



The Supreme Court said – bail is the rule, jail is the exception

-Supreme Court's strong remarks on Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam case

Said- the right to speedy trial cannot be taken away

New Delhi (GNS): The Supreme Court has made significant observations regarding bail in UAPA (Unlawful Activities Prevention Act) cases, stating that "bail is the rule and jail is the exception." The court also

indirectly questioned the denial of bail to Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam, accused in cases related to the 2020 Delhi riots.

A bench headed by Justice B.V. Nagarathna stated that even in cases involving stringent laws like the UAPA, the accused's right to a speedy trial cannot be ignored. The court also noted that a long pendency of trial could be a ground for granting bail.

The Supreme Court was hearing a case involv-

ing an accused allegedly linked to a cross-border syndicate involved in drug trafficking and terrorism funding in Jammu and Kashmir. The court made a broad observation, stating that the mere imposition of a stringent law does not abrogate a person's constitutional rights.

The bench also objected to certain aspects of a January decision by another two-judge Supreme Court bench that denied bail to Umar Khalid and Sharjeel



Imam. The court stated that the bench had not properly followed a previous three-judge bench decision that held that bail could be granted if the trial was inordinately delayed. The Supreme Court clarified that personal liberty is a crucial constitutional right in the Indian judicial system and that indefinite imprisonment of an accused cannot be justified. This observation is being seen as an important legal signal regarding bail in UAPA cases.

Lights out on IndiGo flight from Vadodara to Delhi

Passengers suffer in darkness and heat, power restored after 25 minutes

Vadodara(GNS): An IndiGo flight (6E 657) suffered a power outage in Vadodara, Gujarat, on Sunday night. The ground power unit (GPU) of the aircraft suddenly shut down.

Due to this, passengers had to endure hardship in the darkness and intense humidity. Some passengers began to feel unwell. A passenger recorded the video on his mobile phone, which is now going viral.

Power supply resumed after 25 minutes. On Sunday night, IndiGo flight number 6E657 was preparing to depart from Vadodara to Delhi. Meanwhile, at 8:50, the flight suddenly lost power. It took about 25 minutes for the power supply to be restored. Airport officials said that there was a technical problem with the plane's GPU (Ground Power Unit). This led to this situation.

Bengal can get Rs 2,775 crore for Jal Jeevan Mission and Ganga pollution control: CR Patil

Kolkata(GNS): A high-level virtual meeting was held on Monday between the central and state governments to review the progress of the Jal Jeevan Mission, Ganga pollution control, and water conservation projects in West Bengal. Chief Minister Suvenud Adhikari, Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil, and Union Minister of State V. Somanatha, along with several senior officials, attended the meeting.

The meeting reviewed in detail the ongoing drinking water projects, rain-water harvesting, Ganga pollution prevention, and sewage treatment plant works in the state. The Union Jal Shakti Minister stated that West Bengal could potentially receive an allocation of ₹2,775 crore for the year 2026-27. However, this will depend on the progress of the projects and compliance with the prescribed conditions. The meeting emphasized the need to expedite work on drinking water projects, particularly in Darjeeling, Kalimpong, and Purulia districts. The central government highlighted the need to resolve discrepancies in project reports, duplicate projects, and pending issues quickly.

No relief for Vinesh Phogat from Delhi HC in plea to participate in Asian Games trials



New Delhi(GNS): The Delhi High Court on Monday refused to grant immediate relief to grappler Vinesh Phogat "without hearing the other side" after she sought a direction permitting her to compete in the selection trials on May 30-31 for this year's Asian Games despite being declared "ineligible" by the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI).

The court, however, permitted her to give a "comprehensive reply" to WFI on the show cause notice issued to her over accusations of indiscipline and anti-doping rule violations.

Justice Purushendra Kumar Kaurav directed the WFI to take the show cause notice to "its logical conclusion" by July 6 and place its decision before it.

The judge issued notice to the WFI and the Centre on Phogat's petition over her "ineligibility", and said a balance must be maintained between the "competing interests" in this case.

The senior counsel representing Phogat argued that she should be permitted to participate in the Asian Games trials scheduled for May 30-31.

He emphasised that while internationally, the ranking and status of female athletes on maternity leave are protected, the latest WFI policy excluded her. "You have already been declared ineligible. How can we grant you that relief without hearing the other side..." The (WFI) policy will have to be looked into.

PM Modi surpasses Donald Trump and Putin in the list, showing his dominance in 31 countries



10 killed as van collides with truck in UP's Lakhimpur Kheri

Lakhimpur-Kheri, (GNS): Ten people were killed in a collision between a magic van and a truck in Lakhimpur Kheri at 7:30 a.m. on Monday. Nine people died on the spot, while one died in hospital. The deceased included a government teacher and an engineer.

The accident occurred near Adlispur village on the Pilibhit-Basti highway, 40 km from the district headquarters. Eyewitnesses said the Magic van was traveling from Lakhimpur to Sisaia when it was hit head-on by a speeding truck coming from Bahraich. The truck driver fled the scene after the accident.

The collision was so severe that the heads of those inside the Magic van were fractured. People were trapped between the seats. Two people were thrown out onto the road. Locals informed the police. The police have sent the bodies



for postmortem. PM Modi has expressed grief over the accident and announced financial assistance of 2 lakh each for the families of the deceased.

Police seized the truck, the injured were referred to the district hospital.

Khamaria CO Shamsheer Bahadur Singh said, "The truck (UP 14 HT 5176) is regis-

tered in the name of Sher Singh, a resident of Nagla Ghaziabad license plate. The Faridpur, Bareilly. Sher Singh truck is loaded with sacks of is the second owner of the ricepolish.

