innovation.

development and progress are ingrained in the nature of Gujaratis. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Gujarat will no longer be a production-based state, but will become a global hub for service, knowledge, and a modern technology-based economy. He said that both the projects inaugurated today will provide new opportunities to the youth of the state and will play an



important role in taking Gujarat to new heights.

He stated that this technology city is being developed on approxi-

mately 65 acres in the Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar high-rise development belt, where high-end offices, residential facilities, commercial complexes, and hospitality services will be developed. This project is expected to provide highly skilled employment to over 70,000 youth.

The Union Home Minister stated that Gujarat is rapidly advancing in areas such as artificial intelligence,

robotics, semiconductor manufacturing, and advanced research. This project will provide a strong foundation for new technology, research, and innovation in the state. He stated that in the future, Gujarat will be among the leading states in the service sector.

Describing the Ganesh Real Estate Management Institute as crucial for modern urban development and the construc-

Government says no judge is necessary on Election Commissioner selection panel

Told SC : No such provision in the Constitution, inclusion of judge is Parliament's decision

New Delhi(GNS): The central government told the Supreme Court that the Election Commission (EC) does not have to have a judge on the committee that appoints the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners. There is no such provision in the Constitution. The Centre said that inclusion of a judge in the selection committee may be a decision of the Parliament, but it cannot be considered a constitutional compulsion. The court was hearing petitions challeng-



ing the 'Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Tenure of Office) Act, 2023'. According to this law, the appointment of the CEC and EC will be made by a committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and a Union Minister. Previously, the Supreme Court had included the Chief Justice of India in this committee as an interim arrangement.

Drone attack in Moscow kills Indian national, injures three others

Moscow(GNS): An Indian citizen was killed and three others were injured in a drone attack in the Moscow region of Russia. The Indian Embassy in Moscow is providing all possible assistance to the affected people. According to the Indian Embassy, all those affected were employed in a company. Upon receiving information about the incident, Embassy officials visited the hospital to meet with the injured and assess the situation. The Embassy expressed condolences to the deceased and said that efforts are being made to provide necessary assistance in collaboration with the company management and local authorities. This incident occurs at a time when the conflict between Russia and Ukraine has once again escalated. In recent days, attacks have increased since the ceasefire between the two countries ended. Just a few days ago, both sides resumed attacks on each other after a limited ceasefire.

80 deaths and 246 suspected cases of Ebola virus in Congo

WHO declares global health emergency Uganda and Sudan on alert, Kenya also increases surveillance

Congo(GNS): Samuel-Roger Kamba, the first case is believed to be a nurse who died on April 24. Investigations have so far confirmed eight cases of the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola. The disease has now spread to the Bunia, Rwampara, and Mongwalu areas of Ituri province. Ebola was first detected in Congo in 1976. This is

the 17th case in the country. According to experts, the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola has been detected this time, while previously most cases in Congo have been of the Zaire strain. This raises concerns because many existing Ebola treatments and vaccines were developed with the Zaire strain in mind.



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Tenant gets landlord to rape wife and daughter

Unemployed for six months, unable to pay 2,000 rent; 2 accused arrested

Morbi(GNS):In Morbi, Gujarat, a tenant allowed his landlord to rape his wife and minor daughter after failing to pay the rent. Police arrested both the tenant and landlord on Saturday following a complaint from the woman. According to police, the family had come to Morbi about six months ago in search of work. They rented a house for 2,000 rupees a month. Due to financial constraints, the

family was unable to pay the rent regularly. It is alleged that the landlord demanded sexual intercourse from the woman in exchange for waiving the outstanding rent. The husband agreed. Subsequently, the landlord raped the woman multiple times. **Minor daughter was also tortured:** After the tenant's wife, the landlord also targeted his minor daughter.



Struggle 12,000 feet above

Kedarnath sees 40% more pilgrims than capacity, creating difficulties at night

Kedarnath(GNS): This year, the massive crowds arriving at Kedarnath Shrine in Uttarakhand and the arrangements made to handle them are raising concerns. The situation is such that thousands of devotees are struggling daily to visit the shrine 12,000 feet above sea level, as an average of 25,000 pilgrims arrive here each day. The administration claims that this time the passenger capacity has been increased to 22,000 to 24,000, but even more pilgrims have been arriving since the first day of the pilgrimage. Therefore, all the shops, tents, guest houses, and small lodges from Ghoda Padav to the temple are full, and in case of emergency, the nightly rent for a room can range from 5,000 to 10,000 rupees.



Bhojshala purified with cow urine, eternal flame installed in the sanctum sanctorum

Worship of Goddess Vagdevi for the first time after the new ASI guidelines

Dhar,(GNS): Following the implementation of the Archaeological Survey of India's (ASI) new guidelines, a formal puja (worship) ceremony was held at Dhar's historic Bhojshala on Sunday. The Bhoj Utsav Committee and members of the Hindu community worshipped Goddess Vagdevi at sunrise and performed aarti at 11:45 am. On Sunday morning, a large number of devotees arrived at Bhojshala carrying images of Goddess Vagdevi. The committee first purified the premises with Ganga



water and cow urine. The sanctum sanctorum was then decorated with rangoli. The eternal flame from the Jyoti Mandir, located outside the

premises, was also installed in the sanctum sanctorum. Chanting of mantras, goddess rituals, and Vastu worship began at sunrise.

