



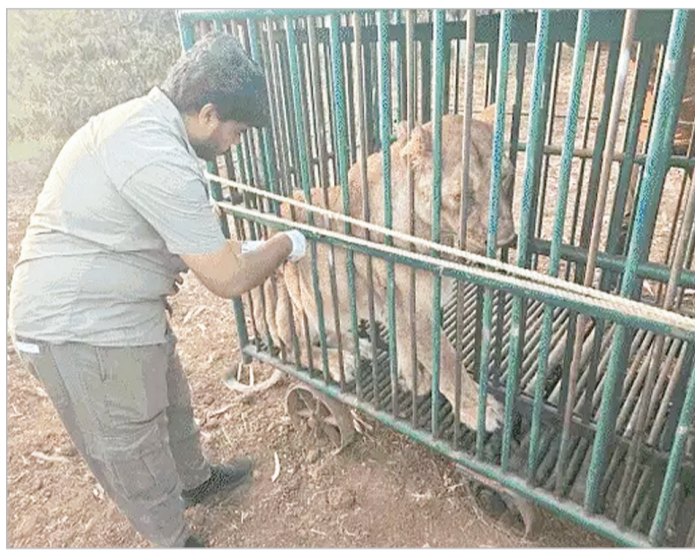
## 12 lions in Gujarat, 10 tigers in MP die

### Claims they died from CDV virus, Forest Department yet to release report

**Amreli (GNS):** The death of 12 lions in the eastern and western Gir Forests of Gujarat, famous for Asiatic lions, has reached the central government. The Forest Department has placed more than 30 lions in animal care centers. However, laboratory reports on the lions have not yet been released.

The situation is similar for tigers in Madhya Pradesh. Ten

tigers have died in the Kanha Tiger Reserve since April 2nd. The forest department has launched alert operations after severe symptoms of canine distemper virus (CDV) were detected in the tigers. Senior officials and state Forest Minister Arjun Modhwadia visited the Jasadhur Animal Care Center on Sunday after lions in Gujarat tested positive for the CDV virus. The lack of a report despite the deaths of 12



### The situation is under control at the moment: Modhwadia

Forest Minister Arjun Modhwadia also visited the Jamwala Animal Care Center to assess the situation following the lion epidemic and subsequent deaths in Eastern and Western Gir. He held a high-level meeting with top Forest Department officials. Following the meeting, he stated that the situation is currently under control. There have been no reports of lion deaths in the last three days. After completing the meeting in Jamwala, the Forest Minister will also visit the Jasadhur Animal Care Center. There, he will also meet with officials and review the situation.

lions in the past 15 days is deepening the situation.

### Gujarat Forest Department silent

Five cubs and four lions died in Gujarat about eight days ago.

Despite examining their viscera samples, the Forest Department has yet to release a report. However, due to the symptoms of the CDV virus, the Forest Department has begun work with caution. However,

there are fears that the situation is becoming more serious. Meanwhile, questions are being raised about the state government and the Forest Department for not releasing the report.

### The case of the death of 10 tigers in MP reached the High Court

The matter of the continuing tiger deaths in Madhya Pradesh's Kanha Tiger Reserve has now reached the High Court. During the preliminary hearing on Friday, the vacation bench of Justice Vivek Jain and Justice Ajay Kumar Nirankari deemed the matter serious and summoned responses from the concerned parties.

Senior advocate Anshuman Singh, appearing for the petitioner, told the court that 10 tigers have died due to Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) infection in the Kanha Tiger Reserve since April 2, 2026. Despite this, adequate and effective steps have not been taken to control the infection.



### Demand for Indian Weapons Rises Globally After Operation Sindoor

**New Delhi (GNS):** The successful use of indigenous weapons such as BrahMos, Akash, loitering munitions and Netra during Operation Sindoor has significantly boosted global demand for Indian defence equipment. Several countries have expressed interest in purchasing these systems, while agreements worth thousands of crores have already been concluded. The value of these deals exceeds 21,000 crore. According to the Defence Ministry, India's defence exports touched a record 38,424 crore in 2025-26, marking a 62 per cent increase over the previous year. Deals worth nearly 12,500 crore have been signed with the Philippines, Vietnam and two other countries for BrahMos missiles. A deal with Indonesia worth around 3,600 crore is in the final approval stage. Armenia has already signed a contract worth 6,100 crore for the Akash missile system.

### Exports Worth 38,424 Crore to More Than 100 Countries

India now exports defence equipment to over 100 countries, including the United States, France and Armenia. The United States remains the largest buyer, importing systems and components worth \$2.8 billion for major companies such as Boeing and Lockheed Martin.

### Six Rajasthan Students in JEE Advanced Top-10



**Kota (GNS):** The results of JEE Advanced 2026 were declared on Monday, with six students from Kota and Sikar making it to the national top-10 list. Shubham from Kota secured the All India Rank 1, while Kabir obtained the second rank.

Girls' category topper Arohi Deshpande also studied in Kota. The announcement of results triggered celebrations across Kota and Sikar. This marks the third consecutive year that the All India topper has emerged from Kota. Around 55,000 students have qualified for counselling for admission to B.Tech, Integrated M.Tech and Dual Degree programmes at 23 IITs across the country.

Kabir Missed Top Rank by One Mark

JEE Advanced topper Shubham Kumar belongs to Bihar. His father is a businessman and his mother a homemaker. Shubham scored 330 marks.

Second-rank holder Kabir Chhillar hails from Delhi. His father is an IIT alumnus working in a private company, while his mother is a private school teacher. Kabir scored 329 marks.

Students from Kota and Jhunjhunu Also in Top-10 Jatin Kumar Chahar of Sikar secured the All India third rank with 319 marks. He belongs to Goth village in Jhunjhunu district.

Jatin said he focused entirely on strengthening concepts. Arnav Gautam from Kota secured the seventh rank. Kanishk Jain, who secured the eighth rank, and Darsh Sikka, who finished tenth, also studied in Kota. Girls' topper Arohi, ranked 77th overall, studied in Kota as well.

