



PM Modi, US Secretary Marco Rubio Discuss Defence, Trade And Indo-Pacific Cooperation

New Delhi(GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday held talks with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in New Delhi, with discussions focusing on strengthening bilateral cooperation in defence, trade, strategic technologies, energy security and regional issues.

According to the Prime Minister's Office, Secretary Rubio briefed PM Modi on the sustained progress in India-US cooperation across several sectors, including defence, connectivity, education, investment and people-to-people ties.

The US Secretary of State also shared Washington's perspective on regional and global developments, including the situation in

West Asia. During the meeting, Prime Minister Modi reaffirmed India's consistent support for peace efforts and reiterated the need for resolving conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy.

The Prime Minister also requested Rubio to convey his warm greetings to US President Donald Trump and said he looked forward to continued exchanges with him.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor and US Under Secretary of State Allison Hooker were among those present during the meeting.

Describing the meeting as productive, Ambassador Gor said



India and the United States continued to strengthen cooperation in areas that support a free and open Indo-Pacific region. "We had a productive discussion on ways to deepen U.S.-India cooperation

across security, trade, and critical technologies — areas that strengthen both our nations and advance a free and open Indo-Pacific. India is a vital partner to the United States," Gor said in a post on X. Earlier, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said Rubio's visit would further strengthen the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership.

Rubio arrived in India on Saturday for a four-day visit from May 23 to 26. Accompanied by his wife Jeanette D. Rubio, Ambassador Sergio Gor and US Principal Deputy National Security Advisor Robert Gabriel, Rubio began his India visit with a stop in Kolkata, where he visited

the Missionaries of Charity and paid tribute to Mother Teresa.

"I was honored to visit the Missionaries of Charity to pay homage to her legacy and to see the living example of the Catholic faith in action," Rubio said on X.

The visit comes ahead of the upcoming QUAD foreign ministers' meeting scheduled to be held in New Delhi on May 26. Rubio is also expected to travel to Agra and Jaipur during his India visit.

Officials said the high-level engagements during the visit would focus on enhancing cooperation in defence, trade, advanced technologies, energy security and collaboration under the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue framework.

Blast in China's coal mine kills 90

247 workers were working; Xi Jinping says he will not spare the guilty.

Beijing(GNS): At least 90 people have been killed in a massive coal mine explosion in China's Shanxi province, in what is believed to be the worst coal mine accident in China in over a decade.

The explosion occurred on Friday in Qinyuan County, Shaanxi Province, about 520 kilometers southwest of Beijing, according to the state-run Xinhua news agency. A carbon monoxide alert had been issued in the mine before the accident. A massive explosion occurred shortly thereafter. There were 247 workers inside the mine at the time of the



explosion. It's not yet clear how many are still trapped inside. Rescue and relief operations are ongoing.

Surprisingly, Xinhua initially reported only eight deaths immediately after the accident and said that more than 200 workers had been safely evacuated. Later,

the death toll suddenly increased to 82. State media did not explain how the figure rose so rapidly.

Chinese President Xi Jinping directed rescue teams to do everything possible to find the missing, vowing that those responsible would not be spared.

The PM handed over appointment letters to 51,000 youth saying that youth will play a major role in developing India

New Delhi(GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday handed over appointment letters for central government jobs to over 51,000 youth at the 19th Employment Fair held via video conferencing. He stated that the country's youth will play a crucial role in building a developed India, and that the coming years will see significant employment opportunities in the new economy and technology-driven sectors.

The Prime Minister stated that this day is crucial for thousands of youth across the country and their families. The appointed youth will assume new responsibilities in railways, banking, defense, health, education, and other sectors and will become responsible partners in the country's development journey. Modi noted that during his recent five-nation visit, he held



extensive discussions with the heads of major global companies, and everywhere he observed enthusiasm for India's youth and the country's technological progress. He said that the world wants to be a part of India's development journey and that India is creating new opportunities for its youth by expanding partnerships with various countries.

The Prime Minister noted that sectors such as clean energy, critical minerals, green

hydrogen, and sustainable manufacturing are rapidly advancing. Increasing cooperation in green transition and sustainable technology with countries like Sweden, Norway, and Italy will strengthen India's position in the clean manufacturing industry of the future. Partnerships with the UAE and Norway will also strengthen India's shipbuilding ecosystem, increasing demand for engineers, technicians, and skilled workers.

He stated that the country is

moving forward with the goal of a developed India by 2047. To this end, large-scale investments are being made in various sectors, creating millions of new employment opportunities for the youth. The Prime Minister noted that India is rapidly becoming an electronics manufacturing hub and that a semiconductor manufacturing supply chain is being developed within the country. In the coming years, India's 10 largest semiconductor units will gain

Cockroach Janata Party claims website shut down, Instagram hacked;

Founder says government is dictatorial, can't stop protests; Sonam Wangchuk says I'm a cockroach too

New Delhi(GNS):The Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) on Saturday accused the government of hacking its Instagram account and shutting down its website. The party reported in a post at 8:25 a.m. that the CJP's Instagram account was unreachable. Following this, party founder Abhijit Dipke said at 1:14 pm on X: "The government has shut down our website."



Heatwave in Telangana kills 16

Temperature reaches 47°C in Banda, UP, 40° to 47°C in 11 states, including MP and Rajasthan; no relief for next 2 days

New Delhi(GNS): Much of the country is reeling under intense heat and a heatwave. In Telangana, 16 deaths have been reported so far due to the heatwave, according to state Revenue Minister Srinivas Reddy.

On Friday, temperatures ranged between 40°C and 47°C in 11 states across North, West

and Central India, including Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

A heatwave alert has been issued in these 11 states. The highest temperatures were 47°C in Banda, Uttar Pradesh, and 46.8°C in Naugaon, Madhya Pradesh. There is no hope of relief from the heat for the next two days.