13 killed, 25 injured in truck-container collision in Palghar, Maharashtra; Truck carrying over 100 people, all on their way to an engagement party

Palghar(GNS): A truck and a container collided on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad National Highway in Palghar, Maharashtra, on Monday. Thirteen people on board the truck died on the spot, while 20 to 25 others were seriously injured. According to reports, more than 100 people from Bapugaon in Dahanu tehsil were traveling in a truck to attend an engagement ceremony when the truck collided head-on with an oncoming container near Dhaniwari village in Palghar district. The impact was so severe that both the truck and the container overturned onto the road.



Temperatures will exceed 45°C today in nine states, including MP and Rajasthan

Banda in UP is the hottest in the country, reaching 46.4°C; 27 female students faint due to heat in Bihar

New Delhi(GNS): A severe heat wave alert has been issued for nine plains states, including Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Maharashtra's Vidarbha-Marathwada region, and Telangana are also on a yellow alert today. According to the Meteorological Department, temperatures in many districts in these states will exceed 45°C.

This heat wave has been continuing for the past week. On Sunday, Banda in Uttar Pradesh was the hottest city in the country, reaching 46.4°C. Bikaner-Barmer in Rajasthan recorded 45°C, and Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh recorded 44.5°C.

Meanwhile, many districts in Bihar are experiencing humid heat, while some are experiencing rain.



Twenty-seven female students at Kasturba School in Sheikhpura collapsed due to the heat. All of them have been admitted to Sheikhpura Sadar Hospital.

Talking about the rest of the country, heavy rains may occur in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

13% of Jammu and Kashmir's population is using drugs

consignments are arriving from Punjab and across the border; a 100-day campaign is underway to crack down on the drug mafia

Srinagar(GNS): After Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as the new drug hub. According to government estimates, approximately 1.35

million people (over 13%) of the state's 13 million population are affected by drugs. In 2022, this figure was approximately 600,000. Officials say that

along with terrorism, drug networks have also emerged as a major challenge. DGP Nalin Prabhat has also described Pakistan-sponsored terrorism and drug networks as a major threat. In response, the govern-

ment has launched a 100-day anti-drug campaign, which has so far attracted over 10 million people.

Mohammad Amin of South Kashmir says his son wanted to become a lawyer, but what started with cigarettes in school gradually escalated into an addiction to hashish and heroin. He even began selling household items to buy drugs.

VD Satheesan becomes Kerala CM

After 64 years, a Chief Minister takes oath with a full cabinet; Rahul and Priyanka are present

Thiruvananthapuram, (GNS): Congress leader VD Satheesan on Monday became the 13th Chief Minister of Kerala. Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar administered the oath of office to him and the entire cabinet (20 ministers). This happened after 64 years. Previously, the state's third Congress



Chief Minister, R. Shankar, was sworn in with a full cabinet in 1962, but his government fell in 1964 following a no-confidence motion. Apart from Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi, former Chief Minister P Vijayan, BJP leader Rajiv Chandrashekhkar and CMs of all Congress ruled states also attended the program.

Mayawati's inaction: Will the BSP be destroyed?

Dilip Kumar Pathak

There was a time in Uttar Pradesh politics when opposition parties would change their strategies at the mere mention of Mayawati. But today, the ground reality has completely changed. There is a growing buzz in national politics that Mayawati's increasing inactivity at the grassroots level and the party's steadily declining vote bank have brought the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) to the brink of extinction. The situation has reached a point where the BSP could lose its national party status at any time. If we look at the statistics, the BSP is currently in its worst state. Across

all four houses of the country and Uttar Pradesh, the party now has only a handful of leaders. The BSP, which contested the Lok Sabha elections alone, failed to even open its account and currently holds zero seats in the country's largest house. The BSP has only one MP left in the Rajya Sabha, whose term will expire in November 2026. After this, no new BSP MP will be able to enter the Rajya Sabha because the party has no MLAs in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly.

In Uttar Pradesh, where Mayawati once led the government as Chief Minister four times, the BSP today

has only one MLA out of 403 seats. Furthermore, the BSP's seats in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council have also fallen to zero. The biggest reason for this drastic decline is Mayawati's style of politics. For the past few years, she has been limited to press conferences and social media statements. She has neither taken to the streets to address public issues nor led any major movements on issues like inflation, unemployment, or Dalit oppression. This inactivity has led to the party's grassroots workers becoming disillusioned and staying home or joining other parties.

Consequently, the BSP's overall vote share in the general elections plummeted to just around two percent. According to Election Commission rules, with such a low vote share and no seats, the BSP is almost certain to lose its status as a national party. Mayawati's silence and the BSP's weakening are directly benefiting other parties. A large portion of the BSP's core Muslim and Dalit vote bank has shifted to the Samajwadi Party and Congress alliance. Meanwhile, a significant segment of poor and non-Jatav Dalits have joined the BJP, driven by government schemes such as free rations

and housing. Furthermore, Chandrashekhar Azad has emerged as a new and aggressive Dalit leader among the youth, winning the Nagina Lok Sabha election, proving that the BSP voter has now found a new alternative.

The ground reality is that Mayawati promoted her nephew, Akash Anand, in politics and even declared him her successor, but after his aggressive speeches, he was temporarily sidelined. This leadership confusion further confused the party workers. Unless the youth in the party are given the freedom to make decisions freely, it will be impossible

to engage the new generation of voters. Simply put, the BSP is currently fighting its toughest battle for survival. The 2027 assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh are just around the corner. If Mayawati does not change her closed-door strategy, hand over the reins to young leaders like Akash Anand, and launch a street struggle, the BSP's political existence will be lost forever. Because there is no place for a vacuum in politics. If the BSP is losing ground, the law of democracy dictates that someone will fill that void. Now, Mayawati must decide whether she wants to be a part of history or the future.