## Mamata Banerjee said TMC MLAs

### were under pressure to join the BJP

#### Police were intimidating them; two MLAs were expelled for anti-party activities

**Kolkata (GNS):** Former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday released a video message on Facebook, leveling serious allegations against the BJP and the police. She alleged that the police were pressuring TMC MLAs to leave the party and join the BJP.

Mamata claimed that attempts are being made to weaken the TMC by intimidating or bribing some MLAs and MPs. She further stated that those who have left the TMC have benefited the party.

Mamata's video message comes amid reports of a rift within the TMC. The party expelled two of its MLAs, Sandipan Saha and Ritabrata



Banerjee, for anti-party activities. They are accused of making statements against the party and staying away from meetings.

#### 4 big things of Mamta in the video message...

- The way TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee was treated is shocking. Doctors from Belle Vue Hospital were called, but were instructed not to treat him. What a strange and authoritarian attitude this is?
  - People from Belle Vue Hospital used to touch my feet. You had close ties and business relationships with the Birla and Lodha families, and you bowed to them. Our mayor handled everything. Just six months ago, we renewed Apollo Hospital's license.
  - TMC hasn't taken money from anyone. Some people may have taken advantage of the situation, but they have now left the party. Their departure is beneficial to the party. We will rebuild the party from scratch.
  - Many enjoyed power for long periods. Now that we've lost, they seem to be immediately looking for a compromise with another party. The BJP's propaganda is worse than Goebbels'. They can't break the TMC.
- TMC is not a party of leaders, but of workers. A lie is being spread that senior party leaders are not supporting workers. TMC workers are not being allowed to leave their homes to protest, and party offices are being vandalized.

## Heatwave Ends Across India as Rain Brings Down Temperatures

### Sandstorm in Jaisalmer; More Than 50 People Rescued from River in Uttarakhand

**New Delhi (GNS):** Temperatures declined across most parts of the country on Sunday due to rainfall and cloud cover. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), heatwave conditions have currently ended nationwide. Several states wit-



nessed weather changes due to rain and strong winds. Many parts of Rajasthan experienced

dust storms for the second consecutive day, resulting in a drop in temperature.

A sandstorm struck Jaisalmer, affecting visibility, though no damage was reported. Phalodi recorded a maximum temperature of 42.6 degrees Celsius.

## Three Killed in Gas Leak at Ludhiana Factory; Father and Son Among Victims

### Several Workers Unconscious Due to Suffocation and Eye Irritation; No Time to Escape

**Ludhiana (GNS):** Three persons, including a father and son, were killed after a toxic gas leak occurred at a wrench-manufacturing factory in Ludhiana at around 2 a.m. Several workers fainted due to suffocation, while many others are reported to be in critical condition. Eyewitnesses said work was proceeding as usual when gas suddenly started leaking from a pipeline. Within minutes, the toxic fumes spread across the factory premises. The impact was so severe that workers did not get enough time to escape.

## Cabinet Expansion in West Bengal 35 Ministers Sworn In

### Arjun Singh, Tapas Roy Among New Ministers; Cabinet Strength Rises to 41

**Kolkata (GNS):** The first cabinet expansion of the West Bengal government took place on Monday. Governor R.N. Ravi administered the oath to 35 new ministers at a ceremony held at Lok Bhavan. Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari was also present.



Among the newly inducted ministers, 13 were sworn in as Cabinet Ministers, three as Ministers of State (Independent Charge), and 19 as Ministers of State. With this expansion, the total strength of the state council of ministers has risen to 41. Earlier, on May 9, Suwendu Adhikari took oath as Chief Minister. Along with him, Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Nisith Pramanik,

three ministerial positions remain vacant and are likely to remain unfilled for the time being. The total strength of the Legislative Assembly. West Bengal has 294 MLAs, allowing a maximum of 44 ministers. Following Monday's expansion,

Chief Minister On May 11, Suwendu Adhikari allocated portfolios among his ministers.



## Gutkha is banned, yet the number of oral cancer patients has increased by 42%

Sanat Jain

The central and state governments have enforced a ban on gutkha for the past 12 years to prevent oral cancer cases. Despite this, the number of oral cancer patients, instead of decreasing, continues to rise year after year. Government claims and ground reality contradict each other. Following the Madhya Pradesh government's ban on gutkha on April 1, 2012, gutkha companies, adopting a "you-do-it-yourself-do-it-yourself" policy, changed their packaging. Instead of separating the packaging for pan masala and tobacco, customers began to receive tobacco packets along with the pan masala, rendering the

government's ban a sham. At the government's behest, gutkha packaging also began displaying a warning stating that consuming gutkha is fatal. Thus, the government is experiencing the exact opposite effect to what the government intended when imposing the ban. Earlier, due to the separate packing of tobacco and pan masala, a fixed amount of tobacco used to come mixed with the gutkha pouch, but ever since the packing has been separated, people have started consuming more tobacco, they mix tobacco in pan masala as per their wish.

According to recent data from the Jawaharlal Nehru Cancer Hospital in Madhya

Pradesh, oral cancer cases have increased by 42 percent in the last 14 years. This increase is being seen every year. In 2012, the hospital saw 1,836 oral cancer patients, which increased to 2,614 in 2025. This is the data from just one cancer hospital. Many new cancer hospitals have opened in the country in the meantime, and even there, the number of oral cancer patients is continuously increasing. Cancer hospitals and doctors are expressing concern about this. After the government's ban, the number of gutkha users has increased even more than before. Due to the separate packaging of pan masala and tobacco, tobacco is being con-

sumed on a large scale. Oral cancer patients who consume gutkha cannot open their mouths fully after some time. The harmful nitrosamines present in tobacco directly damage the DNA of the cells inside the throat, which then initiates the process of tumor formation. The lime in pan masala damages the skin of the mouth. Nicotine and carcinogenic chemicals in tobacco, when mixed with the bloodstream, rapidly contribute to tumor formation. This causes oral cancer patients to be unable to fully open their mouths, and they experience difficulty eating and drinking. The pain continues to increase. In such a situation, it is very difficult to

treat an oral cancer patient. The government enacts various rules and regulations, but their enforcement remains limited to paper. The ground reality is quite the opposite. Gutkha companies earn huge profits from this business. They sell many times more gutkha in the second grade than in the first grade, resulting in significant losses for the government in excise duty and GST. Advertisements have also been banned, but advertisements under the name of Pan Pasand Pan Masala continue to be published extensively. Advertisements by gutkha companies in print, electronic media, and social media have increased even

more than before. The government lacks accurate data. The Food Safety and Standards Authority has no oversight of this business of gutkha companies. It lacks sufficient officers and staff to oversee it. In such a situation, the department turns a blind eye, extorting money from gutkha companies in the name of food safety. Since the production and sale of Gutkha is done in an undeclared manner, there is collusion between the police, Income Tax Department, GST, Excise Department etc. due to which all the efforts made by the government from time to time to prevent oral cancer have remained limited to papers.