All of the world's 50 hottest cities are in India.

According to the private agency AQI, all the cities on the world's 50 hottest cities list on Friday were in India. Many cities in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, and Haryana reached 42 to 44°C before noon. Uttar Pradesh alone had 22 cities on

the hottest list.

At 10:50 am, Balangir in Odisha was the hottest city with a temperature of 45°C. Bynoon, Brahmapuri in Vidarbha recorded the highest temperature in the country at 47.2°C. At 3 pm, the world's 22 hottest cities recorded temperatures above 47°C. All of these cities were in India

HIT attack on Cockroach



Parliament security breach case: Fourth charge sheet under UAPA, running to 13,000 pages, filed

The accused deliberately conspired to breach the security arrangements of Parliament.

New Delhi (GNS): The accused with serious charges, including involvement in terrorist activities, conspiracy to incite riots, and endangering national security. The police allege that the accused deliberately conspired to breach Parliament's security with the aim of creating an atmosphere of fear and unrest across the country. The Special Cell has prepared the charge sheet



based on concrete evidence gathered during its investigation, including digital data, call records, social media chats, and other technical evidence. The accused have been charged under various sections of the

Indian Penal Code (IPC) as well as several other serious sections of the UAPA, including offenses such as obstructing public servants on duty, inciting a riot, destruction of evidence, and criminal conspiracy. The Delhi Police have clarified that this incident at a sensitive location like Parliament was not merely a protest, but rather evidence of an organized conspiracy and extensive preparations. Investigating agencies are now thoroughly investigating potential other net-

works, sources of funding, and any foreign connections involved in this case.

It is worth noting that during the winter session of Parliament in December 2023, some young men jumped from the visitors' gallery into the Lok Sabha House and released smoke canisters, raising serious questions about Parliament's security arrangements across the country. Immediately after the incident, the Delhi Police Special Cell took over the investigation.

The Indian economy is caught in a major crisis between fear, greed and capitalism

Sanat Jain

The direction in which India's economy has progressed over the past decade has raised serious questions about both development and economic well-being. After 2014, the country was promised a dream of economic prosperity through lofty promises like "good days," 20 million jobs annually, bringing back black money from abroad, and depositing ₹15 lakh in every family's account. By 2026, it has become clear that a deep chasm has developed between these promises and the actual economic situation. The country's youth population is considered its greatest strength, but ironically, these same youth are facing the highest levels of unemployment and economic insecurity today.

Despite receiving education, millions of youth are unable to find permanent employment. Even where jobs have been found, contract systems and low wages have fueled youth exploitation. On the other hand, the government continues to claim that India will join the world's leading economies. The benefits of economic growth have not reached the average citizen as expected. Decisions like demonetization and GST were hailed as historic economic reforms, but their adverse effects were most felt by small businesses, the unorganized sector, and small-scale industries. Demonetization claimed to have eliminated black money, but most of the cash returned to banks. Meanwhile, the complex GST system crippled small businesses. Millions of small and medium-

sized businesses shut down, reducing employment opportunities.

Meanwhile, inflation continued to rise. Petrol, diesel, fertilizers, electricity, banking services, and daily necessities became more expensive, while the income of ordinary people did not increase in proportion. As a result, the middle class and lower classes became trapped in debt. While the government's welfare schemes, such as free rations, the Ayushman Yojana, the Ujjwala Yojana, and the Kisan Samman Nidhi, were widely publicized, numerous cases of corruption and irregularities have surfaced in their implementation. Several audit reports have exposed fraudulent payments and financial irregularities worth crores of rupees. Another major challenge facing the Indian economy is the

rising debt and fiscal deficit. The central and state governments are constantly borrowing heavily and claiming development, but the question is: is this development sustainable? In the name of development, corruption is rampant. Commissions have reached 30 to 50 percent. The extent of development achieved through this corruption is easily understood. Debt is continuously increasing compared to GDP. The economic crisis will deepen in the future due to the large portion of the government budget being spent on interest payments. Additionally, economic inequality has risen sharply. While the wealth of a few large industrialists has multiplied, the savings and purchasing power of ordinary citizens has diminished. The expansion of online commerce and glob-

al companies has also impacted local businesses. Small shopkeepers and traditional businesses have gradually closed. Multinational companies have taken over the retail sector. It is also a matter of concern that India's imports are steadily increasing, while exports have not caught up to the expected pace. Foreign exchange pressures are mounting. Global tensions in West Asia, the oil crisis, and a potential global recession are posing new challenges for the Indian economy. At such a time, if economic policies are not balanced and visionary, the crisis could deepen. It is also true that it is easy for governments to win elections and make popular announcements; the real challenge for governments is to strengthen the country's economic foundation.

Editorial

Is India a major economy?

Renowned economist Surjit Bhalla has served on Prime Minister Modi's Economic Advisory Council and as an Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund. Therefore, the indicators of the Indian economy he describes are not merely criticisms of the government, but also serious questions. He raises the paradox that the BJP is at the "climax" of its political career. While the electoral victory in Bengal is certainly historic, it is losing in terms of the economy. The country's economy is weak and low. There is no guarantee that it will not fall into the "lowest" category. According to economist Bhalla, India ranks 9th in terms of GDP growth, 8th in per capita GDP growth, and 16th in terms of per capita growth in dollar terms. Bangladesh ranks first with 8.3 percent annual per capita growth. A country like Ethiopia, a country with war-torn and sunburned faces, ranks second with 7.2 percent GDP growth. India's per capita growth in US dollars is 4.7 percent, placing it in 16th place. Based on Dr. Bhalla's data, it's natural to question whether India is a "major economy" or still a "fragile economy." The renowned economist's primary concern is the decline in private and foreign investment (averaging 32%) and the continued devaluation of the rupee over the past seven years. Exports have also declined significantly. Another analysis comes from Professor Santosh Mehrotra, also an internationally renowned development economist. He served as Director General (equivalent to a Secretary in the Government of India) of the Institute of Applied Human Resource Research in the Planning Commission from 2009-14. He is still a visiting professor of economics at several universities, including Britain and Moscow. Professor Mehrotra's research analysis has shown that approximately 121 million young people in India are neither studying nor working. Of these, approximately 80 million youth report agriculture as their occupation, which would be their ancestral occupation. Such widespread youth labor is being wasted because they are unemployed.