The search for an HIV vaccine: A shining hope amidst challenges

Yogesh Kumar Goyal

HIV is emerging as a dangerous global public health problem worldwide. HIV attacks the human body's immune system and, if left untreated, can progress to AIDS. AIDS was first reported in the United States in 1981 and has quickly become a worldwide epidemic. AIDS is a condition that severely weakens the body's ability to fight infection, putting a person at increased risk for diseases such as tuberculosis, various infections, and cancer. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 40 million people worldwide are currently affected by HIV. In 2021,

650,000 people died from HIV-related causes, and 1.5 million people acquired HIV. The WHO states that HIV has caused 40.1 million deaths worldwide, and HIV transmission is still occurring in all countries, with some countries even reporting an increase in new cases.

This is why HIV is still considered one of the most serious public health challenges. Although there is no effective cure for HIV infection yet, necessary and effective treatment and care can help people living with HIV live long and healthy lives. World AIDS Vaccine Day, also known as HIV Vaccine Awareness Day, is celebrated on May 18 to highlight the

need to develop a vaccine for this disease, which is considered incurable. It is an occasion to honor the work of scientists and researchers who have been striving for a long time to develop a vaccine to prevent HIV. World AIDS Vaccine Day was first celebrated on May 18, 1998, in honor of a speech by then-US President Bill Clinton. In his speech at Morgan State University in Maryland on May 18, 1997, Clinton emphasized the importance of vaccination in preventing and eliminating this deadly disease. He underscored the need to accelerate the use of science and technology to develop an HIV vaccine, stating that only an effective HIV

vaccine would help control and eliminate the spread of HIV and improve people's ability to fight it. Since then, World AIDS Vaccine Day has been celebrated by various groups globally to encourage people to take preventive measures, spread AIDS education, encourage researchers, and ensure the full participation of the public in this work.

Vaccines for the treatment and prevention of various diseases are one of humanity's greatest public health achievements. They work by exposing the human body to a weakened or inactivated form of a virus or bacteria, stimulating the immune system to produce antibodies that can

fight future infections. Researchers worldwide are therefore striving to develop a successful HIV vaccine that could help stop the spread of the virus and save millions of lives. While significant progress has been made in the past few years toward the discovery of an AIDS vaccine, significant challenges remain in the path to an effective, universal HIV vaccine. There is currently no safe cure for HIV. Once the virus enters the body, it cannot be eliminated. However, in recent years, the advent of life-saving antiretroviral treatments has significantly transformed the once incurable AIDS disease, and people treated with these therapies can now live

long and healthy lives. Antiretroviral therapy (ART) can prevent or reverse damage to the immune system. If patients adhere to ART, most such patients remain healthy. The discovery of broadly neutralizing antibodies (bnAbs) is also playing a key role in effectively neutralizing a wide range of HIV strains. These antibodies have inspired hope for the development of a universal HIV vaccine capable of providing broad protection against the virus. Advances in vaccine delivery platforms, such as mRNA and viral vector technologies, have also accelerated vaccine development efforts and significantly increased the likelihood of success.

Editorial

On the third phase of SIR of electoral rolls

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has announced a third phase of its controversial Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, covering 16 States and three Union Territories with a combined electorate of 36.73 crore. Given what transpired in Phase 2 — a staggering net trim of 10.2% in the rolls — it would be prudent for the ECI to make structural changes in how it conducts this third phase, so that the disenfranchisement visible particularly in States such as West Bengal is not repeated. At least, the exercise will not be hurried through because of an impending election. The SIR has produced mass deletions of varying scale across States, with West Bengal's the most egregious. This was the cumulative result of the ECI's reliance on faulty software, arbitrary criteria, and methodological flaws, which together led to the removal of a disproportionately higher number of electors from marginalised and minority communities, most notably in West Bengal. Across States, the SIR was marked by the centralisation of data and decision-making in ECI authorities in New Delhi rather than with empowered Electoral Registration Officers in the States; by booth rationalisation conducted in parallel with enumeration rather than after it, which obscured the scale of deletions and made it harder for electors to verify their inclusion; and by software errors that deleted entire sets of duplicate names rather than only the excess entries. Most fundamental of all is the design of the enumeration process itself, which places the onus on electors rather than on ECI officials to establish eligibility on the rolls. The aggregate result of these flaws is visible in the data: gender-ratio drops in the electorate across nearly every State where the SIR was conducted — Tamil Nadu being the notable exception — and mismatches with officially estimated elector-population ratios. Yet, none of this has moved the ECI to change course. That the lessons of Bihar were not absorbed in Phase 2 itself raises the suspicion that the insouciance is by design. Worryingly, the Supreme Court of India has chosen managerial supervision over adjudication, directing the acceptance of more identity documents, deploying judicial officers, even as the underlying questions on Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act and on the shifting of the burden of proof to electors remain unresolved. As Phase 3 commences, the burden now falls on political parties and civil society to sensitise electors to ensure that their enumeration forms are properly processed. The ECI should prioritise universal adult franchise over a method that places the onus of remaining on the rolls upon electors themselves.

The testimony of the ruins restored the respect of Goddess Saraswati in Bhojshala

Manoj Kumar Agarwal

The remains of a demolition became a witness to restore the respect of a mother's temple. The Indore bench of Madhya Pradesh High Court, while giving a historic verdict on the Bhojshala-Kamal Maula Masjid dispute, has accepted Bhojshala as the Goddess of Speech. The High Court also gave the Hindu side the right to worship. A day after this decision of the court, worship and havan are being performed in Bhojshala today, Sunday. Dhar Collector Rajiv Ranjan Meena and Superintendent of Police Sachin Sharma participated in the worship in the Bhojshala premises. The court has also accepted the demand of the Hindu side to install the idol.