### Editorial

## This is not an easy choice

The municipal elections have highlighted the power versus opposition divide, and the BJP has thus presented its successful journey to the urban electorate. The BJP has shown its dominance in Dharamshala, Mandi, and Solan, and the Congress in Palampur. This arithmetic has exposed the failures of several prominent leaders. In Palampur, all the BJP's prerequisites, promises, and preparations were shattered, so it must be acknowledged that the Butail family's connections and perseverance proved effective. As MLA, Ashish Butail has pocketed half the assembly election. Once again, the BJP's pomegranate has declared several leaders sick. Many prominent BJP leaders have failed to fulfill their promises in Palampur. Leaders like Shanta Kumar, once a national star, are now being expelled from the Palampur circuit. So, in the political arena, Vipin Singh Parmar, Trilok Kapoor, Indu Goswami, and many other leaders with their own unique styles should introspect. If the Congress party did not get the gift of Dharamshala, the second municipal corporation of Kangra, then the ruling party should read the message here. Are these the sobs or curses of Dharamshala city, which has reached the abandoned streets and the condition of stray, which the Congress has received? Obviously, the city which was smiling as the summer capital of the state, smart city, sports city, tourism capital, event city and education hub, has lost its skin, so this was not an easy election. Of course, the local MLA and former minister Sudhir Sharma's leaving the Congress and joining the BJP filled the veins of the ruling party with resentment, but it was not right for the city to be lost in its wrath.

The biggest pain point here was the Central University's Jadrangal campus, while the excuses for delays in several projects continued to sting. Clearly, the Congress's search for true leadership here was incomplete, and Sudhir Sharma, in the BJP's camp, showed that his admirers extend beyond politics. When the mirror of leaders was held in Mandi, former Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur's horse raced with such fervor that he proved himself a great leader.

# Rohini Nautapa and the impact of rising temperatures

Suman Sharma

Rohini Nautapa, in traditional Indian astrology and folklore, refers to the hottest days of the summer season. This is believed to be the time when the Sun enters the Rohini nakshatra, bringing extreme heat for approximately nine days. This is why it is called "Nautapa"—meaning nine days of intense heat.

The Sun God enters the Rohini nakshatra every year on May 25. This marks the beginning of Nautapa, the hottest nine days of the month of Jyeshtha.

According to Indian tradition and popular belief, a good heat during Nautapa is considered auspicious for the monsoon. It is said that if there is sufficient heat during these days, it brings good rainfall. Farmers link this to farming and the rainfall cycle. This is not a scientific principle, but is based on long-term weather knowledge.

According to astrology and folk traditions, the absence of Nautapa is considered a sign of significant loss. If it doesn't get hot or rain during these nine days, the monsoon cycle is disrupted, insect infestations increase, and crops are at risk of significant damage. If it rains during these nine days, it is said that Nautapa has passed.

During Nautapa, the earth's intense heat reaches its peak. This period typically falls from late May to early June (May 25th to June 2nd). During this period, temperatures rise rapidly, heat waves occur, and the days become extremely hot.

During Nautapa, the Sun is in the Rohini constellation, with a greater inclination towards the Northern Hemisphere. During this period, the Sun's rays fall more directly, heating the land, causing heat waves, and temperatures can reach the highest levels of the year. The Earth is tilted on its axis so that the Sun's rays fall directly and perpendicularly on the Northern Hemisphere (espe-

cially in countries like India), resulting in the Earth's peak heat during these nine days. Scientifically, during this period (late May to early June), the Sun is closest to the Earth, or the equator. Due to the Earth's inclination of approximately 23.5° in its orbit, the Sun's rays travel a much shorter distance to reach the surface in the Northern Hemisphere. Scientifically, this time is extremely hot due to the position of the Earth and the Sun, atmospheric conditions, and hot winds.

Precautions during Nautapa: Avoid sunlight in the afternoon, drink enough water, wear light cotton clothes, take lemon water etc., take special care of children and the elderly.

Climate change and rising temperatures are a serious concern for the entire world today. There are many scientific reasons behind this. Simply put, the Earth's average temperature is steadily rising, affecting weather patterns, rainfall cycles, sea levels, and natural balance.

The main causes of rising temperatures and severe heatwaves in summer are climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, and the increasing urban heat island effect due to deforestation in cities. Climate change, excessive use of fossil fuels, and deforestation are contributing to the accumulation of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and methane in the atmosphere. These gases absorb the sun's heat and prevent it from escaping, increasing the Earth's average temperature. Urban heat islands: Concrete, asphalt roads, and multi-story buildings in cities absorb heat during the day and release it at night. Furthermore, indiscriminate tree felling has led to the loss of natural greenery. Deforestation reduces shade and natural evaporation, which reduces humidity in the surrounding atmosphere and causes

temperatures to spike. Dust storms and light rains in March, April, and May bring down temperatures. A decrease in these and the formation of a high-pressure area in the atmosphere pushes hot air downward, leading to severe heatwaves. Warming waters in the Pacific Ocean also affect weather cycles, altering wind patterns and monsoons in India and other regions, exacerbating heatwaves.

Always drink plenty of water to avoid health effects caused by rising temperatures in summer, such as heatstroke. Keep your head and face covered with cotton cloth when going out.

