



Five Bangladeshis living illegally in Delhi arrested,

New Delhi, Agency: Delhi's Mukherjee Nagar police station has arrested five Bangladeshi nationals as part of a special campaign against illegal immigrants. All of them were living illegally in Delhi despite their visas having expired. Police presented them before the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) and have initiated the deportation process.

According to police, a minor dispute between two groups was reported in the Mukherjee Nagar area. During the investigation, police found two young men continuously conversing in Bengali. Local residents became suspicious of their activities and informed the police. Based on the information, the Mukherjee Nagar police station team interrogated the two suspects. Investigation revealed that they were living in a rented house in Indira Vikas Colony, along with three other Bangladeshis. Subsequently, the police arrested the five.

CBSE postpones Class 12 re-evaluation process

Portal to open from June 1; decision taken after technical issues



New Delhi ,Agency: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has extended the re-evaluation and mark verification process for Class 12 students. The portal was originally scheduled to open on May 29th, but the board has now decided to open it on June 1st. CBSE began the online application process for re-evaluation and scanned answer sheets on May 19th. However, the website crashed due to the high number of applications. The deadline was subsequently extended to May 25th.

Students experienced technical issues during the re-evaluation process, including server downtime, payment failures, and blurred pages. Following complaints from students, the CBSE suspended the re-evaluation application process on the portal.

Karnataka may have four deputy CMs

Shivakumar to be CM, oath likely next week

Bengaluru, Agency: A day after resigning as Karnataka Chief Minister, Siddaramaiah arrived in Delhi on Friday and met Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and party president Mallikarjun Kharge. According to media reports, in this meeting, Siddaramaiah placed several demands before the high command, which is said to include the demand for an important ministry for his son Yatindra Siddaramaiah in the new cabinet. Meanwhile, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's resignation has been accepted. According to news agency ANI, party sources have said that DK is expected to be sworn in next week along with new ministers.

15 die after consuming spurious liquor in Pune

CM Fadnavis orders probe, 8 people in custody so far



Pune, Agency: Fifteen people have died in the last 24 hours after consuming toxic liquor in Pune, Maharashtra. These deaths occurred in the

Police said - five people died due to different reasons, investigation is going on

Local residents have alleged that these people died after consuming toxic liquor from a banned hand-made distillery. Questions are also being raised about the police administration in this case. Nationalist Congress Party leader and former mayor Yogesh Bahl has demanded an impartial investigation and strict action against the culprits.

H a d a p s a r, including an illegal Phugewadi, Dapodi, liquor dealer, were and Pimpri areas. detained.

In a joint operation by the police and the state excise department, eight people, including an illegal liquor dealer, were revealed that the alcohol may have contained methanol.

Chief Minister Suvendu's big announcement

Census will begin in the state from August 1

Kolkata, Agency: The census work will begin in West Bengal from August 1. Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari made the announcement at a press conference held at the state secretariat, Nabanna, on Friday. He stated that the census process will begin in August 2026 and continue until February 2027. The Chief Minister appealed to all citizens of the state to actively cooperate in the census work, stating that this process is extremely important for both the country and the state. He stated that the demographic situation of West Bengal is of particular importance, as the state shares a nearly 600-kilometer-long border with Bangladesh. He claimed that the state's demographics have changed due to the lack of fencing in some parts of the border and the previous government's failure to provide land to the Border Security Force.



The Supreme Court said : NTA needs to learn from UPSC

Papers are never leaked there, such incidents will not stop until accountability is fixed

New Delhi, Agency:

The Supreme Court on Friday stated that such incidents will not stop until accountability is established for the NEET-UG paper leak. The National Testing Agency (NTA), present in court, questioned that the UPSC conducts exams on a larger scale than you, but there has never been a paper leak there. The NTA needs to learn from them. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, on behalf of the government, said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself is monitoring the investigation into the NEET paper leak so that no mistake is made.

Justice Narasimha, who was hearing the case, asked the Ministry of Education for details of the NEET-UG examination re-examination process. The Solicitor General stated that significant improvements have



SC's question - why failure despite reforms

The Supreme Court, hearing petitions seeking the dissolution of the NTA, questioned Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, former ISRO chief and head of the high-powered monitoring committee formed after the NEET paper leak in 2024, about the failure this time despite recommendations and reforms. Radhakrishnan stated that most of the committee's recommendations have been implemented. NEET-PG 2025 was a success, and any weaknesses that emerged this year are being addressed before the upcoming re-test.

ous about the youth. New paper leak. Solicitor methods have been adopted for the NEET-UG re-test.

Slab of under-construction bridge collapses in UP, 6 killed

Officials say accident due to storm and rain, 3 labourers rescued

Hamirpur ,Agency: The bridge was being constructed over the Betwa River in Hamirpur district. When the accident occurred early in the morning, some workers were working on top, while others were sleeping beneath the bridge.