Recently, the High Court, while delivering its verdict, stated that this was a major center of education during the reign of King Bhoj, and therefore, the idol could be installed here. The court based its decision on archaeological and historical evidence, the report of the Archaeological Survey of India, the provisions of the Archaeological Protection Act, and the Ayodhya case verdict. Following this decision, a symbolic idol of Goddess Vagdevi was installed in the Bhojshala temple today, May 17th.

The Indore bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court on Friday declared the long-disputed Bhojshala-Kamal Maula Mosque complex in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh a temple. The bench stated that after considering the archaeological and historical facts, and the survey report of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), it concluded that the protected site is a temple dedicated to Goddess Saraswati. The bench quashed the 2003 order passed by the ASI, which allowed Muslims to offer prayers at the complex.

Justices Vijay Kumar Shukla and Alok Awasthi of the Indore bench of the High Court delivered their verdict on five petitions and one writ appeal related to the matter, based on the archaeological and historical facts, the ASI's notifications and its scientific survey, and legal provisions. In its decision, the High Court also cited the principles laid down in the Supreme Court's judgment in the Ayodhya Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute case. The division bench, while allowing two separate public interest litigations filed by the social organization Hindu Front for Justice and Kuldeep Tiwari and others, stated that the religious nature of the disputed area of the Bhojshala complex and Kamal Maula Mosque is determined by the Bhojshala, which houses the temple of Goddess Saraswati. Following the Bhojshala dispute, the ASI issued an order on April 7, 2003, permitting Hindus to worship at the Bhojshala every Tuesday, while Muslims were permitted to offer namaz at the site every Friday. The Muslim side has announced its intention to challenge this decision in the Supreme Court. Meanwhile, Jitendra Singh Bisen, a petitioner on the Hindu side, filed a caveat in the Supreme Court on Friday, requesting that no order be passed on any appeal against the Madhya Pradesh High Court's order in the Bhojshala complex dispute case without hearing its side.

It is noteworthy that the ASI conducted a 98-day survey of the Bhojshala complex and submitted its report to the High Court. This report revealed several important facts. According to the report, statues, coins, and numerous historical relics were found during the excavation. It stated that the foundation stones of the Parmara building were later constructed upon. The pillars and architec-

ture found during the survey indicate that these may have been part of a temple and were later used in the construction of a mosque. The report also stated that 106 vertical and 82 horizontal pillars were found in all four directions of the complex, totaling 188 pillars. Their structure suggests that they were originally part of temple architecture. Furthermore, the report stated that the deities and human figures carved on the pillars were later damaged with tools. The survey also revealed two pillars bearing the inscription "Om Saraswatyai Namah." Page 148 of the survey report states that the architecture of the pillars indicates they were formerly part of a temple and were reused on the raised basalt platforms during the construction of the mosque. One pillar bears the figure of a deity. In its 242-page judgment, the court entrusted the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), which has been managing the monument since 1952, with the responsibility of preserving the complex and regulating traffic. The court also said that Muslims would no longer be allowed to offer prayers at the site and directed the state government to consider allocating alternative land for this purpose in Dhar district.

You know that in the past, it was common for foreign invaders to attack and occupy Hindu religious sites. Their goal was to hurt and humiliate Hindus. After independence, the Indian government should have stepped forward to respect the sentiments of the country's majority Hindu community and identify and restore the religious and historical sites destroyed by the invaders. However, the appeasement policy adopted by those in power under the guise of secularism has, over time, led to tensions in the country over religious and historical

sites. The problem is that a segment of the Muslim community, believing itself to be descendants of foreign invaders, has begun to rise against Hindus. As a result, cases have begun to go to court. The Bhojshala complex is one of them. The need of the hour is for the Muslim community to respect Hindu sentiments, show generosity regarding religious sites, and prioritize resolving disputes through dialogue. This step will be beneficial for both society and the country.

On Saturday, garlands of marigold flowers hung from the complex's carved stone pillars. Devotees, barefoot, lined the arches, offering prayers, taking photographs, and scattering flower petals on the black stone floor. They recited the Hanuman Chalisa and prayed to "Maa Vagdevi." In a secret chamber, flowers were arranged in the shape of the "Om" symbol beneath a carving on the black wall. Hindus believe that an idol of the goddess Saraswati was once enshrined there.

A grand puja ceremony is underway at Bhojshala on Sunday. At 6:30 a.m., devotees installed the image of Goddess Vagdevi in the sanctum sanctorum. Havan and puja will be performed throughout the day. The puja has begun at the Bhojshala complex in Dhar. Dhar Collector Rajiv Ranjan Meena and Superintendent of Police Sachin Sharma also participated in the puja. The Muslim side has stated that they will challenge the High Court order in the Supreme Court. However, the order has already begun to take effect on the ground. State Chief Minister Mohan Yadav is also supporting it. However, in such cases, both parties should show some generosity and mutual respect, avoiding lengthy legal complications.