**The Greenhouse Effect:** Certain gases in Earth's atmosphere trap heat from the sun, keeping the Earth warm. These are called greenhouse gases. The main greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane, nitrous oxide, water vapor, and chlorofluorocarbons. Normal amounts of these gases are essential for life on Earth, but when their levels increase excessively, more heat is trapped in the atmosphere, causing the Earth's temperature to rise. Excessive use of fossil fuels: Since the Industrial Revolution, humans have been using coal, petroleum and natural gas excessively. Burning them produces large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub>. Vehicles, power generation plants, industries, air conditioners and machines etc. are the main reasons for this. Chemical reactions cause the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere to steadily increase. Deforestation: Plants absorb CO<sub>2</sub> through photosynthesis and release oxygen. When forests are cut down on a large scale, CO<sub>2</sub> absorption decreases, atmospheric carbon increases, and temperature rises. Accelerates. Industrialization and pollution: Smoke, chemicals, and gases from factories pollute the atmosphere. Thermal power plants, cement industries, steel

industries, and chemical industries all emit greenhouse gases as well as fine particles, which affect both the environment and health. The increasing number of vehicles, including diesel and petrol vehicles, emit gases such as CO<sub>2</sub>, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen oxide. A major cause of temperature rise in metropolitan areas today is the presence of concrete and asphalt roads and less greenery, which absorb more heat. The rise in methane, a greenhouse gas many times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub>, is also contributing to the rise in temperatures. Damage to the ozone layer. The ozone layer protects the Earth from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays. CFCs weaken the ozone layer. This affects the thermal balance and increases UV radiation, creating environmental imbalances. Effects on the ocean and ice: Rising temperatures are causing glaciers to melt, polar ice to shrink, and sea levels to rise. Melting ice reduces the Earth's reflectivity. When there is less ice, the Earth absorbs more heat. Population growth and energy demand, as population increases, energy consumption increases, vehicles increase, industries increase, exploitation of natural resources increases, which leads to increase in carbon emissions. Solutions and Prevention: Many countries around the world are working together to stop climate change. Individual actions include planting trees, saving energy, using public transportation, and reducing plastic. Climate change is primarily a problem caused by human activities. The use of fossil fuels, deforestation, industrial pollution, and increasing energy consumption have rapidly increased the Earth's temperature. If scientific measures and environmental protection efforts are not taken in time, the impact could become even more severe in the future.

## Cow and beef politics: We're back at it again

Ram Puniyani

Thanks to the Election Commission's manipulations and the judiciary's negligence, the BJP managed to capture power in West Bengal. This has caused immense panic among the state's Muslim minority. The government has begun construction of detention centers in every district to house alleged Bangladeshi infiltrators and, among other things, has promised to build a massive memorial to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The issue that has deeply agitated the state's Hindu population is the campaign of lynchings of Muslims in the name of cow and beef. As Eid approached, Hindus brought their cattle to the market to sell, but were disappointed to find not a single

buyer for the cattle. Muslims have collectively resolved not to sacrifice these animals on Eid. Most Muslim community leaders, from Maulana Arshad Madani, head of the Jamaat-e-Islami-e-Hind, to politicians like Asaduddin Owaisi, have demanded that the cow be declared the national animal instead of the tiger.

Muslims are telling Hindus who come to sell bovine animals in the markets that they are their mothers and should keep them at home. Many poor farmers raise these animals to sell them on the occasion of Eid, hoping to get a good price for them and earn a living from the income. They are desperate because any plans they had made to use that income seem to be falling apart. The Muslim community and Muslim organizations have witnessed large-

scale lynchings of Muslims, especially in the last 12 years, under the pretext of cow and beef. From Mohammad Akhlaq to Mohammad Junaid, over 100 lynchings have occurred in the last few years. IndiaSpend data shows that between 2014 and 2018, 46 Muslims and Dalits were killed in cow-related violence.

We recall that in Una, Gujarat, four Dalits were brutally beaten while transporting dead cows for skinning. Following this, young Dalit leader Jignesh Mevani launched a campaign to stop the sale and purchase of cows and demanded that Dalits be allotted land. This environment created by cow vigilantes, who enjoy the patronage of those in power and the ideological support of the Sangh

Parivar, is extremely alarming. Many acharyas have even said that the life of a cow is more valuable than the lives of many humans. Baba Ramdev has promoted cow-related products and even earned a substantial amount of money by selling cow urine.

Sambit Patra, the BJP's chief spokesperson, claimed that cow dung is more valuable than diamonds. It is noteworthy that he holds a postgraduate degree in modern medical science.

Another professor from Gujarat conducted groundbreaking research and revealed that cow urine contains gold. What a relief this is, amid the skyrocketing prices of gold! Returning to the Muslim community's collective decision, poor farmers are suffering the consequences of

identity politics. It remains to be seen whether the Hindutva government will take the sacred decision of declaring the cow the national animal. This would harm many non-Muslim traders involved in beef exports. Major beef exporters belong to the elite Hindu and Jain communities. Al Kabir Exports Private Limited is one of India's largest exporters of meat and beef. It has a large slaughterhouse in Telangana. According to several sources, the Sabarwal family owns this unit. Arabian Exports Private Limited is a major meat exporter in Bombay. The Sunil Kapoor family has owned and managed it for generations. M.K.R. Frozen Food Exports Private Limited, headquartered in Delhi, owns several slaughterhouses in Punjab.

# Delhi CM Rekha Gupta orders magisterial probe into Saidulajab building collapse

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday visited the site where a building collapsed near the Saket Metro Station.

She ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident, which claimed seven lives. She directed officials to conduct an immediate survey of dilapidated, dangerous and illegal buildings in the area.

Reviewing the ongoing rescue operation, CM Gupta was briefed on the efforts being undertaken by multiple agencies, including the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Delhi Fire Services, Delhi Police, administration, Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and Civil Defence teams.