Editorial

Cannot be a mere environmental state

Issues that pierce the environment will reach the Green Tribunal, exposing the false names of development. In Kullu city, the dumping of waste in a corner of Nehru Park was revealed, and the Green Tribunal also raised concerns about the material recovery facility. This is no miracle, but the concerns of the Kullu Senior Citizens Council, which approached the Green Tribunal and the High Court to request that the park remain a park, otherwise the Municipal Council would have preferred a garbage sorting shed in a park-like space. In another similar case, the NGT has raised objections to the activities of the Radhaswami Satsang in Paraur. While the forest within the Satsang's perimeter has been damaged, a practice of expansion has begun that has even damaged the drains and ravines flowing nearby, impeding natural drainage before the monsoons. Signs of such impact are visible almost everywhere in Himachal. Roads, fields, and ravines have become dumping grounds, so the reason behind this must be understood. Here, the Kullu Municipal Council, mistaking its priorities for compulsion, is dumping the garbage of its responsibilities where the city's lungs provide the citizens with open air. On the other hand, whether it's plunder in the name of satsang or, due to influence, this institution is subordinating local well-being. Some such institutions in Himachal Pradesh are actually trading not only land and the environment, but also the system. Paraur's gatherings are held at such a juncture that it becomes a difficult time for ordinary travelers. While the efforts to establish the Radhasoami Satsang's recognition within the social strata are undoubtedly working, the souls of ordinary citizens are tormented outside the institution. If the institution had wanted, it could have embraced the entire Paraur village and established numerous gardens of peace, but now it is becoming an experiment of glorification within its walls, transforming the natural and cultural harmony of the surroundings into a misfortune.

Water-tap, charity and Indian culture: A story of lost sensibilities

Sunil Kumar Mahala

These days, all of North India is scorching under the intense heat of summer. The truth is that the intense heat has made life miserable. In fact, in such weather, humans need water more than food. After all, water is life, life itself. Science recognizes that the human body is composed largely of water, but ironically, today that same water has been bottled and become a commodity. In this era of RO and modern water filters, the tradition of "Pyauu," once an integral part of Indian life, is almost extinct. Simply put, the use of RO and modern water filters has increased in most homes today, but according to experts, the process of excessive purification also depletes water of many essential natural minerals, such as calcium, magnesium, and potassium. In contrast, water from an earthen pot is considered naturally cool, tasty, and relatively balanced. The pot not only cools the water but also preserves its natural quality to a large extent. This is why in Indian tradition, water from a pitcher is considered closer to both health and nature.

Readers know that in ancient India, setting up water fountains at various places was considered not just a service, but also a folk duty and a virtuous act. This tradition is still alive in some places, especially in the desert regions of Rajasthan, where water is lovingly offered to passersby, wanderers, and weary travelers from Gangasagar—a brass or copper pipe-like vessel. In villages, "khe-lis" (water tanks) were built for animals along the fields, and wells, ponds, and traditional water sources existed, but these sights are rarely seen now. The

truth is that the Indian culture, which considered quenching thirst a virtue, is gradually receding into memory.

In Indian tradition, the "Pyauu" or "Praapa" (water-giving place) has been a symbol of social sensitivity and human compassion. Providing free, cool water to passersby and the needy during the scorching heat was a centuries-old philanthropic tradition. Indian scriptures, especially the Bhavishyottar Purana and Skanda Purana, describe "Praapa Daan," or water donation, as virtuous as the donation of gold or cows. Let me remind readers that in many places, it was also called "Paushala." Kings, wealthy businessmen, merchants, and ordinary people would set up water-tapows at intersections, markets, and roads. Elders recount that in some places, passersby would be lovingly offered jaggery, sugar candy, or roasted gram along with water. In fact, in Indian culture, this tradition was not limited to humans. People placed earthen pots for birds on the rooftops of their houses and filled water pots for animals under trees. Water conservation and compassion for living beings were a natural part of the Indian lifestyle. Moreover, in many places, widows or needy people were employed to serve water at water taps, and they were paid a respectable honorarium. Thus, the water taps were a means of service, compassion, and employment. Even today, we can still find water taps at railway stations.

For centuries, water-tapows (water-tapows) have been set up in North India during the months of Vaishakh and Jyeshtha to quench the thirst of passersby. People would volunteer to offer

cold water or sherbet to passersby, as Indian culture considers giving water to the thirsty a supreme virtue. There was a time when earthen pots filled with water were seen placed under the shade of trees every kilometer or two in cities. Passersby would draw water and quench their thirst. Wealthy and prominent people would open water-tapows during the summer, where charitable people would call out, "Drink water, drink water! Come, drink cool water and satisfy both your mind and soul." In fact, this scene was not merely a symbol of hospitality, but part of a cultural consciousness that considered water the foundation of life, religion, and virtue. Until about seventy to eighty years ago, wealthy businessmen would dig wells, stepwells, and ponds in the name of religion and public welfare. Water conservation was once considered a collective responsibility of society. However, under the influence of modernity and consumerist lifestyles, this tradition gradually faded. Now, water and various sherbets and soft drinks are readily available in small and large bottles. Placing clay pots on the rooftops of homes, filling water for animals, and cleaning wells—all of these were once part of religious and cultural discipline during the months of May and June, but the modern development model has almost forgotten this philosophy of life.

The significance of water in Indian culture has been profound and pervasive. From the Rig Veda to the Puranas, water has been considered a symbol of purity, life, and consciousness. Rivers have been considered mothers, lakes as pilgrimage sites, and rain as divine grace. In religious

beliefs, water has also been a means of spiritual purification. This is why the donation of water holds a supreme place among many charitable traditions. In Sikhism, the "Chhbeel" tradition of offering sweet sherbet to passersby during the summer is a beautiful example of this human compassion.