New challenges for museums in protecting cultural heritage

Sunil Kumar Mahala

International Museum Day is celebrated every year on May 18th to raise public awareness about the importance of museums, their history, culture, and heritage preservation. It would not be wrong to say that museums are not just repositories of antiquities, but also important centers of education, research, and cultural dialogue. Simply put, museums are not only preserves of past memories but also powerful vehicles for education, research, social dialogue, and connecting

humanity. In a rapidly changing world, museums perform invaluable work in preserving our identity, culture, and knowledge. Let me remind readers that this day was established in 1977 by the International Council of Museums. Museums are a country's true cultural heritage and historical treasures, introducing us to the contemporary history, art, and civilization of that era. The main objective behind celebrating this day is to promote dialogue, cooperation, and peace among different cultures, to introduce

the new (younger) generation to their past and to cultivate an interest in science and knowledge. It is noteworthy that last year (in 2025) the theme of this day was "The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities." The purpose of this theme was to highlight the role of museums in changing technology, society, and environmental conditions. This year, in 2026, the theme of this day is "Museums Connecting a Divided World." This theme focuses on the role of museums in fostering dialogue, inclusion, and

peace in society. However, if we consider museum statistics here, according to UNESCO, in 1975 there were approximately 22,000 museums in the world, while today their number has increased to over 95,000. Some reports put this number at as high as 104,000. Let me inform readers here that the International Council of Museums has over 57,000 members in over 138 countries, and the United States is considered the country with the largest number of museums in the world. The Louvre Museum, the

Vatican Museums, the British Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the National Museum of China are some of the world's most renowned museums. On the other hand, if we consider the statistics related to Indian museums, hundreds of museums operate in India at the central, state, private, and university levels. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), under the Government of India, currently has 52 archaeological site museums under its administrative control. It is worth noting that the Indian Museum,

the oldest museum in the country and the largest in Asia, was established in 1814. It is noteworthy that the Indian Museum is one of the oldest and largest museums in India and one of the largest in Asia. It was founded, as discussed earlier in this article, in 1814 by the Danish botanist Dr. Nathaniel Wallich. Located in Kolkata (Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kolkata), this museum is also known as the Magic House. Key highlights of this museum include exhibits on archaeology, art, fossils, anthropology, Millions of objects

related to geology and ancient civilizations are preserved. Furthermore, the museum's most famous exhibits include a 4,000-year-old Egyptian mummy, Buddhist stupa relics, Mughal paintings, ancient coins, weapons, and rare sculptures are also on display. Its architecture is considered a magnificent example of the colonial style. The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, is the governing body of this museum. Cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Jaipur, Hyderabad, and Chennai are major centers for museums.

DDA picks TOD plots to push affordable housing

New Delhi(GNS): Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has identified 14 land parcels along metro corridors for residential and mixed-use development to promote affordable housing in the city and reduce outward migration to NCR towns.

Accelerating the implementation of the recently notified Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) policy, the identified plots, spread across more than 3.6 lakh square metres, are situated along the Blue, Red, Green, Pink and Yellow metro lines. Six of the sites are in east Delhi - Dilshad Garden, Jhilmil, Preet Vihar, Karkardooma and Mandawali/Fazalpur - while three are in Dwarka. The remaining plots are located in Rohini, Madipur, Peeragarhi



and Rohtak Road areas. Most of them are vacant, officials said.

The details were discussed during a recent review meeting chaired by lieutenant governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu, where

DDA presented the outcome of its preliminary assessment of land availability near major public transport corridors.

"Directions have been issued to DDA officials to prepare a portal on priority and upload details of these parcels. The portal will also facilitate private developers in submitting details of plots they intend to develop under the new policy," Sandhu said. Among the key sites is a triangular land parcel behind Kailash Deepak Hospital in Karkardooma, measuring 76,251 square metres along Blue Line. The plot is currently earmarked for transportation-related land use. Delhi's first and only operational TOD project is also located in Karkardooma, where the first phase was recently opened for sale.

Another major parcel is near the Peeragarhi district centre along Green Line. Spread over 1.2 lakh square metres, the plot is earmarked for commercial and district centre use, and is strategically located along Outer Ring Road. In Dwarka, DDA has identified multiple plots in sectors 10 and 12 along Blue Line -- a 31,100sqm district centre site, a 7,000sqm plot in sector 10 and a 26,400sqm district centre parcel in Sector 1. In Rohini, two residential plots along Yellow Line have been selected, including an 18,500sqm site meant for group housing in Sector 18.

According to DDA officials, the land use of these sites will automatically convert into TOD plots once the development plans are finalised.

HC pulls up bank for freezing account without FIR or judicial order

New Delhi(GNS): Observing that a bank account is the very essence of an individual's economic existence, Delhi High Court has directed a private bank to immediately defreeze the account of a city resident, holding that its continued blocking without any FIR, accusation or judicial order was "wholly arbitrary and unsustainable in law".

Justice Purushendra Kumar Kaurav was hearing a petition filed by the account holder, whose account was frozen following a complaint from the Gujarat Cyber Crime Police in Nov 2024.

Ordering the bank to "immediately defreeze" the account, the court said that in the absence of any material connecting the petitioner to any offence, the action could not be sustained. It added that there was no justification from the Gujarat Police for the continued seizure of the account. "A bank account is not just a place to keep money but is the very essence of an individual's economic existence," the court said. Quoting Roman jurist and philosopher Cicero,



the court observed: "So-and-so is innocent; but although he is free from guilt, he is not free from suspicion". That is precisely the petitioner's situation. "His account is frozen and his money is stuck, but there is no accusation, no FIR and no judicial order against him. Freezing an account without any justification is bound to cause impediments to the right to life," the court noted.

The plea stated that in 2024, the petitioner received around Rs 87,000 from his brother, after which the bank placed a lien on half the amount on the basis of a complaint from the Gujarat Cyber Crime Police.

Delhi ranked 'Exemplary' in Centre's LEADS logistics index

New Delhi(GNS): Delhi has secured the "Exemplary" rank - the highest category - in the Centre's Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2025 index, chief minister Rekha Gupta said on Saturday, attributing the achievement to improvements in logistics infrastructure, multimodal connectivity, digital governance and ease of doing business.