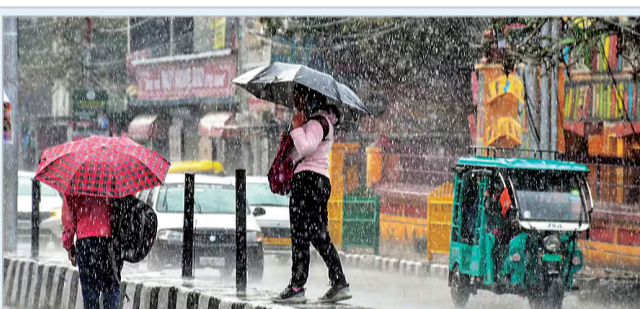
A slab of an under-construction bridge over the Betwa River in Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh, collapsed at 2 a.m. Friday night. Six workers died in the accident. The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) rescued three workers trapped in the debris. The rescue operation lasted seven and a half hours. DPM Dilip Kumar, Dharmveer Singh,



MD of the Uttar Pradesh Bridge Corporation, told that the slab collapsed due to the storm and rain, burying the workers sleeping underneath. The accident occurred in the Lalpura area, 25 km from the city. Four of the deceased were from Banda and two from Hamirpur. SDRF officials said the rescue operation, which began at 2:30 am, has been completed.

Tin shed at Lucknow's Charbagh railway station collapses 3 people, including a TTE, seriously injured;

Lucknow ,Agency: A tin shed on platform number 5 of Lucknow's Charbagh railway station collapsed at 8 am on Friday. A TTE and two passengers were seriously injured in the accident. The Railway Protection Force (RPF) is conducting a rescue operation. All three injured have been hospitalized. The Howrah-Dehradun Express (13037) had arrived at the same platform, which was later stopped. Officials called in a crane to remove the fallen portion of the tin shed. DRM Sunil Kumar has ordered an investigation into the accident.



Heavy rains in Bihar, daytime darkness in 20 districts

Lightning strikes kill 7, 100 kmph storm in UP

New Delhi, Agency: A thunderstorm and rain alert has been issued in Bihar on Friday. 20 districts, including Patna, Khagaria, Rohtas, Aurangabad, Kaimur, and Chhapra, were plunged into darkness in the morning, followed by heavy rain. Seven people were killed by lightning in the state. Due to the dark clouds, people were seen traveling with their vehicle lights on. According to the Meteorological Department, the weather in Bihar will remain the same for the next three days. Meanwhile, in Madhya Pradesh, Gwalior, Morena, Sheopor, Niwari, Tikamgarh, and Chhatarpur districts will experience heatwaves during the day, while rain and hail may fall in the evening. Instead of heat, Uttar Pradesh is experiencing a series of rains and storms. On Friday morning, Lucknow, Prayagraj, Jhansi, and Chandauli experienced heavy rain accompanied by thunderstorms.

In the next two years, the country's border areas will be permanently safe from enemies: Amit Shah

Amit Shah's vision on the 60th anniversary of the BSF, a 'quadrilateral security grid' will be created



Bhuj, Agency: Union Home Minister Amit Shah said in Bhuj, Gujarat, that the central government is working rapidly to make border security impenetrable and that in the next two

years, the country's border areas will be permanently safe from the evil eyes of enemies. He said that India's borders are being further strengthened with the help of modern technol-

ogy, strong security infrastructure and the bravery of BSF soldiers. Addressing Border Security Force (BSF) personnel in the Bhuj region of Kutch today, Union Home Minister Shah said that BSF soldiers in the Sir Creek and Bhuj areas are protecting the border like a rock. Due to their courage, dedication and vigilance, the people of this region are living a safe life. He stated that providing better facilities to the soldiers is a priority of the gov-

ernment, and continuous efforts are being made to achieve this under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Union Home Minister stated that the government has ensured no shortage of budget for border security. Special emphasis is being placed on the use of modern technology, which has successfully strengthened the border security system. He stated that watchtowers have been constructed in border

areas, and many Border Outposts (BOPs) have been elevated above ground level to make them more secure. These efforts have increased the efficiency of the soldiers and made the surveillance system more effective.

He stated that the BSF has entered its 60th year of existence. On this occasion, a decision has been taken to re-evolve the concept of border security. He stated that in the future, a "Quadrilateral Security

Grid" will be created, and a new model of "territorial security" will be implemented, replacing only border security. He stated that in this new system, along with the BSF, local citizens, civil administration, local police, and the army will also play important roles. This will make the security system more robust and comprehensive. He stated that this effort to integrate border security with public participation will give the country's security a new direction.

The story of a great writer

Puran Sarma

This is the story of a great writer, always intoxicated and considering himself a self-proclaimed "fly." He considered other writers to be mere mortals and far inferior to himself. He would be disgusted if someone went to meet him, and would dismiss them with a few words of his supposed wisdom. He was a victim of misunderstandings. He was deeply proud of his writing.