But ironically, a country that once considered providing water to the thirsty a supreme virtue is now heading towards a severe water crisis. Groundwater levels are steadily declining. Many major cities are facing dire warnings like "Day Zero" in the summer. It is the greatest paradox of our times that the social water crisis is deepening, while commercial water is readily available everywhere. Water is no longer a service, but a business. However, awareness of water conservation has increased in recent years. Many villages are making efforts to harvest rainwater, revive ponds, and restore traditional water structures. This indicates that Indian society desires to return to its ancient cultural wisdom. However, the blind pursuit of consumerism and commerce repeatedly undermines this awareness. If water is to be reconnected with life, folk religion, and human compassion, the water culture of Indian tradition must be revived. Water conservation schemes alone will not suffice; a sense of respect, compassion, and sharing for water must also be revived in society. As long as water remains a mere commodity, its soul will continue to die. The need is to embrace modernity and preserve our cultural heritage, which considered water not just a resource but the sacred foundation of life.

Rahul Gandhi is preparing to explode the paper leak bomb on the Prime Minister

Sanat Jain

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has been handed the bombshell of the NEET-UG paper leak. This is a bombshell that threatens the future and displeasure of millions of youth and their families. Rahul Gandhi has targeted Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over this bombshell, which affects millions of people. Continuing to prioritize the issue of exam paper leaks, he has directly demanded Prime Minister Narendra Modi

to resign or dismiss Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. More than 80 incidents of paper leaks have occurred in various states across the country. The NEET exam was leaked in 2024. Thousands of candidates passed the exam with scores above 700. Their admissions to AIIMS and other government medical colleges were made after the NEET results. That exam, too, faced allegations of widespread irregularities. The matter was hushed up at the time. Due to the Supreme Court's intervention, neither the

exam was re-conducted nor the government conducted any investigation into the results. There have been continuous complaints of irregularities in the NEET exam. This is a scam worth thousands of crores of rupees in the country, which has been going on for years in the name of admissions to AIIMS and government medical colleges. The fees of government medical colleges are much lower than those of private colleges, while private medical colleges charge lakhs of rupees annually. In this situation, coaching centers and brokers are

engaging in this racket, raking in crores of rupees in the guise of securing admission to government medical colleges through the NEET exam. Those involved in the exam are earning crores of rupees every year. This time too, approximately 2.2 million students filled out NEET forms. Fees worth thousands of crores of rupees were collected from the candidates. Students have spent thousands of crores of rupees at coaching centers. Many students had prepared for this exam by working day and night for two to three years.

The paper leak has put everyone's future in doubt. Youth from almost all states have now taken to the streets over this issue. Southern states have begun discussing conducting entrance exams differently. So far, papers for various exams have been leaked more than 80 times. The youth are deeply angry, and large-scale protests have erupted in all states. In this situation, Rahul Gandhi is the only leader who has openly pressured the Prime Minister to resign or dismiss Union Education Minister Dharmendra

Pradhan. Defusing this bomb of resignation will be difficult for the central government and the Union Education Minister.

This time, a large number of youth are also supporting Rahul Gandhi in this fight. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court's insensitive remarks, calling the unemployed and those with fake degrees parasites, has further exacerbated youth resentment. Trust in the judiciary has also eroded. The investigating agency, the CBI, always takes action against students. Since the Vyapam scandal and the

NEET, papers have been leaked dozens of times. In those cases, action has always been taken against innocent students. No action has ever been taken against any corrupt or responsible officials. No politicians in power have ever resigned on grounds of morality or responsibility. No action has ever been taken against responsible officials. This has angered young people and led them to protest on the streets. Currently, Rahul Gandhi has seized an opportunity to criticize the government and the Union Education Minister over inflation, unemployment, and paper leaks.

Schools to geo-tag plantation on campus

New Delhi(GNS): The Directorate of Education (DoE) has made geo-tagging mandatory as part of a mega plantation drive aimed at increasing greenery across schools in the capital, directing institutions to upload location-based photographs of plantation sites before and after sapling drives. In a circular issued by DoE, all govt, aided and private recognised schools in Delhi have been instructed to participate in the campaign by planting at least 50 saplings, including 15 trees and 35 shrubs, on the inauguration day of the drive. The initiative is part of a broader target to plant 35,000 saplings across schools during the 2026-27 academic session.

"The DoE has directed schools to submit geo-tagged photographs of the plantation sites and pits through online Google forms before plantation begins," the circular stated. Schools have also been asked to upload photographs taken during and after the plantation process along with details of the number of saplings planted.

According to the schedule outlined in the circular, schools were required to complete site selection and soil preparation between April 1 and May 14, while pit digging is to be carried out from May 15 to May 25. The DoE has specified that the plantation site and pit-digging site must remain the same to ensure proper monitoring and implementation.

Zone conveners will coordinate with schools for smooth execution of the programme. The department has also planned a special tree plantation drive from Aug 1 to Aug 11 to further boost plantation efforts in schools. The circular further stated that schools must achieve 80% of their plantation target by Sept 15.

Free saplings for the campaign will be supplied by nurseries run by the forest department, GNCT of Delhi. Heads of schools, eco-club teachers, school management committee members and students have been asked to actively participate in the initiative and ensure regular maintenance of the planted saplings.

Outer Delhi set to get 13 new air stations before winter

New Delhi(GNS): Delhi govt has identified 13 locations, including Vikaspuri, Mungeshpur, Narela, Burari, Shastri Park, Tikri and Badarpur, for the installation of new continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations (CAAQMS) before the winter of 2026. The logic of choosing these areas, primarily in outer Delhi, is to ensure that at least one such station is available within every 5x5 sq km grid, Delhi environment minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said. The city currently has 47 operational stations.