"This achievement is the result of Delhi gov't's continuous efforts to strengthen logistics infrastructure, enhance multimodal connectivity, improve ease of doing business and promote technology-driven governance," the chief minister said in a statement.



The LEADS index evaluates states and Union Territories on parameters such as logistics infrastructure and services, regulatory framework, digital integration, sustainability and stakeholder perception. Based on performance, states and UTs are categorised as Exemplary, High Performers,

Accelerators and Growth Seekers, with Exemplary being the top tier. Delhi has shown steady progress, moving from the "Achiever" category in LEADS 2023 and 2024 to securing the top rank this year.

Under the Prime Minister Gati Shakti Yojana, Delhi gov't has prepared a city logistics

plan, which has received approval and will soon be notified. "This will streamline urban freight movement, last-mile delivery systems and urban freight management," the chief minister said.

Of the 46 mandatory layers on the PM Gati Shakti portal, 38 have already been integrated, while an additional 317 layers have been added, strengthening coordinated infrastructure planning and project implementation across departments. The chief minister said approvals and permissions related to logistics and industrial investments have been simplified through the Delhi single-window system. Meanwhile, the Unified

Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) has enabled API-based real-time monitoring and data exchange, improving coordination among logistics stakeholders.

Gupta said Delhi has also seen major improvements in transport and road infrastructure in recent years. Under the PWD's pothole-free roads campaign, repair and upgradation work has been carried out on major roads and internal streets. The launch of the country's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS), the Namoo Bharat Corridor, has improved connectivity between Delhi and neighbouring regions for passenger and freight movement.



Delhi PWD Minister lays foundation stone for Rs 55-crore drain project

New Delhi(GNS): Delhi PWD Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh on Saturday laid the foundation stone for a precast RCC drain project on the Narela-Bawana road stretch, from the Narela railway crossing to the DJB outfall. The project will cover 9.5 km, including 5 km on one side and 4.5 km on the other, at an estimated cost of Rs 55 crore. It is being developed under Delhi's drainage master plan to provide a long-term solution to waterlogging in the area. "With precast technology, we can build faster and better with less disruption. Our focus is on durable solutions and visible improvement on the ground," said Sahib Singh.

The drain will be built using precast technology, in which components are manufactured in a controlled environment and assembled on site. The method ensures faster execution and improves quality, strength and uniformity.

Unlike conventional construction, where drains are cast on site, precast construction reduces dust, debris and material spill on roads, causing less inconvenience to the public and allowing smoother traffic movement. It also enables better monitoring and standardisation during construction.

As the project will have minimal on-site pollution impact, work will continue during the GRAP period, helping ensure timely completion. The technology is also expected to reduce construction time and optimise costs while maintaining higher standards.

The project forms part of a long-term plan to strengthen Delhi's drainage infrastructure. Once completed, it will improve water flow along the stretch and significantly reduce waterlogging, especially during the monsoon season.

Jamia allows year-round PhD applications for foreign scholars

New Delhi(GNS): I repeat we will clamp down on every gram of drugs entering India or leaving the country using our territory as the transit route," Shah wrote. The breakthrough came in Delhi on May 11, after NCB acted on actionable intelligence provided by a foreign drug law enforcement agency indicating that India was being used as a transit zone for the drug. NCB sleuths identified and raided a rented residential property in south Delhi's Neb Sarai, which led to the initial recovery of 31.5kg of Captagon tablets.

The contraband was found meticulously concealed inside a commercial chapati-cutting machine, which preliminary probe revealed was to be exported to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia. Ahmad, who was managing logistics here, had rented



the Delhi hideout. He had entered India on a tourist visa in Nov 2024, which expired in Jan 2025.

Following his interrogation, the focus of the operation shifted to Gujarat. On May 14, NCB intercepted a suspicious cargo container at Mundra port. The container was shipped from Syria with sheep wool declared as its official

consignment. But a physical examination of the cargo exposed three hidden bags containing 196.2kg high-grade Captagon powder. Investigators also established that this massive consignment was intended for transshipment to destination markets across the Gulf region, where Captagon dependency has triggered severe law enforcement and public health crises.

The operation, sources said, underscored how international intelligence-sharing and multi-jurisdictional cooperation were vital to intercepting global cartels. It also pointed to an alarming trend of syndicates exploiting commercial maritime cargo and container routes, echoing a recent intercept in Mumbai where 349kg cocaine from Ecuador was found hidden in a shipping container.

CNG prices hiked again in NCR 2nd increase in 2 days pushes Delhi rate past Rs 80/kg

New Delhi(GNS): Residents across Delhi-NCR are facing another fuel price hike as compressed natural gas (CNG) prices were increased again on Sunday, marking the second hike in just two days.

With the latest revision, CNG prices in Delhi have risen by Re 1 per kg to Rs 80.09 per kg, while consumers in Noida and Ghaziabad will now pay Rs 88.70 per kg. The fresh increase comes after gas companies had already raised CNG prices by Rs 2 per kg on May 15. Following that revision, the price in Delhi had climbed from Rs 77.09 per kg to Rs 79.09 per kg.

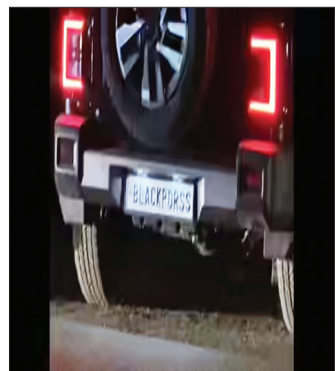
The latest hike follows a broader increase in fuel prices



across the country. Earlier this week, petrol and diesel prices were raised by Rs 3 per litre amid rising global energy prices linked to the ongoing West Asia conflict.