Beauty vs. Safety – The Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 and the Strictness of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)

Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani

A major blow to the growing health hazard in the name of cosmetic injections – a comprehensive analysis

Government puts a stop to the blind pursuit of beauty - Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 and CDSCO's new warning issued on 21 May 2026

Cosmetic products cannot be used for injection purposes - Offenders will face stringent legal action under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 - imprisonment up to one year, fine of Rs 20,000 or both

The desire to look beautiful is rapidly increasing globally today. The competition for glowing skin, instant fairness, anti-aging treatments, skin tightening, and beauty without surgery has transformed the cosmetic and beauty industry into a huge market. Social media influencers, online advertising, and clinics offering so-called "instant results" are increasingly attracting people. But behind this glamour lies a dangerous truth. Many beauty clinics and illegal centers are using cosmetic products as injections, even though such products are designed for external use only. In many places, injection-based so-called beauty treatments are being performed by untrained individuals, seriously compromising people's health. In light of this growing threat, the Indian government has now taken a tough stand. India's drug regulatory body, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization, issued a public notice on May 21, 2026, clarifying that no cosmetic product can be used as an injection. The organization has warned that doing so will be considered a violation of the law and that strict legal action will be taken against those found guilty under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani, Gandia, Maharashtra, believe that this government move is not merely a matter of enforcing regulations, but a major interven-

tion to protect people from health risks and curb the widespread irregularities in the beauty industry. A notice issued by India's drug regulatory body, the CDSCO, clearly states that "cosmetic" products are for external use only. They cannot be used by injection, infusion, or any other intravenous procedure. According to the law, cosmetics are intended solely for skin cleansing, fragrance, beautification, or external appearance enhancement. If a product is injected into the body, it falls outside the category of a regular cosmetic and requires separate medical approval and scientific testing. This is why the CDSCO clarified that using cosmetic products as injections is a direct violation of the regulations.

Friends, if we are to understand the law enacted in this regard, as an advocate, I would like to inform you that several sections of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, may be applicable for action in this case. Section 18 prohibits the manufacture, sale, distribution, or use of cosmetics that are substandard, misleading, or in violation of regulations. Section 17C deals with "misbranded cosmetics," which includes products with false claims, misleading labeling, or false advertising. Similarly, Section 26A empowers the Central Government to ban the manufacture, sale, or use of any cosmetic in the public interest. Section 27A provides for punishment for those violating these regulations. If a cosmetic is found to be counterfeit or adulterated, a maximum of three years' imprisonment and a minimum fine of 50,000 rupees or three times the product's price can be imposed. However, if a cosmetic is used in violation of regulations, such as for injections, the penalty is a maximum of one year in prison, a fine of up to 20,000 rupees, or both. If restrictive orders issued by the central government are violated, there are also provisions for severe penalties under Section 28B. This makes it clear that the CDSCO's warning is not merely an advisory, but a fully legal and punishable matter.

Friends, if we consider the government's notice, its concern isn't limited to regulations, but also the serious health risks involved. In the past few years, terms like skin whitening injections, glutathione injections, instant glow therapy, anti-aging injections, and face lift injections have become increasingly popular on social media and digital platforms. These are promoted as if a person's skin will be completely transformed in minutes. Many clinics lure people by claiming these procedures are scientific and safe, yet in many cases, they lack sufficient medical evidence. The most worrying thing is that in many places, untrained or non-medical personnel are administering these injections. This can lead to infections, allergic reactions, skin damage, nerve damage, hormonal imbalances, and even life-threatening conditions. According to experts, any injection-based procedure impacts the body's internal systems. If the purity, dosage, method of administration, and medical supervision of a substance are not correct, it can have serious side effects. Incorrectly administered injections can lead to problems such as sepsis, permanent skin damage, facial disfigurement, liver and kidney damage, and immune system dysfunction. This is why medical science only allows injection procedures under the supervision of trained physicians. The government believes that selling unscientific treatments in the name of beauty treatments, exploiting people's emotions and insecurities, has become a very dangerous trend.

Friends, if we understand the warning issued by the Drug Controller General of India, it also clarifies that no company or seller can make claims that mislead consumers. If a product's label, packaging, or advertisement claims to cure a disease, permanently lighten the skin, or provide effects similar to medical treatment, this is considered illegal. The government has also clarified that false advertising, exaggerated claims, labels with incorrect information, and the use

of banned chemicals are completely illegal. In such cases, action can be taken against the concerned company, clinic, or distributor.

Friends, in today's digital age, social media has given unprecedented momentum to the beauty industry. People are influenced by "before and after" photos on Instagram, YouTube, and short video platforms. Young people, especially teenagers and women, are easily influenced by these advertisements. Celebrities and influencers often promote such products, instilling trust in the public. However, the reality is that these claims are rarely scientifically verified. Many products have been found to contain steroids, harmful chemicals, or unauthorized substances. This is why the government is now monitoring not only the products themselves but also their marketing methods. It is crucial to understand the difference between cosmetics and medical treatments. Cosmetic products are for external use only, such as creams, lotions, face washes, makeup, or perfumes. Their purpose is solely to enhance cleanliness and external beauty. On the other hand, injections, fillers, Botox, or other medical procedures affect the body's internal structure and biological systems. Therefore, they should only be performed by qualified physicians, in a controlled environment, and according to scientific protocols. Getting such treatments at a regular beauty parlor or an unlicensed clinic can pose serious risks. This warning from the CDSCO is considered especially important for aesthetic, beauty, and wellness clinics. According to officials, several complaints have been received recently about the misuse of cosmetic products. Many clinics were offering injection-based procedures as "cosmetic therapy," even though they were not legally permitted. Complaints also revealed that some institutions were claiming miraculous results without scientific evidence. Following these incidents, the CDSCO took the appropriate decision to issue a public warning with immediate effect.