Media reported last Nov that the distribution of the stations is uneven in Delhi-NCR. Though the capital has the highest number of such stations for any city in the country, the southwest and northwest peripheries have very few.

A report by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), an NGO, last year found that the existing monitoring network covers only 26% of Delhi's area within a 2 km radius, leaving a 74% data shadow; and 75% within a 5 km radius, leaving a 25% shadow. This results in the peripheral districts being underserved. Sirsa said out of the 13 stations, 10 will be installed by Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) and three by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune. DPCC has already floated a tender for the installation. "The stations are expected to become operational before this winter," said Sirsa.

In consultation with Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), a statutory body of Union govt, DPCC has identified the locations by considering the 5x5 grid. They include Chhawla in southwest Delhi, Ghogha in north Delhi, Rohini Sector 33 or Karala village in northwest Delhi, Vikaspuri in west Delhi, Burari in north Delhi, Maidangarhi in south Delhi, Shastri Park in northeast Delhi, Narela in north Delhi, Vasundhara enclave (two possible sites) in east Delhi, Badarpur in southeast Delhi, Jhatikra or Ghummanhera in Najafgarh, Mungeshpur in north-west Delhi and Tikri in west Delhi (two possible sites).

An official said that two optional locations have also been selected, including Jharoda Kalan in southwest Delhi and Nangloi in northwest Delhi.

Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director, research and advocacy, CSE, said that the expansion of the monitoring grid can generate data in peripheral areas or in underserved areas, provide more representative data, and track regional pollutant transport, while isolating local pollution.

"As a denser network can prevent hotspots from skewing air quality index (AQI), it is important to place the new monitors in all key polluted industrial areas, places that record heavy traffic and hotspots. It is more important to resolve data gaps, systemic deficiencies, faulty setting of monitors and artificial data "capping" during pollution peaks, which compromise forecasting and GRAP responses. Focus on data integrity, strict quality control and operational transparency to allow legally sound targeted enforcement," Roychowdhury said.

Delhi CM launches Rs 100-cr development works in Dwarka

New Delhi(GNS): Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday launched development projects worth nearly Rs 100 crore in the Dwarka Assembly constituency, announcing a major push to strengthen civic infrastructure, including roads, sewage lines, drainage systems and electricity networks, in the area.

Addressing a public programme in Dwarka, Gupta said the Delhi Government was working towards transforming the vision of a "Viksit Delhi" into reality. She said the projects launched in the constituency included road construction and repairs, renovation of chaupals, strengthening of drainage infrastructure, beautification of parks, laying of new sewage pipelines, transformer upgrades and replacement of old electricity cables.



Gupta added that the projects were aimed at addressing issues such as waterlogging, damaged roads, sewage overflow and power supply disruptions in the rapidly growing sub-city region. Additionally, the CM announced that Dwarka would benefit from a new metro expansion project worth Rs 6,200 crore under Phase-5 of the Delhi Metro.

She claimed her government had accelerated metro expansion by releasing Rs 10,000 crore for the project.

"Work related to regularisation and registration issues in unauthorised colonies has gained momentum after the formation of the double-engine government, enabling residents to secure legal ownership rights over their homes," said Gupta.

Rajdhani Fire Survivors Arrive in Delhi With Tales of Panic, Loss and Relief

New Delhi(GNS): The passengers of the Thiruvananthapuram-Hazrat Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express reached Delhi seven hours late, but relieved that their ordeal was over. Two coaches of the train caught fire early on Sunday morning.

The train caught fire in Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh. No lives were lost, but many of the 68 passengers who were evacuated from coach B1 lost all their belongings.

On platform 3 at Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station, Rajesh



Mohta (48), a textile trader from Surat, was standing with his 15-year-old daughter Khanak. They had set off for a vacation to Shimla. When the flames engulfed their B1 coach, the duo escaped, but all

their luggage was charred. "We got these slippers from Kota. We have lost everything else," Rajesh said, pointing to his feet.

Rajesh's phone and Khanak's glasses were the only belongings that

came out with them from the coach. "We were given Rs 5,000 as compensation, but we still need clarity on what happens next," the trader added.

Kishore Donga (53), a medicine businessman from Surat, had a similar account to narrate. He was travelling to Delhi for work with his associate Kaushik Kumar (27). Donga said he lost luggage worth nearly Rs 15,000. "After the evacuation, some passengers accommodated us in their seats before we were moved to another

coach at Kota," he said. The kindness of strangers carried the day. Donga struck a friendship with fellow Surat resident Aakash Baraiya, a textile businessman travelling with his wife. "The coach was engulfed in flames. It was horrifying," Baraiya said. "We are thankful to the man who first noticed the smoke and raised the alarm."

Among the passengers was 65-year-old Parvesh Khurana of Sonipat. She was on the train with eight family members. They had boarded the

express at Surat, after attending a family event. Parvesh, in a wheelchair outside the B6 coach, broke down when the station lift stopped working. Khurana suffered an ankle fracture while getting off the train at Ratlam and had to be taken to a hospital there. She again boarded the train with her family and reached Delhi.

A senior railway official said, "The lift developed some problem, unfortunately, for around 10 minutes during that time and was being repaired."

Delhi likely to record heatwave on Tuesday and Wednesday

New Delhi(GNS): The mercury rose to 43 degrees Celsius in parts of Delhi on Sunday and is likely to rise further. As the day temperature is expected to reach 45 degrees Celsius in isolated areas, the India Meteorological Department has issued a yellow alert for heatwave conditions for Tuesday and Wednesday. Apart from Delhi, heatwave conditions are likely in parts of northwest and central India.