The CM asked officials concerned to ensure that rescue operations continue without any lapse and that every possible effort



should be made to locate anyone trapped under the debris. She also sought updates on the condition of the injured and instructed authorities to provide free and quality treatment to all victims. Describing the incident as tragic and heart-breaking, she met the affected families and assured them of all possible financial and administrative assistance from the Delhi Government. Emphasising that citizen safety is the government's top

priority, the CM said negligence at any level would not be tolerated. She noted that a criminal case had already been registered at the Mehrauli police station and announced a magisterial inquiry headed by the South Delhi District Magistrate to determine the cause of the collapse and fix accountability. CM Gupta directed the departments concerned to investigate whether any construction-related irregularities, violations of safety norms or administrative lapses contributed to the incident. She said strict action would be taken against anyone found responsible. The CM also ordered an immediate survey and inspection of unsafe and illegal buildings in Saidulajab and adjoining areas, warning that action would be taken against structures posing a threat to public safety. She said officials

found to have protected illegal constructions or failed in their duties would also face accountability. The Delhi Government is closely monitoring the situation and all agencies are working in coordination. Every aspect of relief, rescue and rehabilitation will be handled with seriousness," the CM said, adding that the drive against illegal and unsafe constructions across the capital would be intensified. Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu expressed grief over the incident. In a post on X, he said he was deeply distressed by the building collapse, which resulted in loss of lives and injuries. The L-G said multi-agency search and rescue operations were continuing and that authorities had been instructed to ensure all necessary medical assistance and immediate relief for those affected.

## Three split-second decisions that resulted in fortuitous escapes

**New Delhi, (GNS):** For 25-year-old Mahima Chaudhary, a weekend trip from Agra to surprise a friend in Delhi nearly ended in a tragedy. Thankfully, a last-minute decision to skip the canteen and step outside for snacks kept her out of harm's way just moments before disaster struck on Saturday evening.

Chaudhary was visiting her friend, Anamika Attri (26), a Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE) aspirant. When Anamika suggested heading to the canteen, Mahima jokingly remarked that her friend knew nothing beyond it. The two then decided to go out instead, unaware that the building housing the canteen would collapse moments later. "I had come to surprise her because I've appeared for the exam myself and know how stressful the final few weeks can be," Mahima said outside the emergency ward at AIIMS Trauma Centre on Sunday morning. "We were having tea outside when we heard a loud noise and saw a cloud of dust. At first, we thought it was a fire or a gas leak." As panic gripped the area, Anamika



rushed back on learning that several of her friends were trapped in the rubble. "She spoke to Aastha, who was stuck, and immediately ran to help her. I had to pull her back," Mahima recalled. Another pair of friends, Sachin Sharma (27) and Ankit Kumar (28), had a narrow escape. They were very close to the building minutes before it fell. "We had barely taken an auto when I got a call about the accident," Sharma said. "Had we stayed back a little longer, we could have been trapped as well." Ashutosh, an engineer, was inside the canteen when the building collapsed, killing two of his friends. Recalling the terrifying moments, he said he stepped away from the dining area to wash his hands. That saved his life.



## One in five Delhi adults has high blood sugar

**New Delhi, (GNS):** While Delhi appears to be making progress in controlling hypertension, a new challenge is emerging. Data from the National Family Health Survey-6 (NFHS-6) show a sharp rise in the share of adults with high blood sugar levels or those taking medication for diabetes, highlighting the growing burden of lifestyle-related diseases in the national capital. Among women aged 15 and above, the proportion with high or very high blood sugar levels, or those taking medication to control blood sugar, rose from 12.2 per cent in NFHS-5 (2019-21) to 19 per cent in NFHS-6 (2023-24). The increase was even steeper among men, climbing from 14.1 per cent to 22.2 per cent over the same period.

The trend contrasts with improvements in blood pressure indicators. The prevalence of elevated blood pressure among women fell from 24.1 per cent in NFHS-5 to 21.4 per cent in NFHS-6. Data for men also show a decline in severe hypertension.

The findings suggest that while awareness, diagnosis and treatment of hypertension may be improving, Delhi is seeing a parallel rise in metabolic disorders linked to sedentary lifestyles, changing diets and urban living. The survey also underlines the scale of the challenge. More than one in five men and nearly one in five women in Delhi now have high blood sugar levels or are taking medication for diabetes.

Public health experts have repeatedly warned that non-communicable diseases such as diabetes are becoming a major burden in urban India. Delhi's latest NFHS data show that the capital is no exception. The figures come at a time when policymakers are grappling with rising healthcare costs linked to chronic illnesses and growing concerns about the long-term impact of lifestyle diseases on the working-age population.

## Delhi's Saket building collapse: Beloved mess owner 'aunty' gets trapped while saving others; remembered by regulars

**New Delhi, (GNS):** For hundreds of outstanding students, Parvati's mess was a sanctuary. It was where medical and engineering aspirants celebrated birthdays, debated test scores over chai, and were sure to find a comforting meal day or night.

"Aunty never said no, however late we went to grab a bite," a student recalled. On Saturday, when the building next door came crashing, the first question many asked was, "Aunty kahaan hain?"

Students said the 50-year-



old ran outside when cracks appeared in the structure moments before the collapse. But seeing people still eating in the mess, she reportedly rushed back to warn them and help them out.

Seconds later, the building came down, trapping her and

several others. Most grieving students didn't even know her name. She was just "mess wali aunty" to all.

She always greeted everyone with a smile, served dal, rice, vegetables, salad, paratha and omelette at prices students could afford," said

Mohammad Imam. "Sometimes we would come just when she was closing the shop, but she never turned us away. She always came back with parathas."

The mess itself was a simple, a tin-roofed structure

with rows of tables and stools where students sat together in groups at all hours of the day. "Families from the neighbourhood too came here regularly just for her tea," said Deepika, a local. Parvati, originally from Nepal, had been running the mess from the Saket location for one and a half years after shifting from a smaller canteen she had operated nearby for nearly four years. The former car detailing shop was converted into a canteen to be closer to the coaching centres and student hostels. Since then, batch after batch of students would

recommend her food and tell others to come too; the change of address didn't deter her clientele one bit.