After the revision, petrol in Delhi is retailing at Rs 97.77 per litre, up from Rs 94.77, while diesel prices have increased from Rs 87.67 to Rs 90.67 per litre.

From caste names to 'Don' tags: The rise of the illegal, fancy number plate in Delhi



to modified SUVs, the high-security registration plate (HSRP) mandate seems to have become a mere suggestion for a growing segment of motorists.

"Last year, there was an increase of nearly 46% in prosecutions related to defective, fancy or blank number plates. While 42,974 challans were issued under this category in 2024, the number rose to 62,639 in 2025," a senior police officer said.

On any given day, social media platforms like X and Instagram are flooded with snapshots of such "phantom" vehicles. Users tag Delhi Police and Traffic Police handles with precise locations and time-stamps, yet the frequency of these sightings

suggests that public shaming and digital reporting are providing little deterrence. Despite a digital onslaught of complaints from frustrated citizens, police and traffic cops appear to be caught in a high-speed game of cat-and-mouse. Senior police and traffic officials say that the "reel culture" is a primary driver behind this nuisance. For many drivers, a fine is simply the "cost of doing business" for a viral video, or worse, a badge of honour in a subculture that prizes defiance over road safety. Sources said that many of these vehicles are brought onto main roads for very short durations - often just long enough to record a 30-second clip for a reel or YouTube Shorts.

WESTERN RAILWAY			
E-AUCTION FOR THE CONTRACT OF "LEASING OF PARCEL SLR/VP"			
E-auction for the contract to lease out parcel SLR/VP in trains originating from Mumbai Division has been invited. The catalogue has already been published on IREPS website; the details are furnished as under:-			
Type of contract:	Parcel	Contract period 3 Years	Category: Parcel SLR & VP
MMCT-PLS-26-30	21901-SLR-R1-BDTS-BME-26-1		E-auction for lot will start at 12:00 hrs on 20/05/2026 Initial cooling period is 30 minutes
	12009-SLR-F1-MMCT-ADI-26-1		
	22909-SLR-F1-BL-PURI-26-1		
	19003-SLR-F2-DDR-BSL-26-2		
	22921-SLR-R1-BDTS-GKP-26-1		
	02133-SLR-R1-BDTS-JBP-26-1		
	02133-SLR-F1-BDTS-JBP-26-1		
	02133-SLR-F2-BDTS-JBP-26-3		
	19091-SLR-R1-BDTS-GKP-26-2		
	12480-SLR-R1-BDTS-JU-26-1		
	22921-SLR-F1-BDTS-GKP-26-1		
	22971-SLR-F1-BDTS-PNBE-26-1		
22949-SLR-R1-BDTS-DEE-26-2			
Type of contract:	Parcel	Contract period 3 Months	Category: Parcel SLR & VP
MMCT-PLS-26-30	09065-SLR-R1-ST-CPR-26-3		E-auction for lot will start at 12:00 hrs on 20/05/2026 Initial cooling period is 30 minutes
Type of contract:	Parcel	Contract period 3 Years	Category: Parcel SLR & VP
MMCT-PLS-26-31	12927-SLR-R1-DDR-EKNR-26-1		E-auction for lot will start at 12:00 hrs on 25/05/2026 Initial cooling period is 30 minutes
Type of contract:	Parcel	Contract period 3 Years	Category: Parcel SLR & VP
MMCT-PLS-26-32	12995-SLR-F1-BDTS-AII-26-1		E-auction for lot will start at 12:00 hrs on 26/05/2026 Initial cooling period is 30 minutes
	19051-SLR-F1-BL-MFP-26-1		
	22947-SLR-R1-ST-BGP-26-1		
	22947-SLR-F1-ST-BGP-26-2		
	22444-SLR-R1-BDTS-CNB-26-1		
	22901-SLR-F1-BDTS-UDZ-26-1		

NOTE:- Kindly visit this site for details of E-auction of parcel SLR/VPs www.ireps.gov.in/ireps. 0103 Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly Follow us on: X.com/WesternRly

Ground visits begin for houselisting work under Census 2027

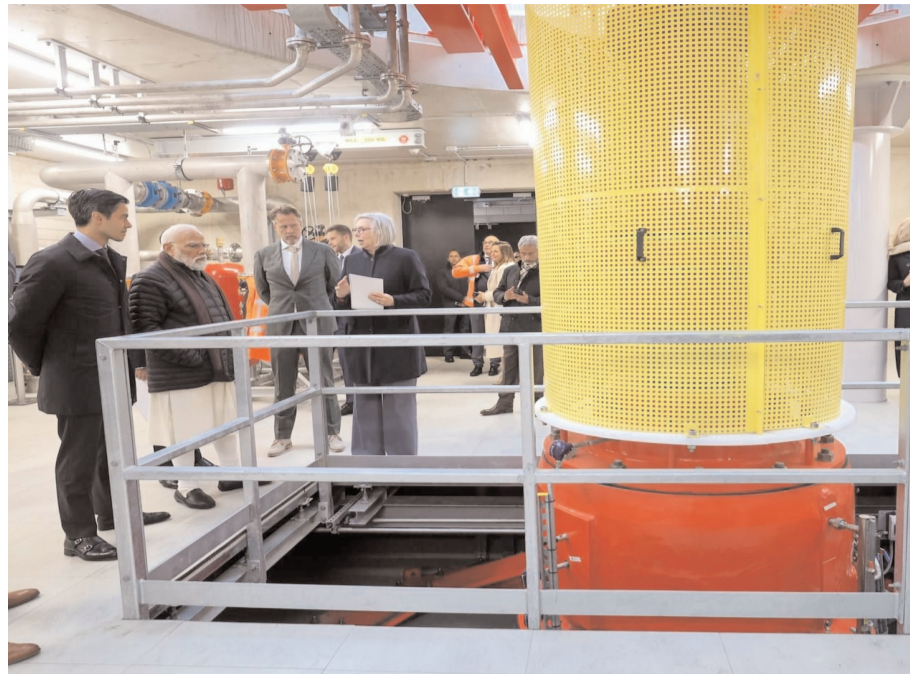
New Delhi(GNS): A large number of enumerators visited their assigned areas on Saturday to carry out 'ground-truthing' to physically verify locations and match them with houselisting block maps provided to them. The exercise involves verifying their houselisting block maps with field visits to ensure that no household is left out during the survey. "The enumerators have to complete the process by June 14. They are expected to start the enumeration work by undertaking door-to-door visits from Monday or Tuesday," an official said.