He hadn't even written one book; he had gotten it published thanks to the grace of a prominent writer, and he always carried that book in his bag, immersed in his pride. Although the book was never discussed anywhere, he always engrossed in its praise, considering it a model of satire. I forgot to mention at the beginning that he had the delusion of being a successful satirist, and he had firmly established himself in the genera-

tion after Parsai. In this introductory introduction, it's also worth mentioning that he was also a skilled literary preacher. He knew by heart the principles and criteria of good writing. In his discussions, he would somehow connect his writings with contemporary literature and also keep himself connected with national fame. New writers were his big victims, he would keep explaining to them the alphabet of Bal Gopal Ghutti

i.e. how to become a successful satirist. To make matters worse, he was also the self-proclaimed editor of a magazine, through whose intimidation he would confuse the budding writers and throw his dice and tricks. What could the poor new writers do, they would listen to his nonsense for hours and return from his office or residence with their returned work. New writers as they say. Most of his literary talk passed them by and

remained incomprehensible. I advised them to avoid associating with this great literary figure as a satirist, or else they too risked losing their minds. But my advice didn't sit well with them either, and they would approach him with their writings. He would humiliate them again and send them away disappointed. They would come back to me and tell me their stories. I would again tell them to avoid his deception and send

their writings to other newspapers and magazines. A couple of writers even informed me that he was quite worried about me. Any mention of my name in a satire would make him furious. He would even warn them to either stay with him or go wherever they pleased. If they mentioned my name again, they should cut off contact with him. Young writers were always in a dilemma about whom to associate with.

Editorial

Sukhu in children's curriculum

If a state's Chief Minister's busy schedule includes schools, it's a heartening message. Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu is constantly patrolling schools, fielding questions from children. Clearly, in this program, students themselves are providing feedback and suggestions on education. It's a different matter that governments are accustomed to making decisions, but here, children are creating their own curriculum. While the children of Nerwa aspire to learn foreign languages, the seeds of a "global identity" have reached Himachal's government schools. If students studying IT are demanding job training, the ambition of a generation has taken a new turn. Clearly, the current government wants to transform school conditions, student attendance, and exam results. In this context, a vision for continuous improvement has evolved. Unnecessary schools were identified because evidence of their inadequacy was found. The government structure alone cannot provide information about the school of the future, so the participation of students and parents in the environment is being tested. If the Nerwa School is allowed to speak to the government itself, then the children's questions are not trivial. If they want to raise the educational level of MLAs, then this is a fundamental question. Why are exams only a means to access government jobs, and why is there no mention of some basic educational level in the requirements for contesting elections? If children are allowed to speak, then questions will also arise about their political incarnation.

Now, where could Sanskrit fit into this formula? Gradually, it was relegated to the streets, leaving the home. Punjab can be cited as an example. Nearly all positions for Sanskrit teachers in schools were eliminated. Government Sanskrit colleges collapsed. The government Sanskrit colleges of Kapurthala and Nabha, founded by the Maharajas there, closed. Studying Sanskrit is essential to understanding the profound meanings of the Guru's teachings. Nearly two hundred and fifty years ago, the tenth Guru, Shri Govind Singh Ji, understood this and even sent five of his disciples to Kashi to study Sanskrit...

Kuldeep Chand Agnihotri

The debate over language has been ongoing in the country since the arrival and departure of the British. Before the British, when the Turks and Mughals ruled, Persian became the official language. Those who knew how to seize the opportunity shifted to Persian and even earned the king's favor. However, the common people of the country maintained their native languages during this crisis. It's a different matter that their national efforts were dismissed by the courtiers as being backwards from the times. When the British arrived, Persian was replaced by English. The people again maintained their native languages. This time, they were more forcefully labeled not only backwards but also uncivilized and uneducated. Their languages were also labeled vernacular, meaning uncultured. The language of the court had changed. This time, the people took another leap forward, learning the king's language and becoming his companions. Then the British left. Now, the people thought



they would have the opportunity to write, speak, and read in their own language, but that didn't happen. The main reason for this was that the British had left power to their Indian allies before leaving. Moreover, when Indian languages began to enter educational institutions, there was an outcry that these languages were being imposed. The era of multilingualism had arrived, but Tamil Nadu was unwilling to teach any Indian language other than Tamil. Now, the National Education Policy has opened a new door regarding languages. The artificial imposition of a single language is on the verge of ending. No language is compulsory.

Every student will have to learn three languages of their interest, any two Indian languages and any one foreign language. It is being said that the whole world has now become an international village, hence it is necessary to learn foreign languages. This argument has merit. But previously, only English was being imposed in the name of foreign language. There was no option for any other foreign language. Now this option has been provided. Foreign languages do not only mean European languages; they also include Asian languages. Therefore, languages like Chinese, Japanese, Thai, etc. can also be included in the foreign language category.

Similarly, the issue of two Indian languages is the same. Earlier, whenever Hindi was being imposed, there was an uproar that Hindi was being imposed. But now the political rhetoric of Hindi imposition has stopped. Students can choose any two Indian languages. No Indian language is compulsory. Take Tamil Nadu, for example. There, a student can choose Tamil as one of the two Indian languages, and if they don't want to study Hindi, they can choose Malayalam or Telugu. The only condition is that they must study two Indian languages. This is, in a way, the three-language formula, which has been in effect in the country since the tenure of Lal Bahadur Shastri. Now, the new formula is also a three-language formula. What is the difference between the two? Is it old wine being served in a new bottle? Superficially, they appear similar, but the two formulas have no connection whatsoever. In the old three-language formula, the three languages were determined by the government itself. Therefore, the student had no choice.

