



## Fire at Six-Storey Delhi Hotel Kills 21

### Most Victims Foreign Nationals

**New Delhi(GNS):** At least 21 people were killed after a massive fire broke out at a hotel named Flourish Stay in Delhi's Malviya Nagar on Wednesday morning. Most of the deceased are believed to be foreign nationals from Central Asian and African countries, although the exact number has not yet been confirmed.

According to the Delhi Fire Service and local residents, the blaze started around 8:50 a.m. in the restaurant section of the building and quickly spread to hotel rooms on the upper floors as well as the basement.

Videos from the scene showed several people jumping from the third and fourth floors of the burning building in an attempt to save their lives. Local residents spread mattresses on the ground to cushion their fall.

A total of 40 people were rescued, while several remain in critical condition. More than six individuals were also evacuated from the basement. The exact cause of the fire is still under investigation. Officials noted that 66 people have died in various fire-related incidents across Delhi during the past six months. Mother Jumps from



Third Floor to Save Child One of the most dramatic rescues involved a mother who leapt from the third floor while

### PM Announces Compensation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the tragedy through a post on social media. He offered condolences to the families of the victims and announced financial assistance of 2 lakh each for the families of those killed and 50,000 for the injured from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Delhi Police and fire department teams have launched an investigation into the cause of the fire.



holding her child tightly against her chest. Witnesses said she had no other escape route as flames and smoke engulfed the building. Fortunately, local residents had placed mattresses below the building before firefighters arrived. The mother and child landed on the mattresses and survived, though the woman

sustained injuries and both were taken to a hospital. Residents said the tragedy could have been far worse without the quick actions of local volunteers. During the fire, many trapped guests were seen calling for help from windows while nearby residents assisted rescue efforts at great personal risk.

### 200-Year-Old Mosque Demolished in 22 Minutes in Varanasi

**Varanasi(GNS):** A 200-year-old mosque, Ajgaib Shaheed Masjid, was demolished by authorities in Varanasi during a late-night operation. Five bulldozers brought down the 42-foot-tall structure in just 22 minutes, and all debris was removed overnight. At around midnight, officials arrived at the site with more than 1,000 police personnel. Barricades were erected around the mosque, and public movement in the area was restricted before demolition work began. According to the administration, the mosque stood on railway land. The matter had been under legal dispute, and the court had ruled in favour of the railways.

Authorities stated that the demolition was necessary for the expansion and modernization of the railway station. Police officials said the operation was carried out at night to avoid traffic disruptions and maintain public order.

### Mamata Banerjee's TMC splits, 58 MLAs form separate faction

Ritabrata Banerjee elected legislative party leader, Speaker approves

**Kolkata(GNS):** Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress (TMC) formally split for the first time in its 28-year history. On Wednesday, 58 rebel MLAs elected expelled MLA Ritabrata Banerjee as their leader and submitted a letter of support to Assembly Speaker Rathindra Bose.

It demanded that Ritabrata be declared the Leader of the Opposition. According to news agency PTI, the Speaker has granted approval. He has also



been allotted the Leader of the Opposition's room in the Assembly. Javed Khan, Sandipan Saha, and Siuli Saha have been appointed Deputy Leaders, while Akhruzzaman has been appointed Chief Whip. However, there has been no comment from the Assembly

Speaker or Mamata Banerjee on this development. Mamata now has the support of 22 MLAs. The TMC won 80 of the 294 seats. Meanwhile, senior leader Kunal Ghosh announced that TMC MLA Firhad Hakim has resigned as Kolkata's mayor. The controversy began when Ritabrata Banerjee and Sandipan Saha were expelled from the party after being accused of forging signatures on a resolution to elect the Leader of the Opposition.

### CM Suvendu Adhikari Launches Annapurna Scheme



**Kolkata(GNS):** West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Wednesday launched the Annapurna Scheme for women. Under the first phase of the welfare initiative, 28.25 lakh beneficiaries will receive monthly financial assistance of 3,000.

The amount will be directly transferred to beneficiaries' bank accounts through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system. The government estimates that nearly two crore women will ultimately benefit from the scheme, although only 28.25 lakh women have been included in the initial phase.

**Statewide Launch Ceremony:** The inauguration ceremony was attended by Women, Child Development and Social Welfare Minister Agnimitra Paul. Similar events were organized virtually across blocks, municipalities, and the Kolkata Municipal Corporation area.

**Approval Letters Distributed:** Following the launch, approval letters were distributed to 100 selected beneficiaries in each block and municipality, as well as to 100 beneficiaries in the Kolkata Municipal Corporation area. Officials stated that beneficiary lists were finalized based on recommendations from Sub-Divisional Officers (SDOs), Block Development Officers (BDOs), and municipal authorities. The scheme aims to provide direct financial support to women to help them manage household expenses and healthcare needs. Annapurna was a key promise in the BJP's election manifesto and is set to replace the previous Lakshmi Bhandar scheme, under which beneficiaries received 1,500 per month.