What arrangements does India have after being affected by El Nino?

Saurabh Varshey

Amid the growing impacts of climate change worldwide, El Niño is once again becoming a concern for India. This weather phenomenon, triggered by an abnormal increase in the Pacific Ocean's temperature, directly impacts the Indian monsoon. In an agricultural country like India, even minor disruptions in the monsoon have a significant impact on agriculture, the economy, water scarcity, and inflation. Therefore, it's natural to ask: if the impact of El Niño deepens, what are India's resources to deal with it?

Nearly half of India's agri-

cultural sector still depends on rainfall. El Niño weakens the monsoon, reduces rainfall, and creates drought-like conditions in many states. This directly impacts farmers' incomes, food production, and the rural economy. Furthermore, power generation, drinking water supply, and industry are also affected. Therefore, El Niño is not just a weather problem, but also an economic and social challenge.

However, in the past few years, India has taken significant steps in this direction. The India Meteorological Department now issues more accurate and timely weather forecasts than ever before.

Using satellite technology and modern scientific systems, the government continuously monitors monsoon conditions. This helps states and farmers prepare in advance.

Efforts are also underway to transform the agricultural sector. The government is promoting drought-resistant seeds and encouraging farmers to cultivate crops that require less water. Schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) help farmers recover from losses due to natural disasters. Furthermore, under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), modern irrigation techniques

like drip and sprinkler irrigation are being encouraged, enabling higher production with less water.

Many efforts are also underway to conserve water. The government is focusing on programs such as the Jal Shakti Abhiyan, pond rejuvenation, rainwater harvesting, and groundwater conservation. Many states have also increased community participation to strengthen water management at the local level. It is important to understand that water will become the biggest challenge in the future.

Even in the energy sector, India no longer wants to rely solely on hydropower. Efforts

are underway to strengthen energy security by expanding solar and wind power. Even if reservoir levels drop during droughts, power shortages can be managed.

Still, it's premature to say that India is fully prepared. Even today, irrigation facilities remain limited in many rural areas. Water conservation schemes often fail to move beyond paperwork. Dissemination of timely and accurate information to farmers is often lacking. The biggest challenge is that climate change is becoming more unpredictable and severe than ever before.

Natural phenomena like El Niño teach us that a secure

future cannot be achieved without striking a balance between development and the environment.

India must focus not just on relief plans but on long-term strategies. Making water conservation, scientific farming, green energy, and environmental protection national priorities is the need of the hour.

If the central and state governments, scientific institutions, farmers, and ordinary citizens work together to fulfill their responsibilities, India can effectively confront challenges like El Niño. The crisis is significant, but preparedness and collective efforts can be even greater.

Rs 69,000 for answer sheets: CBSE portal glitch leaves students, parents baffled; re-evaluation timeline extended

New Delhi(GNS): For many CBSE Class 12 students, the end of examinations has not brought relief. Instead, the post-result process has opened a fresh chapter of anxiety, with complaints over glitches, inaccessible portals and concerns around the evaluation system continuing to pile up.

Days after students reported login failures and disruptions in accessing post-result services, new complaints have surfaced regarding wildly fluctuating fees on the reevaluation portal, raising questions over the reliability of the system.]

Screenshots shared online on Friday showed dramatic changes in the amount being charged for re-evaluation and answersheet-related services. According to students and parents, the fee displayed on the



portal shifted unpredictably within hours from as little as Re 1 and Rs 69.7 to Rs 8,000 and, in some cases, as high as Rs 69,420 to obtain answersheets for a single subject.

One widely circulated screenshot allegedly showed a student being charged Rs 69,420 each for physics, chem-

istry, mathematics and English core, pushing the total amount into lakhs. In another instance, screenshots showed a fee of Rs 8,000 per paper, taking the total amount to Rs 16,000 for two subjects. In another case, charges for three subjects reportedly rose to Rs 24,000. Amid growing criticism, CBSE

on Friday issued a fresh statement announcing another revision in the timeline for the process. It said it had extended the last date for obtaining scanned photocopies of Class XII answer books to May 24 and that students will also get up to two days after receiving the scanned copy to apply for verification/re-evaluation.

"The CBSE website has been facing unprecedented traffic since the past few days and has also faced several attempts of unauthorised interference, which has made it prone to disruptions," the statement said. This marks the second time that the board has extended the deadline by a day. An official also said, "The portal has been facing technical glitches but we are ensuring that no child will face any problems."

Rain, cloudy skies bring relief to Delhi-NCR after days of scorching heat

New Delhi(GNS): Light rainfall and cloudy skies brought much-needed relief to residents across parts of Delhi-NCR on Saturday morning after days of intense heatwave conditions.

Several areas of the national capital received light showers, while neighbouring Noida also witnessed rainfall.

Grey clouds covered the sky in Ghaziabad, and cool breezes offered respite from the sweltering heat. The brief spell of rain and cloudy weather led to a noticeable dip in temperatures after the city endured scorching conditions over the past few days. However, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) had on Friday issued an orange alert for heatwave conditions in parts of Delhi from Saturday till May 28. According to the weather department, the maximum temperature is expected to hover between 43 and 45 degrees Celsius on Saturday, and between 44 and 46 degrees Celsius from Sunday to May 28.