Kusum Thakur wins gold medal in Federation Cup

Where high quality protein is easily available to the common man, people there have good speed from birth... In May 2026, Kusum Thakur of Himachal Pradesh captured everyone's attention by winning the gold medal in the 200-meter race at the National Federation Cup in Ranchi. She became the first woman from Himachal to win a medal in the 200-meter race at a senior national athletics competition. The human body is a remarkable machine created by God. It also requires fuel to run. To understand the human body's energy cycle, we need a thorough study of everything from ATP to CPA to lactic acid, the body's borrowing of oxygen, and how oxygen reaches the lungs through breathing, mixes with blood, and then reaches the cells, keeping the body active. Races of 100 to 400 meters are considered fast.

Bhupinder Singh

Speed is the key to victory in all events and sports. It is innate in athletes. Even training improves it only slightly, up to a certain age. The Olympic Games feature numerous events in various sports, but athletics has the greatest appeal. The winner of the 100-meter race in the Olympics becomes the fastest person on earth. The thrill of the 100-meter race is unparalleled. Himachal Pradesh has produced very few sprinters. Events from 100 meters to 400 meters are classified as sprints. Excelling in these events requires innate speed, but also requires extensive speed endurance and strength training. While high-quality protein is readily available to the average person, people in India are born with good speed. Speed must be developed from a very young age. Therefore, speed training must begin at less than ten years of age. Speed develops to its highest level within the next five years. It is also said that sprinters are born, not made. Most of India's



sprinters are from the coastal region. Fish is their staple diet, providing high-quality protein. North India has a higher percentage of vegetarians, but wheat, milk, and milk products also provide good quality protein. This is also the reason why Punjab, Haryana, and Western Uttar Pradesh continue to produce good sprinters from time to time. Pushpa Thakur, a senior from Himachal Pradesh, is the first national-level 400-meter medalist for Himachal Pradesh in senior national competitions. She has also reached the national training camps for the Asian and Olympic Games. In 2025, Manisha

from Hamirpur, running for the Indian team in the 4400-meter relay, won a gold medal in the South Asian Athletics Championships. Priya Thakur is also the 2025 inter-university 400-meter winner. From time to time, some female runners and runners have raised hopes by performing well at the state level. For the first time in Himachal Pradesh, Ashok Thakur, a runner from Government College Hamirpur, became the fastest runner in the 100 meter race in below 11 seconds, i.e. 10.9 seconds, in the Himachal Pradesh University Inter-College Athletics Competition 1994, Sundernagar. Along

with him, Rajesh Thakur of Hamirpur also won the silver medal by running below 11 seconds. In 2012-13, Rohit Chauhan, a student runner from Government College, Hamirpur, broke Ashok Thakur's record at the Himachal Pradesh University Inter-College Athletics Competition, setting a new record of 10.83 seconds. In 2019, Paras, a runner from Government College, Dharamshala, broke Rohit Chauhan's record, becoming the fastest runner in the world by clocking 10.70 seconds. This runner also set a new record by running the 200-meter race below 22 seconds for the first time, in 21.90 seconds. Paras has brought Himachal to prominence by reaching the finals of senior national athletics competitions several times. Sandeep, a runner from Hamirpur, set the Himachal Pradesh men's record of 10.40 seconds at the Himachal Pradesh Mini Olympics 2017. In the Himachal Pradesh women's category, Pushpa Thakur from Hamirpur broke the 100-meter race below 12 seconds for the first time, setting a new state record

of 11.96 seconds at the Himachal Pradesh Mini Olympics 2004 in Mandi. Now this record is in the name of Kusum. The Himachal Pradesh University record was first held by Sonika Sharma of Hamirpur and then by Richa of Dharamshala College. Rishu Thakur of Hamirpur reached the final of the 100 meter race in the Bhopal National Women's Games in 2011 and secured fourth place. In the 200 meter race, runner Promila of Government College Hamirpur finished fourth in the 100 meter race and won the silver medal in the 200 meter race by running the Inter-University Athletics Competition in Bangalore 2006, running in 24.93 seconds. Promila also participated in the training camp for the 2010 Commonwealth Games. Jyoti of Government College Hamirpur won the bronze medal in the 400 meter race in the Inter-University Athletics Competition in Patiala 2013. Jyoti won the silver medal in the 400-meter race at the 2012 National Women's Games.

Relief for seer Avimukteshwaranand: SC upholds pre-arrest bail in POCSO case

NEW DELHI, Agency: The Supreme Court on Friday upheld the Allahabad high court's order granting anticipatory bail to Swami Avimukteshwaranand in a POCSO case over allegations of sexually assaulting a minor.

A bench of Justices MM Sundresh and N Kotiswar Singh dismissed the appeal filed by complainant Ashutosh Brahmachari challenging the lower court's decision granting pre-arrest bail to the seer.