The maximum temperature was recorded at 41.9 degrees Celsius, two degrees above normal, at Safdarjung, which is the city's base station, on Sunday. It was 40.8 degrees Celsius a day earlier. However, the heat index or feel-like temperature settled at 44.5 degrees Celsius at 5.30 pm on Sunday. At 43



degrees Celsius, Ayanagar in southwest Delhi was the hottest station, followed by Ridge in north Delhi at 42.8 degrees Celsius.

The maximum temperature is expected to remain between 43 and 45 degrees Celsius from Monday to Wednesday. "A gradual rise in maximum temperatures is likely by 3-5 degrees Celsius over many parts of northwest India till

May 21 and no significant change during May 22-23. Heat wave conditions in isolated pockets are likely to prevail over Rajasthan during May 17-22; Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi during May 18-23; Madhya Pradesh and Vidarbha during May 17-21; Chhattisgarh on May 20 and 21; and isolated pockets of Uttar Pradesh during May 17-21," said IMD in its bulletin.

NCB busts Uttarakhand lab used to manufacture captagon

New Delhi(GNS): Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has busted a pharmaceutical unit in Uttarakhand, which was allegedly being used by an international cartel to manufacture captagon, a powerful psychotropic drug said to be widely used by Islamic State (IS) fighters. In a separate operation, NCB has arrested a Myanmar-based drug kingpin from Delhi who was long wanted for allegedly running a large narcotics trafficking network along the India-Myanmar border.

The first crackdown, code-named under Operation RAZEPILL, followed the recent arrest of a Syrian from south Delhi's Neb Sarai and the seizure of 227 kg of captagon tablets and powder. During his interrogation, the foreigner revealed that the



drug was illegally manufactured at the Dehradun-based pharma facility last Nov with the help of another Syrian. The factory owner allegedly rented it out for around Rs 50,000 per day for the illegal operation.

NCB teams raided the factory premises and recovered the machinery used for manufacturing and packing the drug, along with large quantities of raw materials and chemicals. The factory owner was earlier linked to two other drug-related cases. He has been arrested.

'Boredom needs to be normalised': TOI's Let's D-Stress drive throws up screen-addiction solution'

New Delhi(GNS): How often do you check your phone in a day? And more importantly, why? Residents of Dakshinayan Apartments in Dwarka found themselves grappling with these questions as they gathered for The Times of India's 'Let's D-Stress' initiative on Saturday evening.

The session on digital wellbeing began with an interactive warm-up, with the residents reflecting on their daily routines and screen-time habits. A quick scan of a QR code to assess phone dependency set the tone for what followed - an honest look at how deeply devices have embedded themselves into our daily lives. Leading the discussion, Dr Chetna Luthra, clinical psychologist at Marengo Asia Hospitals, pointed out that phone use today often goes beyond

utility and slips into a coping mechanism. "In moments of stress or discomfort, the phone becomes a quick dose of dopamine," she explained, adding that this instant gratification is what makes people return to their screens repeatedly.

Luthra urged the residents to first identify the trigger behind their screen use - whether it is boredom, stress or restlessness - and then consciously replace it with healthier forms of stimulation, such as hobbies or physical activity. Addressing concerns around children, she said their rising screen dependency is closely linked to changing family and social structures. "With nuclear families and busy schedules, parents are often unavailable, and phones become an easy way to keep children occupied - during meals or

when they need time for themselves," she said, adding that systemic shifts, such as schools moving learning to iPads, have further normalised screen exposure. "In earlier joint family setups, children learned through interaction and even boredom. Today, that has changed, with a constant urge to remain occupied," Luthra observed,

stressing that boredom, too, needs to be normalised, and it is okay to not be doing something all the time for a healthy mental development. Highlighting early warning signs of digital overuse, she pointed to

symptoms, such as reduced attention span, disconnection from surroundings, sleep disturbances, loss of appetite, and even unexplained physical pain. "Stress often builds up and starts manifesting in the form of physical symptoms, even when medical tests show nothing," she said.

On conditions like Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), the doctor cautioned the participants against relying on trending online media assessments. "It is often underdiagnosed, and proper evaluation requires a detailed assessment by a professional," she said, adding that persistent attention issues, forgetfulness and poor daily functioning should not be ignored. She also shared practical steps to regain control - including at least

30 minutes of daily physical activity without screens, avoiding "double screening", not using phones during meals, and taking short breaks to rest the eyes and mind after prolonged use.

"After every 40 minutes of screen time, even five minutes of closing your eyes can help reset the nervous system," Luthra said.

Emphasising the role of community, she encouraged residents to rebuild lost social connections. "Something as simple as taking a walk after dinner and meeting neighbours can make a difference," she said, adding that habit-building has to be deliberate. The doctor also flagged the cycle of "cheap dopamine" driven by short-form content. "Even a one-minute reel works on anticipation of reward, making you want more."

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Chief Engineer, Western Railway,
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WB41-2225-07. Name of Work: (i)
Reconditioning/ Overhauling of CSM
09-3X/ HOT - 3X Four Sets Tamping
Unit of Plasser make or equivalent.
(ii) Reconditioning/ Overhauling of
Tamping units for Plasser make DUO/
CSM Machines of WR Make-Plasser or
equivalent. Estimated Cost of Work:
₹12,43,14,586.00/-, EMD: ₹24,86,300/-
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Dt:13-05-2026. Work and location:
Signal & Telecom work in connection with
(1) Joravasan - Surat Section - CTR(P)-
14.624 TKM for Passenger Loops (2)
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Approx. Cost of Work: ₹1,50,96,933.26/-
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Sibash Kabiraj appointed Gurugram police chief amid major IPS officers' reshuffle in Haryana

New Delhi(GNS): In a major administrative reshuffle of senior police officers in Haryana, the state government on Sunday appointed senior IPS officer Sibash Kabiraj as the new Commissioner of Police (CP) of Gurugram, replacing Vikas Arora.