The city's 250 Municipal Corporation wards have been divided into around 46,000 blocks. The exercise is expected to cover around 33 lakh households across the capital. Each enumerator will carry an identity card and a 'Census of India 2027' bag containing essential items. The houselisting exercise will collect information on 33 parameters, including building and house-



hold details, construction material of houses, number of residents and socio-economic category of the head of the household. Data on living conditions and amenities such as water supply, sanitation, cooking fuel and electricity access will also be recorded. They will also collect information on assets such as televisions, internet access, computers and vehicles, besides noting down mobile numbers for census-related communication. Meanwhile, around 1.3 lakh residents completed the self-enumeration exercise conducted between May 1 and May 15, with South West district recording the highest participation.

Significant progress towards realizing the 'Kalpasar Project' through the efforts of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi



● Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream project, the 'Kalpasar Project,' gets a new boost with Dutch technology

● The Kalpasar Project will play a crucial role in meeting Gujarat's water needs

● A Letter of Intent for technical cooperation on the Kalpasar Project was signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Netherlands

● Gujarat will benefit from Dutch technical cooperation and expertise in the field of water resource management

● Dependence on the Sardar Sarovar Dam will reduce, ensuring wider availability of water for drinking and irrigation purposes

Significant progress has been made toward realizing Gujarat's ambitious Kalpasar Project through the efforts of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. During his visit to the Netherlands on Sunday, Prime Minister Modi visited the Netherlands' renowned water man-

agement structure, the "Afsluitdijk," along with Dutch Prime Minister Rob Jetten. He described the technology used in the dam as highly worthy of learning. Notably, there are many similarities between the Afsluitdijk and Gujarat's Kalpasar Project.

In the presence of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, a Letter of Intent was signed between India's Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Netherlands' Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management for technical cooperation on the Kalpasar Project. This agreement has opened new avenues for accelerating the project's implementation.

Gujarat, which has struggled for decades with irregular rainfall and drought conditions, received major relief through the construction of the Sardar Sarovar Dam. However, relying solely on one project for long-term water security can be risky. Therefore, then Chief Minister and present Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi conceptualized the ambitious Kalpasar Project in the Gulf of Khambhat. Nevertheless, the project is technically extremely complex and challenging.

What is the Kalpasar Project?

The Kalpasar Project envisions the construction of a massive dam across the Gulf of Khambhat to utilize the waters of seven rivers that currently flow into the sea. The project aims to create a vast freshwater reservoir in the gulf, integrating tidal power generation, irrigation, and transportation infrastructure development. In 2004, under the leadership of then Chief Minister Narendra Modi, a historic marine survey was launched in Bhavnagar to finalize the alignment of the Kalpasar Dam. However, due to the highly complex nature of the scheme, several challenges have emerged in implementing it. The government has continuously undertaken concrete efforts to address these difficulties. Recently, on March 30, 2026, during a meeting in Gandhinagar with the Netherlands' Ambassador Marisa Gerards, Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel held important discussions regarding the Kalpasar Project, including the formation of an Indo-Dutch expert group and government-to-government partnership.

Benefits of the Kalpasar Project

Once implemented, the Kalpasar Project is expected to provide irrigation benefits to around 10 lakh hectares across 42 talukas in nine districts of Saurashtra. The project will also reduce the distance between South Gujarat and Saurashtra from 240 kilometers to just 60 kilometers. Additionally, the project is expected to generate approximately 1,500 MW of wind energy and 1,000 MW of solar energy. It will also promote tourism and fisheries development. Detailed study reports have been prepared from time to time for the project. In the Detailed Project Report (DPR), the most critical aspect — the "closure methodology" — was significantly developed with the expertise of the globally renowned Dutch maritime engineering institution Royal Haskoning.

What is the Afsluitdijk?

The Afsluitdijk is not only one of the Netherlands' most famous engineering projects but also one of the world's best-known examples of water management. Constructed nearly 80 years ago, this 32-kilometer-long barrier dam separates the North Sea from a freshwater lake. The dam also protects large low-lying regions of the Netherlands

from severe flooding, making it a global benchmark in flood control. Its most remarkable feature is that it blocks salty seawater and creates a vast freshwater reservoir inside.