The Allahabad high court in March granted anticipatory bail to Swami Avimukteshwaranand and Saraswati and his disciple Mukundanand Brahmachari in a POCSO



case alleging sexual exploitation of minor disciples.

Justice Jitendra Kumar Sinha, while allowing their plea, directed both the accused and the complainant, Ashutosh Maharaj, not to speak to the media about the case. The court had earlier stayed Avimukteshwaranand's arrest on February 27 and reserved its verdict after

directing the applicants to cooperate with the investigation.

The FIR was registered at Prayagraj's Jhansi police station on the directions of a POCSO court. It alleged that several 'batuks' (young disciples) were sexually exploited by the accused.

In his 22-page order, Justice Sinha flagged multiple inconsistencies in the prosecution's case. The court observed that the alleged victims had not initially informed their natural guardians and instead narrated the incidents to the complainant, a stranger, which it said was not consistent with the normal course of human conduct. It also

questioned the delay in lodging the FIR.

Rejecting the state's contention that the accused should have first approached the sessions court for anticipatory bail, the bench held that the circumstances of the case justified directly moving the high court. It noted that the FIR had been lodged pursuant to directions issued by a special POCSO judge on an application filed under Section 173(4) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). The court further pointed to discrepancies in the timeline presented by the complainant. While the alleged victims were said to have informed Ashutosh

Maharaj about the incidents on January 18, 2026, the police were approached only six days later. Asked about the delay, Maharaj told the court he had been occupied with religious rituals. The bench, however, noted that during the same period he had filed another legal application relating to a separate alleged offence. Justice Sinha also highlighted what he described as material improvements in the victims' statements. While the FIR alleged that the incidents took place between January 2025 and February 2026 during the Maha Kumbh and Magh Mela in Prayagraj, one of the victims later claimed the assault had

occurred in June 2024 at an ashram in Madhya Pradesh.

The court additionally noted that educational records showed the alleged victims were students at an institution in Hardoi rather than residents of the ashram. Medical examinations found no external injuries, while doctors gave an inconclusive opinion, stating only that sexual assault could not be ruled out. The complainant's counsel also argued that Avimukteshwaranand's claim to be the Shan karacharya of Jyotishpeeth was disputed. The bench, however, said that issue did not fall within the scope of the proceedings before it.

Delhi govt to roll out hygiene, menstrual health, infrastructure upgrades in schools; toll-free grievance line soon

NEW DELHI, Agency: The Delhi government on Thursday announced a series of major initiatives aimed at improving health, hygiene, sanitation, and infrastructure facilities in schools across the national capital.

According to an official statement from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), the government said it will roll out comprehensive measures, including sanitation upgrades, menstrual health support systems, vaccination data mapping, and infrastructure strengthening in all schools.

As part of the initiative,



the government will ensure clean and well-maintained toilets across schools and conduct regular hygiene awareness programmes along with menstrual awareness campaigns for both boys and girls.

The statement further said that medical rooms and "Menstruation Corners" will be set up in all schools, where sanitary

napkins, undergarments, and other essential supplies will be made available. The process of installing sanitary napkin vending machines in school washrooms will also be expedited.

On health-related interventions, the government will collect school-wide data on HPV vaccination and ensure participation of students from government schools in the "Hauslon Ki Udaan" (Flight of Aspirations) programme.

To strengthen grievance redressal, a toll-free number will soon be launched to enable students and parents to

directly share complaints and suggestions with the government. The number will be prominently displayed on school walls and gates, the CMO said.

In addition, the Delhi government will install RO water coolers in all schools. A large-scale tree plantation drive will also be conducted from June 5 to August, alongside efforts to whitewash school buildings and improve basic infrastructure facilities. The CMO said these measures are aimed at creating a healthier, safer, and more supportive learning environment for students across Delhi schools.

Supreme Court invokes Article 142 issues directions to high courts to prevent delays in judgments

NEW DELHI, Agency: The Supreme Court on Friday issued a set of binding directions to all high courts across the country to ensure faster delivery of judgments and reduce delays in the judicial system. Invoking its special powers under Article 142 of the Constitution, a bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said reserved judgments must be pronounced within three months. The top court also laid down strict timelines for bail matters. It directed high courts to pronounce bail orders on the same day after hearing the case or by the next day if the order is reserved. The court further said that once regular bail is granted, the order must be immediately communicated to the trial court. It added that undertrial prisoners granted bail should be released on the same day after completing the required formalities.

To improve transparency, the Supreme Court ordered that all judgments must be uploaded on high court websites within 24 hours of pronouncement.



The bench also clarified that the date on which the operative part of a judgment is pronounced will be treated as the official date of the judgment.

Stressing the importance of timely justice, the Court observed that high courts are the primary institutions where thousands of people approach every day seeking relief and delays in judgments directly affect public confidence in the judiciary.

At the same time, the apex court clarified that the directions were not meant to cast aspersions on any judge or judicial institution. The ruling came while hearing a case related to long delays in pronouncement and uploading of judgments, particularly in the Jharkhand high court.