At the site, Parvathy's daughter Neelam and son-in-law Aniket, they married barely a month ago and live nearby, waited to talk to rescuers as ambulances arrived and departed. "Until late at night, I could distinctly hear my mother's screams," Neelam told Media. She scrolled through videos from happier days. One showed staff members celebrating the birthday of a cook at the mess.

## Smash, reflect, create with Kintsugi workshop

### When breaking down is the beginning of healing

**New Delhi, (GNS):** As the heatwave raged across NCR, Delhiites found refuge in the healing process of Japanese Kintsugi at Delhi Times Life.Styled Club's Kintsugi workshop in partnership with Small World last weekend. Rooted in finding beauty in imperfections, the ancient practice fixes broken ceramics using lacquer and precious metals to create new decorative items.

**What is Life.Styled Club:** Life.Styled Club is a curated community for those who don't follow a lifestyle but style life itself. The club promises a series of exclusive experiences for NCR's dynamic audiences

**Kintsugi is a way of teaching how life is:** The room was filled with anticipation as attendees geared up to



smash perfect looking ceramic bowls into pieces. The workshop had a two-pronged approach - the breaking of ceramic bowls offering a cathartic release, and the delicate piecing together allowing reflection. Turning broken pieces into works of art, the hands-on workshop encouraged introspection and healing. Careful mending and painting of the bowls using lacquer with gold urged the group to focus as they let creativity flow.

For a Gurgaon-based

Agarwal family, who attended the workshop together, it was all about reflection.

Rashmi Agarwal, mother of two daughters, noted, "Once precious things are broken, it's very difficult to mend them. It's a way of teaching how life is. If you fall somewhere in life, you should not be disheartened. A broken or fallen piece can become something better and beautiful. Just like this ceramic, it's been broken, mended and now it's stronger. Life teaches you that despite loss and failure, you can be successful."

**'Learning to embrace imperfections':** Apart from enjoying the bonding experience, Rashmi's daughter, Tarushi Agarwal made her bowl with intention and noted the impact of the process.

## 20-hour rescue operation ends in agony

### 6 die in Saket building collapse

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Six people were killed and at least 10 wounded but rescued from the rubble of a multi-storey commercial building that "pancake-collapsed" in the densely populated Saidulajab in south Delhi Saturday evening. The upper floors of the five-storey building crashed onto the lower ones, causing massive slabs of concrete to land on a neighbouring canteen, a popular hangout for students of the locality's coaching centres.

Those killed were the mess owner, Parvati, and three engineers (Kapil, Nalin Rai and Alok Verma) and two doctors (Ravi Verma and Ekta) who were eating dinner there. No one was in the building that collapsed.

A multi-agency rescue operation, spanning 20 hours, concluded Sunday afternoon when the final body was retrieved. Rescue



teams deployed specialised victim-location cameras and acoustic listening devices to detect faint signs of life. Earthmovers, hydraulic cutters, drilling machines, and trained canine squads were deployed as well.

Delhi Police has filed an FIR on charges of culpable homicide against the absconding building owner, businessman Karamveer, and two contractors. Two MCD engineers have been suspended and a magisterial inquiry is underway. 3D

mapping of the building is likely to be conducted on Monday. The building housed offices and originally comprised a ground floor and three floors above, but two additional ones were built recently.

An illegal expansion was allegedly underway on the top floor of the building ahead of the collapse, adding pressure on the structural frame that locals claimed was built using sub-standard raw material. There was no one in the building when it fell, authorities said.

A video shot by a bystander captured the exact moment when the floors folded, showing an ominous, thick cloud of dust blanketing the narrow lanes. "The owner was aware of the risks involved, yet the construction continued," said a senior cop, adding that a few months ago, they had conveyed their concerns to Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) about the new construction activities there. "The structure was over a decade old and couldn't bear the pressure of additional construction," said an investigator.

The rescue operations proved exceptionally challenging due to the congested, narrow access lanes of Saidulajab, which severely restricted the movement of large emergency vehicles. The debris, rescuers said, had to be removed largely by hand, making the extraction slow.

## Delhi's Saket building collapse: 2 engineers, 1 celebration and a tragedy that stole their future

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Saturday night began as a celebration for Kapil and Nalin Rai. It ended with their deaths in the Saket building collapse.

The two had gathered with friends to celebrate. Kapil had just aced an interview and was on the cusp of securing a dream position at the prestigious Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC). To mark the beginning of a bright future, the friends stepped into the mess for the very first time.

Less than half an hour later after they had placed their food order, tons of concrete came crashing down on them. Back home in Bihar, where Nalin's father is a farmer, the family had supported his moving to Delhi just months ago in pursuit of a better life.

Speaking with Media, their friend, Ashutosh, who



survived the building collapse, narrated how in an instant, a celebration of hard work and big dreams became a site of profound heartbreak.

"We both lived in PG accommodations where meals were provided, but we had planned a small get-together on Saturday. At the mess, Kapil said he would treat us," he said.

They had just ordered food when Nalin said he was going to get some curd, which he liked to have with parathas. Then within minutes, the building collapsed. Ashutosh narrowly escaped.

Kapil was from Rajasthan

and had completed his B.Tech in mechanical engineering. He was preparing for the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) and was focused on building a career in the engineering sector. Friends at AIIMS described him as hardworking and ambitious. He had recently performed well in a BARC interview and was hopeful about his future.

Ashutosh and Nalin were both from Muzaffarpur, Bihar, and had studied in the same engineering college. They had maintained their friendship after graduation.

Recalling their journey, Ashutosh said, "Nalin came to Delhi in Dec last year. On May 31 last year, we completed our B.Tech and celebrated the occasion together. Today, exactly a year later, the situation is completely different."

## Vijender Gupta urges to reconnect with civilisational heritage



**New Delhi, (GNS):** Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta on Sunday said India's strength lies not only in economic growth and technological progress but also in its civilisational consciousness, cultural traditions and moral values, stressing that preserving this heritage is vital for nation-building.