The transfer was part of a wider reshuffle carried out by the Haryana Home Department involving several senior IPS officers across the state. According to official orders, Kabiraj, a 1999-batch IPS officer, has been shifted from the post of Commissioner of Police, Panchkula, to head the Gurugram Police Commissionerate.

Outgoing Gurugram Police Commissioner Vikas Arora has been posted as Additional



Director General of Police (ADGP), Administration, Panchkula. Kabiraj is considered as a seasoned officer with extensive experience in urban policing, cybercrime monitoring, and law-and-order management. Before serving in Panchkula, he held several key assignments in the Haryana Police, including senior supervisory and intelligence-related roles. The transfer was part of a

wider reshuffle carried out by the Haryana Home Department involving several senior IPS officers across the state. According to official orders, Kabiraj, a 1999-batch IPS officer, has been shifted from the post of Commissioner of Police, Panchkula, to head the Gurugram Police Commissionerate. Outgoing Gurugram Police Commissioner Vikas Arora has been posted as Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Administration, Panchkula.

Kabiraj is considered as a seasoned officer with extensive experience in urban policing, cybercrime monitoring, and law-and-order management. Before serving in Panchkula, he held several key assignments in the Haryana Police, including

senior supervisory and intelligence-related roles.

Earlier this year, he had also been given the additional charge of ADGP (Cyber) and Director of the State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB).

The reshuffle comes at a crucial time for Gurugram, where the police force is grappling with rising cybercrime complaints, traffic management challenges, rapid urban expansion, and law-and-order concerns linked to growing population density and infrastructure development. The Gurugram Police Commissionerate, one of the busiest policing units in Haryana, oversees cyber policing, corporate security, traffic regulation, and crime control in the NCR's leading corporate and residential hub.

Delhi high court transfers district judge over 'objectionable' conduct

New Delhi(GNS): Delhi high court on Sunday evening transferred a judge of the Rohini district court. A lawyers' body had demanded the transfer of district judge-4 (north-west) Rakesh Kumar V. He has been attached to the director of Delhi Judicial Academy with immediate effect. Judicial officer Dhiraj Mittal has been transferred from the academy to the Rohini court as the replacement.

Registrar-general Arun Bhardwaj issued the transfer orders on Sunday. Lawyers of the Delhi district courts had raised a demand for the transfer of judge Kumar after a dispute between him and advocate Rajiv Tehlan, who is the president of the Rohini Court Bar Association. The coordination committee of All-Delhi District Bar Associations had called a strike on Monday in all district courts over this matter. On Sunday, the coordination committee issued the circular in this regard.

It said that in an emergent meeting, the committee resolved that the



highly objectionable and unbecoming conduct displayed on May 16 by judge Kumar towards an advocate, who also happens to be the president of the Rohini Court Bar Association, during proceedings, had caused deep resentment and serious concern among all the members of the district court bar. The circular also said that the coordination committee resolved that judge Kumar should be immediately transferred from the Rohini courts. All judicial work be withdrawn from him forthwith, and an inquiry into his conduct would be initiated at the earliest.

From flush to filth: Why Delhi's sewage ends up in Yamuna

New Delhi(GNS): With every flush in Delhi begins a long underground journey.

In theory, sewage travels through sewers, reaches pumping stations, is treated at sewage treatment plants (STPs), and only then is safely discharged or reused.

In reality, large volumes of untreated or partially treated waste still find their way into the Yamuna through stormwater drains, broken networks, and because of illegal dumping.

Though recent Delhi Pollution Control Committee data shows some improvement in the quality of the river water compared with last year, the river's fecal coliform levels



- a key indicator of sewage contamination from human excreta - remain alarming; up to 620 times above the desired limit and 124 times higher than standards prescribed for outdoor bathing.

Delhi currently has an installed sewage treatment capacity of about 814 million

gallons per day (MGD), while sewage generation has crossed 992 MGD, according to activists citing Economic Survey estimates. Even if the city achieves the planned expansion to 964.5 MGD by this Dec, experts say treatment alone will not solve the crisis. The city's sewage is supposed

to move through underground sewer lines into sewage pumping stations (SPS), from where it is diverted to STPs. At these plants, the sewage undergoes screening, sedimentation, biological treatment and disinfection before the treated water is released into drains or reused.

But the system leaks at nearly every stage in the city. "The main thing is that you are not capturing all the sewage, so some of it escapes the sewerage network," said Prof A K Gosain of IIT-Delhi, pointing to unauthorised colonies and unsewered pockets where the waste directly enters drains.

He said ageing infrastructure is another major problem. "There are networks where

some sewer lines were intentionally punctured earlier to relieve choking. Unless you desilt and repair them, sewage will keep leaking into natural drains," he said.

According to Gosain, Delhi's rapid vertical expansion - old houses are replaced by multi-storey apartments - has sharply increased sewage generation without matching upgrades in infrastructure. "Water supply, sewage handling and stormwater systems are interconnected. They must be tackled together," he added. Activist Pankaj Kumar of Earth Warriors, a social enterprise, said large gaps remain outside the formal sewer network in Delhi.



MCD Standing Committee polls postponed amid buzz over change in Delhi BJP leadership

New Delhi(GNS): The election for members of the Standing Committee in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), scheduled for May 23, has been postponed amid growing speculation of a leadership change in the Delhi unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Party sources said BJP leadership was considering a major organisational reshuffle in Delhi, with discussions underway over replacing current Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva. According to insiders, Kuljeet Singh Chahal has emerged as a frontrunner for the post.