The app that turns a hummed tune into sheet music is finding an unlikely home in India

New Delhi, Agency: A California startup built to lower the barrier to music education is resonating in ways its founders did not fully anticipate.

I recently sat down with Andrew Carlins, an MBA classmate of mine, who told me about the company he is building, Songscription. Songscription describes itself as an AI lab for music learning. Its flagship product allows users to upload an audio recording and convert it into sheet music, MIDI, tabs, and piano roll. Users can also tailor the output (e.g., sheet music) to their level of play. You upload a file. You get notation back. That is the whole product, and it turns out that that is enough.

Carlins grew up with a stutter and realized that when he sang, his stutter disappeared. "Music is quite literally how I found my voice," Carlins explains. He built Songscription because he believed that a world with more access to music learning and live performance is a better world, as he had personally experienced the unique ability music has to empower individuals and unify people from different backgrounds.

Songscription's users tell the story even better



than Carlins or the product description does. A music teacher in Brazil is using Songscription with elementary students as a teaching supplement. A violin teacher in the United States used it to produce notation for a student who learns better from the page than by ear. A visually impaired pianist used it to get his own compositions written down for the first time. One feedback message a user wrote to the Songscription team said simply: "I never thought this would be notated. Thanks for fulfilling a dream." None of these people needed a machine to create music for them. They needed one that could help them find their way to learn and perform music live.

The India story is

worth telling in some detail. Sushma is a Carnatic music teacher whose students, like a lot of students in India right now, listen to as much film music as they do classical. They come to her lessons with requests for Tamil and Hindi film songs, melodies they already know by heart and want to be able to read on the page. The problem is that Carnatic music and western staff notation are two distinct systems, and Sushma, trained in one, had no particular grounding in the other.

She found Songscription, uploaded a film song her students had been asking about, and got readable sheet music back. She wrote to the Songscription team afterward, not as a formal review but as a note. She

mentioned the output was clean, that the process had been easier than she expected, and that the messages on the website while her file was processing had made her laugh. She closed with regards to the whole team. It was a small note, but it is the kind of feedback that tells you something about whether a product is landing and having the impact it was built to have.

What Sushma's experience points to is a gap in how music technology has been built. India has a large and serious music education culture, a tradition of both classical training and mass popular music, and a growing number of learners who move between those worlds. Most transcription tools were designed with western music pedagogy as the default. A Carnatic teacher navigating film music notation is not a use case those tools were built for. Songscription, which gives users access to western notation regardless of their musical background or tradition, turns out to fit that gap reasonably well. Carlins says the company eventually wants to support non-western notation systems as well, though that work has not shipped yet.

Karnataka governor Thaawarchand Gehlot accepts Siddaramaiah's resignation as CM, cabinet dissolved



NEW DELHI, Agency: Karnataka governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Friday accepted the resignation of chief minister Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru, dissolving the council of ministers with immediate effect, a day after the Congress leader stepped down following directions from the party high command.

Siddaramaiah will, however, continue in office until alternative arrangements are made, according to an official order issued from Lok Bhavan.

"In exercise of the powers conferred on me under Article 164(1) of the Constitution of India, I, THAAWARCHAND GEHLOT, Governor of Karnataka, have accepted the resignation of Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister of

Karnataka and dissolved the Council of Ministers headed by him with immediate effect. Siddaramaiah shall continue to function as Chief Minister till alternative arrangements are made," the official order stated.

The move clears the way for a leadership transition in the state, with Karnataka Congress chief DK Shivakumar expected to take over as chief minister. The Congress leadership has intensified consultations in Delhi, where Shivakumar is scheduled to meet Rahul Gandhi and party president Mallikarjun Kharge to finalise government formation, including cabinet composition and organisational appointments.

Gujarat's sanitary pad model empowers Cameroon women

Vadodara: More than a decade ago, a young woman from Cameroon travelled thousands of miles to Gujarat with a clear mission - to learn how to manufacture low-cost sanitary pads and take that model back to women and girls in her country who lacked access to menstrual hygiene products.

That journey changed thousands of lives.

Marie-Claire Nabila Kuja found her mentor in 2015 in Vadodara, where she trained at Vatsalya Foundation in low-cost sanitary napkin manufacturing. What she learned there became the foundation of a grassroots movement in Cameroon that has since produced and distributed more than 1 million sanitary pads.

"The training I received at Vatsalya Foundation helped me transform the lives of thousands of women in my country," Kuja told Media over the phone from Cameroon. "Over the last eight

years, we have manufactured and sold more than 1 million sanitary pads. The biggest beneficiaries have been women and girls from poor families."

Kuja, who lives in Bamenda, said access to affordable sanitary pads brought change far beyond hygiene. "Once girls had access to sanitary pads, many began attending school regularly. Women were able to go to work with dignity and confidence. Health conditions improved, and slowly conversations around menstrual hygiene began breaking social taboos," she said.

Recalling her journey, the 46-year-old said that after returning from India, she began searching for affordable and sustainable raw materials locally. That led her to banana fibre, which was both inexpensive and biodegradable.