Speaking at the release of Pratham Sindhu Kumbh: Adhyatmik Evam Sanskritik Mahatva at the University of Delhi's Shankar Lal Concert Hall, Gupta described the Sindhu as a cornerstone of India's civilisational memory and cultural identity. The event, organised by the Sindhu Darshan Committee, was attended by spiritual leaders, scholars and academicians, including Dr Indresh Kumar and Dr Dayalu Ji Maharaj. Gupta said the occasion was not merely a book launch but an opportunity to reconnect with India's cultural heritage and national ethos. He noted that the historical roots of terms such as Hind, Hindu and Hindustan are closely linked to the Sindhu and described the river as a symbol of cultural continuity and shared heritage.

Expressing concern that younger generations are becoming increasingly detached from their cultural roots, Gupta underscored the importance of books and initiatives that document India's civilisational legacy. He said the First Sindhu Kumbh was an effort to promote cultural dialogue, social harmony and spiritual reflection.

## Kin blame slow pace of rescue for loss of lives, 'unchecked construction' for collapse

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Anguish turned to outrage at the site of the tragedy as grieving families, students and locals alleged vital delays and a slow rescue effort cost precious lives. They claimed that rescuers arrived late, lacked several vital pieces of equipment like cutters, and ignored specific pointers to where victims lay trapped. The grieving families also alleged that the lack of proper monitoring of rampant construction activities inside the building was directly responsible for the tragedy.

"They only had one cutter when the rescue began. When we raised a hue and cry, additional cutters were procured," alleged Prateek Yadav, who was among the first to reach the site. Neelam, the daughter of Parvati, who used to run the canteen on which the building collapsed, as well as several students, claimed they could hear cries for help from beneath the rubble until around 10 pm.

Neelam also alleged that the rescue effort appeared disorganised. A sniffer dog was not being properly guided, and repeated inputs regarding Parvati's likely location under the debris were ignored. According to the family, 12 hours after informing the rescuers where she might be trapped, debris had not been cleared from that area. They maintained that she would have been alive had the response been more targeted and quicker. Ashutosh, a friend of two of the deceased, Nalin and Kapil, too, said more lives could have been saved. "Nalin remained buried under the debris for nearly 12 hours before being pulled out in the morning."

## One called a friend saying 'bacha lo, please', another hid under table as pillar fell on him

**New Delhi, (GNS):** The building collapse has left at least 10 students injured - young aspirants who came to Delhi chasing dreams of a better future, but are now left with deep mental scars and psychological trauma apart from physical wounds.

Vishal, a 24-year-old B.Tech graduate hailing from Bihar's Jehanabad district, moved to the capital to prepare for Indian Engineering Services (IES) examination, hoping to secure a govt job and support his family. When the tragedy unfolded on Saturday, he was in the adjacent canteen to celebrate his friend Kapil's new job. "I received a call around 9 pm from one of Vishal's friends that he was injured," said Vishal's sister, Lovely Devi (29), who lives in Kanpur. "The rest of our family is in Surat, where our father runs a business. Since I was closest to Delhi, I rushed here immediately."

Holding her tears back, she said that Vishal was studying hard to get a job and shoulder family responsibilities. "Just after the building collapsed, he somehow managed to hide under a table. While his upper body was shielded from the impact, a pillar fell, and he suffered multiple frac-



tures in his legs."

Another injured student, 25-year-old Aastha from Gwalior, completed her MBBS in Kyrgyzstan and moved to Delhi this Feb to prepare for her Foreign Medical Graduate Examination scheduled on June 28. Her father runs a petrol pump in Madhya Pradesh.

Recalling the terrifying moments, her friend, Anamika Attri, 26, said, "When I called up Aastha, she was crying and pleading with me: Daabe hue hai, please bacha lo (I am crushed, please save me)." Aastha, who is in hospital, has lost movement below her neck. "We still haven't told her that Ravi bhैया (a classmate) is dead," Anamika said. "She can barely speak. We don't know how she will handle the shock."

# BJP workers listen to 138th edition of Mann Ki Baat across Capital

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Delhi BJP workers, along with resident welfare associations and local citizen groups, listened to the 134th edition of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat at 7,568 booths and locations across the Capital on Sunday, party leaders said. Newly appointed Delhi BJP president Harsh Malhotra attended a listening session in Alipur, while Chief Minister Rekha Gupta joined a programme at the NCU Auditorium on Sri Aurobindo Marg in Malviya Nagar as part of the "Viksit Malviya Nagar Sankalp Samaroh".

Senior BJP leaders, including MPs Manoj Tiwari, Ramvir Singh



Bidhuri and Praveen Khandelwal, outgoing Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva, and other party functionaries also attended listening sessions across the city.

Speaking after the programme, Malhotra said Mann Ki Baat had become an important platform through which the Prime Minister

directly connects with citizens and highlights inspiring initiatives and achievements from across the country.

Referring to the Prime Minister's remarks on tackling summer heat, Malhotra said Modi spoke about traditional Indian practices such as consuming aam panna and sattva. He urged peo-

ple to listen to the programme regularly, saying it offers valuable insights into innovative and positive developments across India. At the Malviya Nagar event, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta distributed bicycles to 15 meritorious girl students from economically weaker backgrounds as part of an initiative to promote education and women's empowerment.

Addressing the gathering, Gupta said every girl had the right to education and that self-reliance helped build confidence among young women. She said the government was committed to ensuring that no girl's education suffered because of financial constraints.

## Fire breaks out at Education Ministry office in Delhi's ITO

**New Delhi, (GNS):** A fire broke out on the second floor of the Ministry of Education office located in the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA) campus in central Delhi's ITO area on Monday, an official said. No casualties have been reported.

The Delhi Fire Service received a call about the blaze around 9.37 am and rushed eight fire-fighting vehicles to the spot. Firefighting operations are underway. The cause of the fire has not yet been ascertained, officials said.



## In Delhi's belly, nine tunnel boring machines dig deep to connect metro corridors

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Deep below the city's crowded roads, historic neighbourhoods and bustling commercial hubs, nine tunnel boring machines (TBMs) are at work across Delhi.