Delhi recorded a minimum temperature of 29.3 degrees Celsius on Friday, three notches above normal. However, the city did not meet the criteria for a "warm night", which the IMD declares when the maximum temperature exceeds 40 degrees Celsius and the minimum temperature remains at least 4.5 degrees above normal. On Thursday, Delhi experienced the season's first warm night as the minimum temperature rose to 31.9 degrees Celsius, five notches above normal. It was also the warmest May night in the city since May 27, 2012, when the minimum temperature had touched 34.2 degrees Celsius.

Delhi Nagarik Sahakari Bank launches ATM and Debit Card services



New Delhi(GNS): Delhi Nagarik Sahakari Bank Limited launched ATM and debit card services on Saturday. Delhi Social Welfare and Cooperation Minister Ravinder Inderaj Singh was the chief guest. The event was held at Hindi Bhawan, ITO. Along with launching ATM services for the first time, the bank also launched a gold loan facility. During the event, information was shared about new initiatives aimed at expanding digital banking services and providing customers with a modern and convenient banking experience. Minister Ravinder Inderaj Singh stated that the cooperative sector is an effective medium for economically empowering ordinary citizens. In furtherance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of prosperity through cooperation, cooperative institutions in Delhi are being integrated with modern technologies and digital services. He stated that the expansion of digital banking facilities will provide more transparent, simple, and convenient services to the public and will strengthen the cooperative sector. The Minister stated that the Delhi government is working to strengthen the cooperative sector and make banking services more accessible, modern, and beneficial to the public. Bank Chairman Pradeep Kumar Sharma stated that the bank prioritizes customer convenience and trust. The launch of ATM and debit card services is a significant milestone in the bank's growth. He added that efforts are being made to provide customers with simple and quick financial assistance through new services such as gold loans. The bank is also continuously working to expand digital services, strengthen its ATM network, and enhance online banking capabilities.

Heatwave conditions likely in parts of Delhi till May 28

New Delhi(GNS): The four-day heatwave streak abated on Friday, but the city remained in the grip of intense heat. Though there is a possibility of a thundery development on Saturday under the influence of a feeble western disturbance, India Meteorological Department (IMD) said no significant respite is expected, and heatwave conditions are likely in parts of the city till at least May 28.

The maximum temperature at Safdarjung, Delhi's base station, was 43.3 degrees Celsius, three notches above normal. At 44.4°C, north Delhi's Ridge observatory was the hottest station in



the city.

Though no station in Delhi met the heatwave criteria on Friday, Met officials said heatwave conditions pre-

vailed over the meteorological sub-division of Haryana and Chandigarh, with its impact felt in Delhi. IMD declares a heatwave

when the maximum temperature touches 45°C or is above 40°C with a departure of more than 4.5 notches above normal. "Saturday's thundery development in Delhi may cause a dip in temperatures by 1 to 2°C. However, the mercury will again rise on Sunday and hence, no relief from intense heat is expected over the next six days," said an IMD official. The Met department has issued an orange alert for heatwave conditions from Saturday to May 28 in parts of the city. The mercury is predicted to hover between 43 and 45°C on Saturday, and 44 and 46°C from Sunday to May 28. The minimum on

Friday was 29.3°C, three notches above normal, but the city did not meet the 'warm night' criteria. The IMD declares a 'warm night' when the maximum temperature is over 40°C and the departure of the minimum is 4.5 notches or more above the normal.

Delhi reeled under the season's first warm night on Thursday when the minimum rose to 31.9°C, five notches above normal. It was also the warmest May night since May 27, 2012, when the temperature was 34.2°C. The minimum temperature is likely to stay between 27 and 29°C on Saturday and 29 to 31°C on Monday.

Delhi's Shastri Park furniture market blaze sparks chaos, fire tenders pelted with stones over delayed response; watch

New Delhi(GNS): Fire tenders sent to tackle a massive blaze at a furniture market in Delhi's Shastri Park were allegedly pelted with stones late Friday night after angry locals complained that too few, reportedly two, firefighting vehicles had initially reached the spot, according to news agency Media.

The fire, which broke out in a market packed with wooden furniture and plywood shops, was later brought under control after authorities deployed around 25 to 30 fire tenders to the area. No casualties were reported. According to officials, the Delhi Fire Service received a call about the blaze at 11.57pm. Initial firefighting teams were rushed to the market, but residents allegedly grew agitated after seeing only a limited response in the early



stages as the flames spread rapidly through the highly flammable material stored in the area. Some locals allegedly began pelting stones at fire tenders and emergency personnel amid fears that the blaze would engulf more shops in the densely packed market.

Deputy chief fire officer DB Mukherjee said the fire was later categorised as a "major" incident because of the scale of the blaze and the combustible nature of the market.

"The Fire Control Room

received information at 11.57pm. Initially, a standard response was dispatched, but given the presence of highly flammable material such as wooden furniture and plywood, the incident was upgraded. Around 25 to 30 fire tenders were eventually deployed and the fire is now under control," he said.

Officials said the narrow lanes and dense commercial setup of the Shastri Park furniture market made firefighting operations difficult as flames spread across a large section of the area.

The exact cause of the fire is yet to be determined. Fire officials said Delhi Police would investigate the incident, while a team from the Forensic Science Laboratory also visited the spot to assess the damage and examine the site.

MCD claims lapse in cleaning of drains by PWD in east Delhi

New Delhi(GNS): Amid ongoing desilting operations across major drains and nullahs ahead of the monsoon, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has raised concerns over delay in cleaning the disused canal drain connecting Karkari Mor to the SDM office in east Delhi. The civic body claimed that no work had started at site till last week and this lapse was pointed out during the last visit of commissioner MCD to the site. No response was received from PWD on this matter.