### Video Emerges of Attack on Khan Sir's Coaching Institute in Patna

**Patna(GNS):** A video of Tuesday night's attack on educator Khan Sir's coaching institute, Global Studies, in Patna has surfaced online. The footage shows several individuals assaulting a security guard, pelting stones, and tearing down posters.

Police have arrested Roshan Anand, director of Gyan Bindu Coaching Institute, along with his associates Abhishek and Gaurav. All three are being questioned. Khan Sir accused the director and employees of Gyan Bindu Coaching Institute of orchestrating the attack. According to him, the security guard suffered a serious head injury and was hospitalized. Initially, Khan Sir claimed that eight to ten rounds of gunfire had been fired during the incident.

### TMC is falling apart



## India Sends 43 Tonnes of Medical Aid to Uganda Amid Ebola Crisis



**New Delhi(GNS):** India has dispatched emergency medical assistance to Uganda to help combat the ongoing Ebola outbreak. The aid was delivered aboard an Indian Air Force C-17 Globemaster aircraft.

The Indian Air Force announced the mission on social media, describing it as a demonstration of India's ability to provide rapid humanitarian assistance during crises.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the aid was supplied to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) following a request from the African Union Commission.

An initial consignment of approximately 2.5 tonnes of medical supplies was sent to Kampala on May 24. It included protective equipment, health-monitoring devices, essential medicines, and nutritional supplies.

After receiving an updated list of requirements from Africa CDC, India prepared a second and much larger shipment weighing around 43 tonnes. The consignment includes protective gear, diagnostic and surveillance equipment, sample transport kits, infection-control materials, medicines, and other essential items.

The Ministry said the assistance reflects India's strong partnership with African nations and its continued commitment to supporting public health efforts across the continent.

# Rebellion in TMC

## Kantilal Mandot

Mamata's grip weakens; arrogance of power and public discontent increase the party's difficulties.

The result of appeasement and jungle raj politics is now visible.

There was a time in West Bengal politics when Mamata Banerjee's name was synonymous with the Trinamool Congress. Rising to power in 2011 after ending Left rule, Banerjee established herself as Bengal's most influential leader. But over time, the same political style that brought her to power now appears to be posing her biggest challenge.

Following the crushing defeat in the assembly elections, voices of dissent emerging within the Trinamool Congress indicate that all is not well within the party. Separate meetings of MLAs, questions about leadership, and rumors of a split within the party are deepening this crisis.

Political analysts believe this situation did not arise suddenly. It stems from years of policies and practices that have led to growing discontent both within and outside the party. Appeasement politics, allegations of corruption, the cut-money culture, political violence, and questions

about law and order have gradually eroded the TMC's image among the public. The electoral defeat is being seen as a manifestation of that discontent.

Mamata Banerjee has long portrayed herself as the foremost benefactor of minorities. Her government launched numerous schemes that benefited various sections of society, but the opposition has consistently accused the state of prioritizing vote-bank politics over development and good governance. This attempt to appease specific communities, rather than strike a balance between Hindu and Muslim commu-

nities, fueled social and political polarization. This impact gradually began to manifest in electoral politics.

Incidents of political violence have been a constant topic of discussion in Bengal over the past few years. From Panchayat elections to Assembly elections, allegations of violence, intimidation, and booth capturing have surfaced. Opposition parties have alleged that democratic institutions in the state have weakened and political pressure on the administration has increased. This has led to persistent questions about law and order in the state. A

large section of the public has developed the perception that action is not taken against those with political patronage, while complaints from ordinary citizens are not taken seriously.

The issue of cut money also caused significant trouble for the Trinamool Congress. Allegations of bribes allegedly taken from beneficiaries of various government schemes damaged the party's image. Reports of leaders returning money to people in several areas after electoral defeats were seen as a sign of deep public anger over this issue. When a political party's workers and local leaders begin to

lose public trust, the impact is ultimately reflected in the election results.

The biggest challenge facing the TMC today is not just the opposition but also internal dissent. Many party leaders and MLAs feel that there is a lack of communication within the organization and that decision-making is limited to a few individuals. This is why reports of separate meetings and rebellious attitudes began to emerge immediately after the electoral defeat. If a party's MLAs publicly question the leadership, it is not merely a result of electoral defeat but a sign of long-simmering discontent.