Besides freshwater storage, the Afsluitdijk project also integrates shipping, transportation connectivity, and renewable energy generation. Prime Minister's Resolve and Dutch Partnership to Help Realize Kalpasar Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always pursued long-term and ambitious goals. During his tenure as Gujarat's Chief Minister, he envisioned the Kalpasar Project. With a commitment to transforming Gujarat from a water-scarce state into a water-secure one, he successfully implemented massive projects such as the Sardar Sarovar Dam. Despite decades of political and environmental hurdles, he demonstrated extraordinary determination and unwavering resolve in bringing the Sardar Sarovar Project to reality. Prime Minister Modi has remained optimistic about the Kalpasar Project since its inception. Despite numerous obstacles, he never allowed the dream of implementing the project to fade away. Although the project has faced delays

due to enormous engineering and technical challenges, his recent inspection of the Afsluitdijk during the Netherlands visit, along with the signing of the Letter of Intent between India and the Netherlands, clearly demonstrates his seriousness and optimism regarding the Kalpasar Project. In a statement, India's Ministry of External Affairs said that the visit underscores the shared commitment of both countries to collaborate in the areas of water management innovation, climate adaptation, and sustainable infrastructure. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit and the signing of the Letter of Intent for the Kalpasar Project have opened new doors of opportunity for Gujarat. Through this collaboration, India will benefit from the Netherlands' more than 90 years of expertise and management experience with the globally acclaimed Afsluitdijk dam project. This cooperation is based on the "India-Dutch Strategic Partnership on Water" established between the two countries on March 29, 2022. The Netherlands possesses advanced expertise in constructing dams in marine environments, and Gujarat is now set to benefit from this specialized knowledge, which will play a crucial role in realizing the state's ambitious Kalpasar Project.

India's first 'jihadi drug' seizure: NCB busts Rs 182 crore Captagon racket in Delhi

New Delhi(GNS): Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has busted a major international drug trafficking network and seized captagon, a highly addictive psychotropic substance used by Islamic State operatives in West Asia, which gave it the name, 'jihadi drug'. This is India's first-ever seizure of captagon.

The mega operation resulted in the arrest of a Syrian national, Alabras Ahmad, and recovery of 227.7kg of captagon tablets and powder, worth around Rs 182 crore. Primarily containing fenethylline and amphetamine, captagon is heavily regulated under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

Posting on X, Union home minister Amit Shah called the seizure and arrest "shining examples" of the gov't's commitment to zero tolerance of drugs.

Who after parents? How to protect neurodivergent adults

New Delhi(GNS): "Today the question haunting us all in this room is - who after us? But the answer must come from the community," Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya said on Friday, urging society to move beyond "sympathy towards empathy" for neurodivergent people.

NEET paper leak: NSUI members protest outside NTA office in Delhi

New Delhi(GNS): Members of the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) staged a protest outside the National Testing Agency (NTA) office over the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak, demanding a ban on the agency.

Earlier on Friday, a Delhi court remanded accused Dhananjay Lokhande to six days of CBI custody in connection with the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak case. The agency told the court that custodial interrogation was necessary to identify and arrest NTA officials allegedly involved in the leak and to probe the larger conspiracy behind the case.

The matter was heard by Special Judge Ajay Gupta at the Rouse Avenue Court, who granted the CBI's plea for police custody. According to the CBI, accused Dhananjay Nivrutti Lokhande, who knew co-accused Shubham Madhukar Khairnar, collected the NEET-UG 2026 examination material from co-accused Manisha Waghmare, a resident of Pune. The agency



alleged that Lokhande then passed the leaked question paper to Shubham Khairnar.

The CBI further informed the court that on April 24, accused Yash Yadav received PDF files of the leaked question papers from Shubham Khairnar through Telegram. Seeking Lokhande's custody, the agency submitted that his interrogation was required for recovery of digital devices, electronic evidence, tracing the financial trail, and identifying officials of the National Testing Agency allegedly linked to the paper leak.

The agency also told the court that during investigation, banking transactions amounting to nearly Rs 6 lakh were found between Lokhande and co-accused Shubham Khairnar.

Check 'silent killer' BP from teen years, advise doctors

New Delhi(GNS):

Hypertension is increasingly affecting teenagers and young adults in India because of rising stress, obesity, poor sleep and unhealthy lifestyles, silently damaging the brain, heart and kidneys long before symptoms appear, doctors and public health experts warned on Thursday ahead of World Hypertension Day on May 17. Speaking at 'Illness to Wellness Conference on Transforming Hypertension Care: Prevention to Wellness', experts said many patients discovered high blood pressure only after suffering a stroke, heart attack or kidney failure because the disease often remained symptomless for years.

Calling hypertension a "silent killer", Union minister of state for health Prataprao Jadhav said in his video message that chang-



ing lifestyles and neglect of physical and mental health were contributing to rising hypertension among younger people.

"Hypertension is no longer limited to the elderly. It is now affecting children and young adults as well," said Prof Rakesh Yadav, cardiologist and head of emergency medicine at AIIMS, stressing the need for regular BP monitoring, healthy diets and weight control.

Dr P Venkata Krishnan of Narayana Hospital said BP screening should ideally begin around the age of 15 because of rising obesity, academic stress and sleep disturbances among adoles-

cents. "We are seeing early-onset hypertension from 15 years itself," he said.

Experts said hypertension remained one of the biggest risk factors for stroke, heart disease and chronic kidney disease, but awareness and treatment compliance remained poor. Dr Ripen Gupta of Max Smart Super Specialty Hospital said nearly one in four adults was affected by hypertension, yet blood pressure control rates remained very low.

Prof Dipankar Bhowmik, head of nephrology at AIIMS, said uncontrolled hypertension was among the leading causes of chronic kidney disease and dialysis. "Almost 25-30% of dialysis patients have long-standing uncontrolled hypertension," he said, advising people above 40 years to undergo routine kidney screening tests.