"The drain carries a large volume of discharge from Shahdara South Zone and falls under the responsibility of PWD as the road-owning and maintaining agency. The



issue had already been communicated several months ago. During a joint inspection on May 5, 2026, attended by the PWD Minister, local MLA, councillor and officials from MCD, PWD and DJB, it was clarified that PWD would be solely responsible for future de-silting of the drain," stated MCD in its letter to PWD written last week.

Twisha Sharma death case: Advocate husband Samarth Singh's legal licence suspended

New Delhi(GNS): The Bar Council of India on Friday suspended advocate Samarth Singh from practising law with immediate effect in connection with the alleged dowry death of his wife, model-turned-actor Twisha Sharma, saying the charges against him were serious enough to damage the image and integrity of the legal profession.

In an interim order, the apex legal body said advocates are officers of the court and their conduct must not undermine public faith in the justice system. It added that the allegations against Singh had a "direct bearing" on the dignity and discipline of the profession.

"Accordingly, Samarth Singh, Advocate, is hereby suspended from practice as an advocate with immediate effect, pending further consideration by the



Bar Council of India and/or the appropriate Disciplinary Committee," the order stated.

Twisha Sharma, 33, was found hanging at her matrimonial home in Bhopal's Katara Hills area on May 12, just months after her marriage. While her in-laws have claimed she struggled with drug addiction, her family has alleged she was subjected to dowry harassment that drove her to death.

The Bar Council said the matter involved "serious

allegations" linked to the death of a woman at her matrimonial home within months of marriage. Referring to the FIR and the ongoing criminal investigation, it also noted that it had received information that Samarth Singh was absconding and allegedly not cooperating with investigators.

Following the suspension order, Singh will not be permitted to appear, plead, file vakalatnama, or practise before any court, tribunal or authority any-

where in the country until further orders.

The development came amid major twists in the case on Friday. Samarth Singh, who had allegedly been on the run for over a week, withdrew his anticipatory bail plea before the Madhya Pradesh High Court and later surrendered before a court in Jabalpur. He was subsequently taken into custody by Bhopal police.

The high court also directed that a second autopsy of Twisha Sharma be conducted by a specialised team from AIIMS Delhi after concerns raised by her family over the initial postmortem.

Separately, the court issued notice to Twisha's mother-in-law, Giribala Singh, on petitions seeking cancellation of her bail over allegations that she was not cooperating with the probe.

'Contrived Investigation': Delhi Court Discharges 12 In 2007 Jamia Nagar Violence Case, Frames Charges Against Ex-MLA

New Delhi(GNS): A Delhi court on Friday framed charges against former Congress MLA Mohd Asif Khan and 12 others in a 19-year-old case of mob violence, in which police allegedly were targeted. The court also slammed the prosecution's investigation against 13 others in the same case, calling it "contrived".

In the order, Special Judge Vishal Gogne remarked on the police's failure to conduct a test identification parade (TIP), which was a "requirement of essence and not just prudence." The case is regarding violence on Sept 22, 2007, that allegedly broke out after police removed a market near a kabristan in Jamia Nagar during Ramzan, following complaints that it obstructed worshippers offering namaz.



According to the prosecution, 400-500 people gathered outside the police post with sticks and stones, raised slogans against police. It was allegedly led by local political figures. Police alleged the mob attacked personnel, torched official vehicles, vandalised the post and opened fire, injuring several officers.

The accused persons were broadly categorised into three groups - four named in the FIR and 12 named in the statement of police witness,

inspector Akhilesh Yadav, including former Okhla MLA Asif Khan; those allegedly arrested from the spot; and others arrested or who were added to the investigation later.

While framing charges under provisions on unlawful assembly, rioting, arson and attempt to murder, Special Judge Gogne held that the prosecution material disclosed "a grave suspicion" regarding the existence of an unlawful assembly under Section 141 IPC.

Woman Dies by Alleged Suicide in Shalimar Bagh

New Delhi(GNS): A woman died by alleged suicide in northwest Delhi's Shalimar Bagh on Friday. Police said that she had recently been facing opposition from her family about wanting to marry a man. The deceased was identified as a local caretaker. Inquiry revealed that her room was found locked from the inside and was later broken open by the house owner. The owner rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared her dead. The postmortem examination has been conducted, police added.

Acid-like substance bursts inside car in Shaheen Bagh, two injured

New Delhi(GNS): Two people were injured after an acid-like substance in a bottle burst open inside a car in southeast Delhi's Shaheen Bagh.

According to Delhi Fire Service, a call about a "car fire" was received around 5.04 pm, after which two tenders reached the spot. Officials found that there was no fire, but an acid-like substance stored in a bottle inside the vehicle burst, releasing toxic fumes. A DFS official said, "The two passengers in the car inhaled the fumes and lost consciousness." The passengers, identified as Anil, 42, and Jyotsana, 42, were subsequently rushed to AIIMS trauma centre. Anil has 18% burn injuries, while Jyotsana is on ventilator support, said police. Anil reportedly owns a pharmacy, due to which he may have had access to the bottle, a senior officer said.

Black, foul-smelling water running from taps for months in Janakpuri

New Delhi(GNS): Residents of several Delhi Development Authority (DDA) blocks in West Delhi's Janakpuri have alleged that black and foul-smelling water has continued flowing through taps for months, forcing families to spend thousands of rupees on bottled water and plumbing repairs despite repeated complaints to the authorities.

People living in Janakpuri's B1C, B3A, B3B and BE blocks claimed that the problem, which they say had surfaced intermittently earlier, has become regular since November last year. Many families said they had stopped using tap water for drinking and cooking altogether, relying instead on packaged water cans even for basic household needs. "We don't trust the tap water anymore," said Kunal (name changed) a resident and office-bearer associated with the local RWA. "Sometimes water is black, sometimes muddy, and often it smells like sewage. There are days when even bathing becomes difficult," he said.