"By 2018, we started manufacturing pads using banana fibre. Gradually, our product became popular because it was affordable,



hygienic and eco-friendly," Kuja said.

She has since set up two sanitary pad manufacturing units in Bamenda and Bafoussam, employing around 20 women directly. The project has also created livelihoods for dozens more women involved in

marketing and selling the pads in nearby communities.

In 2021, Vatsalya Foundation founder Swati Bedekar shipped a pad-making machine to Cameroon to support the initiative. Kuja later procured another machine from China to expand production.

"The manufacturing centres also provide indirect employment to many women who sell the pads. The govt here has appreciated our work several times," Kuja said, adding that she regularly donates sanitary pads to women in underserved communities. Kuja currently works as a nurse in the US and frequently travels between America and Cameroon to continue leading the initiative.

Her work has also earned international recognition. In 2013, she was honoured with the title of "Princess" by a royal family in Zimbabwe for her efforts to empower schoolgirls and young women.

"I was surprised when Kuja told me she had travelled all the way to India after learning about our sanitary pad project," Bedekar said. "She was extremely committed and trained with us for several days. It is deeply satisfying to see how the model from Vadodara inspired her to create such an impact back home in Cameroon," Bedekar said.

DDCET results out in Gujarat highest engg score 197.5

Ahmedabad: The results of the DDCET-2026 examination, conducted jointly by Gujarat Technological University (GTU) and the Admission Committee for Professional Courses (ACPC), were declared on Thursday. The entrance test is a gateway for diploma and degree engineering and second-year (third semester) pharmacy courses across the state.

In engineering, the highest score recorded was 197.5 out of 200, while the lowest score dropped to -14 due to negative marking. In pharmacy, the highest score was 135, and the lowest was -8. Notably,

before the declaration of results, three questions in the engineering paper were cancelled, and six grace marks were awarded to all candidates.

A total of 22,170 students registered for the examination, conducted in May after being rescheduled due to local body elections. In engineering, 20,890 out of 21,829 registered candidates appeared, reflecting a 96% attendance rate. In pharmacy, 322 out of 341 candidates took the test. Students from over 30 universities, including 596 candidates from other states, took the examination held across

57 centres in 33 districts.

The answer key was released on the same day as the exam, and objections were invited. Following review, errors were confirmed in three questions.

The score distribution shows that 203 engineering students scored above 175, while a majority fell in the 50-100 range. In pharmacy, most students scored between 50 and 100. Online registration for admissions will be open from June 1 to June 22. Approximately 46,500 engineering seats in 138 colleges and 1,400 pharmacy seats in 104 colleges are available.

JEE vs GujCET battle back in spotlight

Ahmedabad: Gujarat's engineering admission system has gone full circle over the past two decades. The state was among the first in the country to embrace the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) as a common route for technical admissions, projecting it as a way to standardise merit and prepare students for national-level competition. But years later, mounting concerns over pressure on local students forced the govt to retreat and restore GujCET as the main gateway for engineering and pharmacy seats.

The debate has now resurfaced once again. Gujarat first aligned engineering and pharmacy admissions with JEE in 2004-05. In 2013, the state again pushed JEE Main as the central route, arguing that students needed national exposure. However, the move faced strong resistance from parents and students targeting colleges within Gujarat.

Officials acknowledged that many local aspirants struggled because JEE's syllabus and exam pattern differed significantly from the state board. Unlike GujCET, which aligns closely with the Class 12 syllabus, JEE Main tests concepts from both Classes 11 and 12 and

is designed for national-level competition. Officials argued that Gujarat students were being placed at a disadvantage compared to aspirants from CBSE and national coaching systems.

Following repeated representations, the state govt formally restored GujCET in 2017 as the primary gateway for state engineering and pharmacy seats. Since then, it has remained the dominant entrance exam. While a few private universities still accept JEE scores, most state colleges rely entirely on GujCET rankings.

Annually, nearly 1.4 lakh students take GujCET. Around 55,000 PCM (physics-chemistry-maths) students also appear for JEE Main, while the rest are PCB students eyeing pharmacy and allied courses.

In 2024, the issue returned to the policy table following discussions over scrapping GujCET once again to shift fully back to JEE Main. The proposal has revived the long-standing debate over whether Gujarat should prioritise national benchmarking or continue with a state-level exam aligned with local students and board syllabi.

GCAS choice-filling ends; 2.82 lakh lock undergraduate seats

Ahmedabad: The registration and choice-filling process under the Gujarat Common Admission Services (GCAS) portal for undergraduate courses concluded with substantial student participation. Against approximately 5.50 lakh available seats, 2.82 lakh students finalised their preferences by the final deadline.

According to the latest data available on the GCAS portal, a total of 3,60,097 students registered for admission, out of which 3,21,638 confirmed their registration by paying fees. During the choice-filling phase, 2,92,190 students submitted their preferences, and 2,82,770 of them finalised their choices. Officials expect a marginal increase in these figures as final updates are processed.