These TBMs are machines used to excavate tunnels with a circular cross-section. The machines can bore into a variety of soil and rock strata. They can be designed to bore through anything from hard rock to sand. This technology has revolutionised the



way tunnelling work is done worldwide, as tunnels can now be bored without disturbing the buildings and other struc-

tures on the surface. Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) is building over 38 km of underground sections as part of its Phase IV expansion. The TBMs are weaving an intricate network of tunnels that will connect new corridors. Of the nine machines, four are working on the Golden Line - two between Aerocity and Mahipalpur, one at Aerocity towards the launching shaft and two between Vasant Kunj and Mahipalpur. The remain-

ing five are operating on the Magenta Line, including two each between Ramkrishna Ashram Marg and Nabi Karim and Sadar Bazar and Pulbangash.

"Though nine TBMs are at work on different stretches of the capital, there are 15 TBMs in total in Delhi right now. The other six are at different stages (of tunnel creation)," a DMRC official said. In Phase IV, DMRC has completed 23 tunnel breakthroughs in different parts of the city.

"This is a major engineering achievement as these breakthroughs were achieved on diverse terrain, often below areas with high population concentration," the official said.

He added that overall around 84% of the civil work is complete on the Phase-IV priority corridors, including Aerocity-Tughlakabad on the Golden Line and Krishna Park Extension to Deepali Chowk and Majlis Park to Ramkrishna Ashram

Marg on the Magenta Line. The tunnelling work is also under way for the Inderlok-Indraprastha corridor, which is an extension of the Magenta Line.

On the Golden Line, Delhi metro has six TBMs working at the same time in a stretch of 5-6 km to expedite work. "Six TBMs functioned almost in parallel between the Air Force Launching Shaft and Sarita Vihar depot on the Golden Line and successfully completed the tunnelling there."

## First female principal of St Stephen's college takes charge despite DU objections:

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Despite objections from the Delhi University (DU), St Stephen's College has proceeded with the appointment of its 14th principal, with Susan Elias taking charge as the principal of the college on Monday, according to sources.

Elias's appointment was announced in a notification on May 12, after which DU wrote to the college, asking it not to proceed with the appointment, claiming violation of the University Grants Commission (UGC) regulations. The university also wrote to the UGC seeking intervention.

An official on the condition of anonymity said, "The former principal, John Varghese, wrote a kind of parting email to everyone on Sunday. There



is no confirmation yet on whether he will stay in the college as faculty or not."

In the latest dispute, the college also wrote to the college, objecting to proposals of absorbing Varghese as a faculty of the English department.

Meanwhile, the official

added, "Whenever a principal takes charge, there is a sort of ceremony. However, as of now, we are not aware of any such formal gathering."

Elias is the first woman principal of the college in its 145-year history, since its founding in 1881.

## Ten Months After Last Meeting, Father Came to Take Home Son's Body'

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Ravi Prakash Verma (25), who had studied to become a doctor, was counting the days before a long-awaited reunion. After ten months apart, he would finally see his father. Ravi had completed his MBBS in Kyrgyzstan. He spent two years in Delhi tirelessly preparing for the June 28 Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE).

Back in a village in Uttar Pradesh's Gonda district, his father, a local school owner, was planning his journey to Delhi to stand by his son during that big milestone moment. That moment never came for Ravi and his father, Ram. Sitting outside the AIIMS Trauma Centre on Sunday, Ram said despite the distance, the two had remained connected through regular phone calls. Ever



since he had left home to prepare for NEET in Kota, and later for his MBBS abroad, they had spoken often about Ravi's studies, his dreams as a doctor. "We would speak regularly, but we were unable to speak on Saturday. I would have never thought that was my last chance to speak to my son," he said.

The eldest of five siblings, Ravi carried the hopes of his family. His mother is a homemaker. His younger siblings are studying. Relatives said he had worked towards his goal of clearing the FMGE and pursuing an MD in Pediatrics. His younger siblings looked up to him.

"He had taken a break while studying and gone to drink tea in the mess. His body was found standing as it was in the kitchen, covered in debris," the father said.

## Demolition starts in Shalimar Bagh to widen road

**New Delhi, (GNS):** A demolition drive to remove unauthorised construction in the Haiderpur area of Shalimar Bagh, which is the constituency of CM Rekha Gupta, began on Sunday.

The drive began after Supreme Court upheld earlier orders of Delhi High Court, clearing the way for the administration to proceed with a road widening project, senior Delhi govt officials said.

Central-North district magistrate SS Parihar said the action is being taken in compliance with court orders and will continue until all illegal structures in the area are removed.

The land in question is govt land marked for a road in DDA's master plan and forms part of the prescribed Right of Way of Road No 320, he said. The road is a key corridor linking the Shalimar Bagh railway underbridge to Outer Ring Road and provides connectivity to Ring Road, Azadpur, Shalimar Bagh and its surrounding areas.

The administration said the



encroachments had significantly reduced the width of the road. It hampered the movement of ambulances, fire brigade vehicles and other emergency services.

Parihar said the land acquisition process began through notifications in 1959 and 1961. The declaration of acquisition was issued in 1966. Possession of the land was taken in July

1980 and all the compensation amount was deposited by 1981, completing the acquisition process.

This year, a joint survey done on Jan 10 found 143 unauthorised permanent structures within the prescribed 30-metre right of way.

Officials said the road occupies 19.5 metres, and 10.5 metres are blocked because of

the encroachments. The administration said that it had adopted the principle of minimum displacement and, despite the approved right of way being 30 metres, action was being confined to the necessary 10.5-metres.

The administration issued a notice in Jan inviting objections from affected persons. After considering the objections, the land acquisition collector passed an order on March 20. Some residents challenged the action in Delhi High Court. The high court dismissed the petition on April 6 and rejected a review petition on May 18. A special leave petition filed before Supreme Court was dismissed on May 29, the CMO said.

Delhi govt has announced an assistance package for eligible affected families, including a one-time ex-gratia payment of Rs 3 lakh per eligible family or unit. Families without alternative accommodation in Delhi will also be provided temporary licence-based housing for up to 11 months in residential units at Savda Ghevra.