Another resident Navneet (name changed) alleged that contamination is worsening in blocks located near the main road, where sewer lines are allegedly overflowing because of pressure buildup in the network. According to them, sewer repair work in a section of the area has remained stalled for the past few months following a court stay, increasing pressure on the existing lines. Locals claimed that overflowing sewage and underground seepage may be entering water pipelines in parts of the colony. However, these claims could not be independently verified.

Several families also alleged that motors and filters installed in flats are repeatedly getting choked because of sludge and debris flowing through pipelines.

Khalid gets 3 days' interim bail from HC for mother's surgery

New Delhi(GNS): Taking an "empathetic view" since Umar Khalid's mother has to undergo surgery, Delhi High Court on Friday granted him three days interim bail in the UAPA case alleging larger conspiracy in the commission of the 2020 north-east Delhi riots.

A bench of Justices Prathiba M Singh and Madhu Jain permitted Khalid to be released from June 1 to 3 to enable him to spend time with his ailing mother, whose surgery is scheduled next month. Khalid had approached the high court challenging a trial court order denying him interim bail on humanitarian grounds to attend the Chehlum ceremony of his late uncle and take care of his mother.

Granting interim bail, HC specified that Khalid would remain within Delhi during the period of interim bail and stay at the address furnished, won't visit any place other than the hospital and his place of stay, use only one mobile number and remain in continuous touch with the investigating officer.

Appearing for police, additional



solicitor general SV Raju opposed the plea, arguing that Khalid's mother was required to undergo only a minor surgery and his sisters could take care of her. He submitted that Khalid could be permitted to visit his mother and return the same day under police custody, instead of being granted interim bail. The high court, however, said it was "taking an empathetic view" and granting him interim bail to spend time with his mother.

The trial court had earlier rejected his plea seeking interim bail to attend the 40th-day ritual of his uncle, Khursheed Ahmad Khan, in the city on May 24. Khalid had also submitted that his mother had been advised surgery for lump excision on June 2 at a private hospital.

Retail spaces on offer at Sarai Kale Khan RRTS station

New Delhi(GNS): To enhance commuter convenience, National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has invited bids for licensing of commercial spaces on the ground floor of Sarai Kale Khan Namo Bharat station on the Delhi-Meerut RRTS corridor. Around 818 square metres of space across eight identified locations can be used for a variety of commuter-focused facilities, such as food and beverage outlets, cafes, convenience stores, service centres, pod services and other retail purposes.

"The inventory comprises a mix of bare and built-up spaces ranging from compact units of 17 square metres to



larger spaces of up to 247 square metres. The spaces are being offered on an "as is where is" basis for licence periods ranging from nine to 15 years," said an official of NCRTC, which executed the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut rapid rail corridor.

The official said availability of such integrated facilities within the station footprint would save time for com-

muters and make their journeys safer, more comfortable and convenient while also strengthening non-fare revenue streams. "The outlets will also serve residents and visitors in the surrounding area by providing easy access to a range of retail and convenience services," he added.

Sarai Kale Khan, one of the key Namu Bharat stations, is emerging as a major multi-modal transport hub. "In addition to its role as a key regional transit hub, the station precinct is also emerging as an important transit-oriented development node, with considerable opportunities for commercial growth and mixed-use development," said the official.

CBI arrests food & supply assistant commissioner for taking bribe:

New Delhi(GNS): CBI has arrested an assistant commissioner of the food and supply department for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000 in connection with the allotment of ration cards. The case was registered on May 20 on a complaint alleging that the officer had demanded Rs 100 per ration card for the allotment of 475 ration cards. It was further alleged that around 120 ration cards were proposed to be allotted to each nearby shop, including the complainant's shop, with the total bribe demand amounting to about Rs 12,000. Following the complaint, the CBI laid a trap and caught the official red-handed while accepting the bribe. "Citizens who come across instances of corruption or are subjected to demands for bribes by public officials are encouraged to report such matters. They may call on 011-24367887 and mobile No. 9650394847 to lodge their complaints or share any relevant information," official said.

Inside a broken system: Police seek action over illegal operation, safety lapses at Alipur rehab facility

New Delhi(GNS): Nearly two months after a chemical engineer allegedly murdered an inmate at a de-addiction centre in Outer Delhi's Alipur, police have formally written to the ministry of social justice and empowerment and Delhi govt, seeking action against the facility.

Police sources said a detailed report has been submitted regarding the incident, which has raised serious concerns about the centre's functioning and its compli-



ance with statutory norms. "In the report, investigators have reportedly flagged suspicions that the facility was operating without a valid licence and may have been running in violation of mandatory regulations," sources said. Cops further noted that preliminary findings

point to multiple administrative and safety lapses at the centre, including inadequate security arrangements for residents.

According to sources, immediately after the murder, police had instructed the management of the de-addiction centre to furnish complete documentation pertaining to its operations, including valid licensing and authorisation to run such a rehabilitation facility. However, cops said the

response submitted by the management was found to be unsatisfactory and did not adequately address key compliance-related queries raised by investigators.

The incident itself occurred in the early hours of March 27, around 3 am, when Arun Kumar (22), a resident of Burari, was discovered in a critically injured condition at the de-addiction centre in Alipur. He was rushed to hospital, but doctors declared him dead on arrival. Police

have since arrested Arun Joshi, a chemical engineer, in connection with the case. During interrogation, Joshi allegedly told investigators that the attack stemmed from a plan to take revenge following a verbal altercation between the two a few days earlier, during which Kumar is said to have abused him, triggering resentment.