Chahal, currently serving as Vice-Chairman of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), is seen as an influential OBC face within the party. BJP leaders indicated that the party is looking to strengthen its outreach among OBCs, who hold significant electoral influence in nearly half of Delhi's 70 Assembly constituencies.

A senior BJP source said party leadership had been considering multiple names but was increasingly inclined towards appointing an OBC leader to head the Delhi unit. Besides Chahal, names of former Delhi BJP general secretary Jai Prakash, OBC morcha president Sunil Yadav and senior leader Rajiv Babbar are reportedly also being discussed within party circles.

Party insiders described Chahal as one of the longest-serving office-bearers in the Delhi BJP who has remained part of successive organisational teams under former state chiefs including Satish Upadhyay, Manoj Tiwari and Adesh Gupta. He has handled several key organisational assignments, including membership drives and outreach programmes during the farmers' agitation period.

Delhi police enforces new cost cutting measures

New Delhi(GNS): Delhi Police has rolled out a range of austerity measures, including rationalisation of VIP and VVIP carcade sizes, virtual meetings and coordinated route planning keeping fuel conservation and reduction of expenditure in mind.

Starting from the rationalisation of VIP movements, non-patrolling staff have been asked to adopt a series of measures aimed at cutting unnecessary vehicular use and operational costs.

These include pooling of official motorcycles and vehicles, carpooling for court appearances and common duties, preference for video conferencing over physical meetings, and encouraging the use of Metro and public transport wherever feasible.

According to an order issued by the General Administration



branch of Delhi Police with the approval of the Commissioner of Police, district and unit heads have also been directed to monitor fuel consumption, vehicle logbooks and servicing to ensure economical usage. Officers have been instructed to consolidate multiple official tasks into single trips through better route planning and coordination.

The order further mentions conservation of electricity in offices, reduction of redundant travel expenses, rationalisation of manpower deployment and prioritisation of Made-in-India products in procurement and personal use. All district DCPs and supervisory officers have been directed to ensure immediate compliance with the instructions.

NHAI flags use of tampered number plates to evade toll

New Delhi(GNS): Seeking to curb the menace of people tampering with their vehicle's number plates - such as erasing or hiding letters and numbers using paper or plastic - to evade toll payment at the camera-based Mundka barrierless toll plaza, NHAI has urged Delhi transport department to carry out regular and sustained enforcement drives against such violators.

Under the Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF), or barrierless, tolling system at Mundka Bakkarwala plaza on UER-II - the second such plaza on the national highway network - vehicles do not need to stop to pay toll charges.

High-performance RFID readers and automatic number plate recognition systems integrated with AI-enabled cameras installed overhead allow seamless vehicle identification, and the toll amount is automatically deducted from the FASTag wallet linked to a vehicle.

Media has learnt that NHAI



has highlighted that the success of barrier-less tolling is dependent on accurate and reliable readability of vehicle number plates. Hence it's essential to ensure that all vehicles passing through MLFF toll plaza are fitted with High Security Registration Plates (HSRP), ensuring clear visibility of both front and rear number plates, it has said.

"Any instance of tampered,

non-standard, defaced, or obscured number plates will directly impair the automated tolling system, leading to revenue leakage and enforcement challenges for the govt," NHAI has said.

Officials said that in most cases, such vehicles do not have FASTags affixed to their windshields, making toll deduction impossible. In addition, tracking such vehicles

becomes difficult, and e-notices cannot be issued because without an exact registration number vehicle owners cannot be identified through the Vahan database. They added that though the share of such vehicles passing through the toll plaza is less than 1%, there is an urgent need to mend this.

Media has learnt that NHAI has written to authorities concerned in states where MLFF is going to be rolled out. In the next few weeks, this will be implemented at Gharanda toll plaza on Delhi-Amritsar highway; Manoharpura, Shahjahanpur and Daultapura in Rajasthan on Delhi-Jaipur highway.

Officials said that nearly half of those who received e-notices after MLFF started at Chyorasi in Gujarat and Mundka in Delhi are paying their dues within the stipulated 72 hours. The numbers of e-notices are less in the case of Delhi.

IGL Hikes CNG Price Again

New Delhi(GNS): Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) has increased the price of compressed natural gas (CNG) for the second time in three days, a move that may push up freight and passenger fares in the capital.

The price of CNG in the national capital increased by Re 1 per kg, from Rs 88.09 to Rs 89.09, on Sunday. IGL had earlier raised retail CNG prices by Rs 2 per kg on May 15, when oil companies also increased petrol and diesel prices.

It is now priced at Rs 88.70 per kg in Noida and Ghaziabad, and Rs 85.12 per kg in Gurgaon.

Officials said the input cost of gas has increased by more than Rs 10 per kg since Feb amid disruptions in energy supplies arising from geopolitical tensions in West Asia. The share of higher-priced NWG (new well gas) in the domestic gas allocation basket has increased relative to cheaper administered price mechanism (APM) gas with effect from May 16, leading to a rise in the blended cost of domestically supplied natural gas. The US dollar has also appreciated from around Rs 91



to Rs 96 over the past four months, increasing expenditure on imported LNG procurement.

The revision comes at a time when global LNG prices have risen sharply since Feb. Spot LNG prices have increased by over 60% - from around \$10-11 per mmBtu in Feb to nearly \$18 per mmBtu in mid-May - amid supply concerns and shipping constraints. Nearly a fifth of global energy supplies pass through the critical Strait of Hormuz, where disruptions linked to the US-Israel conflict with Iran since March have heightened concerns over supplies.

The gas retailer said the revised CNG prices will marginally offset the impact of rising input gas costs and the sharp appreciation of the US dollar.