Approximately 2.5 lakh students opted for 15 govt universities, indicating a clear preference for public institutions. Gujarat University emerged as the most-preferred choice for 71,000 students. Veer Narmad South Gujarat University followed with 62,000. Saurashtra University,



North Gujarat University and MS University also recorded substantial interest.

In contrast, private institutions lagged, with 20 universities collectively drawing around 30,000 choices. However, LJ University and Silver Oak University bucked the trend, each attracting more than 45,000 preferences.

The admission allotment window opens from May 29 to June 1. Students must confirm their seats, complete online acceptance, and report to colleges between June 2 and June 6. To ensure transparency, authorities will publish allotment results nightly.

Wildlife vets resign en masse over 'flawed' hiring rules

Ahmedabad: At a time when the Babesia infection has killed five lions including two cubs, a vital cog in the disease management machine - 12 contracted veterinary doctors who were mainly posted in Gir and Sakkarbaug Zoo - have submitted their resignations en masse, to protest Gujarat Public Service Commission (GPSC) recruitment rules.

The vets submitted a joint resignation, saying the GPSC rules ignore specialized wildlife experience even as the state battles a virus-linked spate of lion deaths.

The veterinarians, working with the Gujarat State Lion Conservation Society and the Sakkarbaug Zoo Management Advisory Society, gave their one-month notice last week.

Their protest centres on the GPSC advertisement for 18 permanent Class II veterinary officer posts. The doctors say the recruitment rules mirror those of the animal husbandry department, without giving weight to experience in treating wild animals.



Principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife) Jaipal Singh confirm that had received the resignation letter. The doctors want that their experience with wildlife be given weightage in the recruitment process. The issue is pending with the govt and is yet to be decided.

The veterinarians argue that wildlife healthcare demands specialized skills, distinct from treating livestock, particularly in emergency rescues, disease control and managing man-animal conflict. Of the 12 contracted doctors, most are posted in Gir and the greater Gir area, while two are working with the forest department on deputation from the animal husbandry

department. "The state's wildlife healthcare currently relies heavily on these vets. The 12 contracted officers handle the bulk of critical field duties, including rescue operations, postmortems and healthcare for an estimated 891 Asiatic lions, alongside numerous other species across the state's diverse geography, including the florican and wild ass," said Yash Baraiya, who is posted in Velavadar. He added that treating livestock and treating wild animals are "completely different", and veterinary officers without wildlife experience should not be assigned such work.

Before resigning, the veterinarians urged the

authorities to amend the recruitment rules to prioritize candidates with at least one year of wildlife or zoo experience.

They pointed out that similar preference was earlier given in recruitment for the GEER Foundation in Gandhi nagar. Despite representations being made to the head of the forest force, the chief conservator of forests (Wildlife Circle, Junagadh) and the principal secretary, the matter remains unresolved. As no appropriate or satisfactory resolution has been provided, we are submitting our joint resignation with a one-month notice period according to our contract conditions, effective May 15, 2026," the veterinarians stated in their letter.

The resignations come while the forest department fights to contain a virus among lions, with five lions dying in the last 10 days. "We visited higher officials in Gandhinagar and pursued our point, but we got a negative response," said Dhaval Savaliya, who is posted at Vadal in Palitana.

Herbal shield from Gujarat to help save millions of tonnes of foodgrains

Vadodara: Every year, India celebrates record harvests. Warehouses overflow with wheat, pulses and seeds, and procurement agencies speak of bumper production. Yet far away from the headlines on food security, another battle quietly unfolds inside storage bins, seed godowns and grain warehouses - a battle against insects, fungal infestation and time itself.

Scientists estimate that India loses nearly two million tonnes of pulses annually after harvest because of poor storage condi-

tions and pest attacks. The losses are staggering: enough food to nutritionally support nearly 11 crore people annually. For farmers and seed handlers, the damage is not always visible at first. By the time infestation becomes obvious, entire stocks may already have lost quality, weight or even the ability to germinate.

Now, researchers at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Directorate of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research (ICAR-DMAPR) in Anand believe they may have



found a low-cost and environmentally safer answer hidden in nature itself. The institute recently secured a patent for a herbal seed coating technology developed using food-grade

polymers and essential oils extracted from plants such as neem, clove, cinnamon, lemon-grass and palmarosa. Scientists say the coating protects stored grains and seeds from insects

while preserving seed quality and germination.

What makes storage losses dangerous is that the damage is gradual and often invisible until it becomes severe," said scientist Dr Ashwin Trivedi, who worked on the project. "Farmers, seed handlers and storage agencies may lose both grain quantity and seed viability during long-term storage. The discovery is especially significant for pulses, one of India's most important protein sources. Despite producing more than 25 million tonnes of pulses in 2024-25, the

country still struggles with post-harvest losses caused by pests such as pulse beetle, fungal contamination and moisture-related spoilage. Researchers say the herbal formulation demonstrated strong repellent and insecticidal properties during trials. In one striking experiment, treated mung bean seeds reportedly remained viable for almost a decade while retaining germination strength and seed vigour - a finding that could have major implications for long-term seed banking and agricultural storage systems.