An officer privy to the investigation said the assault took place while Kumar was asleep inside the facility. Joshi

allegedly entered the area where the victim was resting and attacked him with a knife, slitting his throat. At the time of the incident, around 27 patients were staying at the centre, and security personnel were also deployed on the premises. Family members of the deceased, speaking to Media earlier, had questioned how the accused managed to obtain a knife and carry out the fatal assault within the de-addiction centre.

Delhi Riots Case: Court convicts three for stone-pelting at police, acquits three others

New Delhi(GNS): A Delhi court has convicted three men - Ikram, Sarfaraz and Mustaqueem - in a case related to the 2020 north-east Delhi riots, holding that they were part of an unlawful assembly that "continuously indulged in stone pelting upon the police force" during violence near Bhajanpura Chowk and Karawal Nagar Road on Feb 24, 2020. Additional Sessions Judge Parveen Kumar Singh rejected the defence's claim of false implication as "bald assertions", observing that the "extraordinary situation" prevailing during the riots explained the absence of immediate documentation regarding the apprehension of the accused. The court also relied on the medico-legal certificates of the three men, noting that these confirmed their presence in police custody on the evening of Feb 24. However, the court acquitted three other accused -



Gulfam, Saddam and Firoz - citing serious inconsistencies in the prosecution's case regarding their identification and apprehension. According to the prosecution, violence erupted near the Bhajanpura police booth and along Karawal Nagar Road when a mob allegedly began pelting stones at police personnel and set fire to shops, carts and a police booth, despite repeated announcements to disperse under Section 144 of the CrPC.

Several policemen were injured in the clashes. An FIR was later registered at Khajuri Khas police station, and the accused were charged with offences including rioting, unlawful assembly and

obstructing public servants in the discharge of their duties.

Rejecting the defence argument that the convicted men may have been mere bystanders, the court said the plea was "a belated and unsubstantiated contention, raised only as an afterthought". The judge emphasised that the prosecution witnesses consistently stated that the accused were part of the mob involved in stone pelting.

The court placed significant reliance on eyewitness testimonies. "A holistic consideration of oral evidence reflects that all the eyewitnesses... have been consistent in stating that a protest site had been set up where protesters were agitating against CAA/NRC," Judge Singh observed, adding that the witnesses corroborated one another on material aspects such as the presence of paramilitary personnel and the sequence of events.

Warehouse contractor shot dead in Faridabad

New Delhi(GNS): A 31-year-old contractor was shot dead while sleeping at an ash-packing warehouse in Faridabad's Ghazipur area in the early hours of Friday.

The police identified the deceased as Yogesh Kumar, a native of Bihar. The body was sent to the ESIC Hospital mortuary for post-mortem examination. Dabua police received information about the incident around 5.30 am on Friday. The police said Yogesh had arrived at the warehouse around 11 pm on Thursday with some labourers from Bihar. After dinner, the workers went to sleep at different places in the warehouse premises around 1 am. Yogesh was sleeping on a cot.

Preliminary investigation revealed that an unidentified assailant shot Yogesh in the



head between 2 am and 3 am, killing him on the spot. Workers later told police they had heard a sound like a fire-cracker during the night, but ignored it. In the morning, they found Yogesh lying in a pool of blood and informed the police. "We are trying to find out who entered the warehouse late at night and what the motive behind the murder was. CCTV footage from nearby areas is also being examined. The case will be solved soon," a senior police officer said.

Cheap prints, bestselling titles: Inside Delhi's pirated book market

New Delhi(GNS): A recent piracy crackdown in Delhi has spotlighted what's being sold and read on the city's streets. In March, Penguin Random House, alongside Simon & Schuster and Hay House, worked with Delhi Police to seize over 20,000 books from a Rohini-based racket, uncovering an illegal printing press and distribution network. Yet in markets like Connaught Place, pirated books - from 700 classics to discounted box sets - remain easily available, with buyers often overlooking authenticity for lower prices.

Manoj Satti, SVP, Product, Sales & Marketing, Penguin Random House India, says the recent seizure of pirated books revealed how piracy networks target commercially successful, fast-moving titles across genres such as self-help, business, literary fiction and contemporary fiction.

He notes, "The affected works were from leading international and Indian publishers. Bestselling authors with strong market demand are



most vulnerable, as piracy is driven by commercial viability rather than author or genre preference."

Speaking about efforts to tackle book piracy, Riti Jagoorie, Managing Director, Hachette India, says, "We have a dedicated page to help readers identify legitimate editions. All genuine reprints carry a four-level hologram on the back cover. We've also listed authorised sellers on e-commerce platforms, as we receive a surprising number of complaints from readers who mistake counterfeit copies for printing or binding errors. Beyond that, our team moni-

tors e-commerce platforms daily, flags pirated listings for removal, and works closely with legal teams on regular anti-piracy raids."

Advocate Jyoti Taneja, legal advisor to Penguin Random House on its anti-piracy enforcement initiatives, says, "Delhi, being a major commercial and distribution hub, sees a higher volume of book trade, so piracy networks tend to operate more actively here. Similar patterns exist in other major cities too. What is important is the presence of robust enforcement mechanisms to curb such activities."

Author Srishti Chaudhary,

who recently spotted pirated copies of her books in Connaught Place, says, "Everything seems to suggest that the true marker of success in Indian publishing is when your books start getting pirated. But beyond this bit of validation, I want to build a sustainable career in writing." Her book *Once Upon A Curfew*, features an illustration of Connaught Place on its cover. "Seeing pirated copies of it being sold on CP sidewalks in 2026 feels oddly meta and funny," says Chaudhary, who often buys pirated copies of her books and posts informational videos online. Meanwhile, Manoj insists that author-led awareness can make a real difference in helping readers understand the impact of piracy.

"When authors speak up about how piracy directly affects their royalties and livelihoods, it helps shift the narrative from piracy being seen as a 'harmless alternative' to something with real consequences for the people creating the work."