## Editorial

### Whom should I compare you to?

Undoubtedly, 'Virat King' Kohli has played a major role in making RCB the IPL champions again and again. Virat is on the verge of retirement. He has retired from Test and 'fast-paced' T20 cricket. He has reached an age where his coordination between bat and ball begins to blur. His shots start to go wrong. Virat has overcome and defied these contradictions and obstacles, scoring 675 runs in IPL 2026. One century, five half-centuries, and an average of over 56...! He is certainly 'Virat' and incomparable, but this tournament would be incomplete without discussing the explosiveness of a 15-year-old batsman. That amazing boy is Vaibhav Suryavanshi. In fact, Vaibhav is the 'uplifting player' of IPL 2026. He was declared the "Player of the Tournament," the most promising player, the "King" of 72 sixes despite the presence of legendary players, the most dynamic, the most brilliant, the most explosive strike rate, the "Orange Cap" winner (an astonishing 776 runs), which included two innings of 97 and 96 runs, in addition to a century. He was awarded a total of ₹3.10 crore (310 million rupees) in recognition of his contribution. He also received a Tata Sierra car. This amount was calculated when Vaibhav's contract was ₹1.10 crore (110 million rupees) and his per-match fee was ₹7 lakh (700,000 rupees). You can imagine his IPL value next year. "The Megastar of the Century," Amitabh Bachchan, is apt and meaningful, commenting that at his age, he couldn't even play games like marbles and gulli-danda very well. This seems to be a universal truth, as we have continuously seen the game of Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev, Sachin Tendulkar, Sehwag, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav and the young six-hitters of the current era. Certainly, all have been and remain valuable, incomparable players, but the 15-year-old's glory is truly "unique." Was 72 sixes in a single IPL season ever imagined? West Indies' Chris Gayle's 59 sixes seemed "unchallenging," and Gayle was also an experienced batsman. But at 15, a child's blazing sixes off balls of 145, 150 kmp/h, bowled by stormy bowlers... truly seems miraculous! It's truly "unimaginable!" Who crafted this "masterful" batsman? After all, with which great player should we compare him? In cricket, Rohit Sharma is the world champion in sixes.

# Man remains a slave to desires throughout his life and remains trapped in greed, attachment, illusion, anger and lust

## Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani

Affection lost, worry gone, heart is no longer bothered.

Those who do not want anything are the bravest of the brave.

The songs written by Anand Bakshi from the 1972 film Apna Prem, "Kuch toh log kahenge logo ka kaam hai kehna"; "Chhodo beker ki baten me kahi beet na jaaye raina" and the sayings of elders prove to be true in practical life. We often hear, see and feel these sayings in our daily lives. However, instead of using their accurate teachings, inspiration and mantras, we blame our problems on our rivals, neighbors, and if we don't understand anything further, we blame it on Allah. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavanani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe that this is our biggest foolishness. The sayings of elders - "You hit me like a bull, distant drums sound sweet," "When you point one finger at another, three fingers point back at you," "Be happy in your own fun," and many other sayings, hold true in life because many simple things and doubts create problems in our daily routine. Therefore, to avoid them, we must use the mantra of carelessness. Therefore, today through this article we will discuss being carefree and its merits and demerits.

Friends, if we talk about adopting the weapon of carelessness to overcome worry and anxiety, constant worry and doubt can bother us daily and increase our stress levels. These feelings and high stress levels can prevent us from doing any-

thing and enjoying the things we love. Just remember that objectivity is best displayed during times of emotional commitment. It's the best way to hide your emotions and not intimidate people. It can make you appear strong and stone-like. Be sensitive to people's feelings. Too much carelessness can hurt people and alienate them. Unfortunately, it can also alienate your loved one, if you're not careful. By becoming careless, we can become careless and not let things bother us. We are made of strong stuff, and nothing can bring us down.

Friends, if we talk about not being carefree, but caring, then those who are not that carefree (you could say, caring) are busy trying to change their lives according to what others say. They try so hard to be accepted and loved by others, so that everything becomes exactly the same. In short, they care too much, and about things that don't matter at all. Let's not copy this lifestyle, and the lives of others, but live our own life. We shouldn't care at all about what others say—we should do what makes us happy.

Friends, when it comes to adapting our body language to a carefree attitude, we should pay attention to our body language: Sometimes, no matter how calm and composed we may sound, our body language can reveal the truth. Our voice is clear, no matter what. Don't worry, but smoke is coming out of our ears and our fists are clenched. This won't be a secret, because everyone will see the truth. So, when we speak carefreely, make sure our body supports it. How our body is positioned will

depend on our situation. When we're anxious and worried (and a carefree "no"), our muscles will be tense. If we think our body language will reveal the truth, then examine your body from top to bottom and consciously ensure that every part remains calm. If this isn't the case, relax it. This is where mental carelessness comes from.

Friends, if we talk about Rahim's couplet on Beparwah and its meaning then

Affection lost, worry gone, heart is no longer bothered.

Those who do not want anything are the bravest of the brave. Its meaning:

As soon as one wish is fulfilled, another wish arises. Man remains immersed in the worry of how to fulfill the wishes. He is unable to live life to its fullest. He remains a slave to desires throughout his life and remains trapped in greed, attachment, illusion, anger and lust. Not even a single moment passes peacefully for him. On the contrary, Rahim says, if there is no desire, if the wish disappears, then one gets freedom from worry. All the burden is lifted from the head and the mind becomes carefree and carefree. The truth is that those who do not want anything, who are carefree, they are the kings of kings.

Friends, if we think of being carefree as not taking ourselves seriously, finding humor in every situation, then don't take yourself (or anything else) too seriously: Life becomes much simpler when we realize that nothing is that big of a deal. We're all just grains of sand on this earth, and if things don't go

our way, just accept that it's bound to happen. Bad things will happen, and good things will inevitably happen. Why worry about it? Find the humor in every situation—being carefree doesn't mean you won't be happy, it just means you won't get upset, angry, or stressed easily. And how can that be done? If everything is humorous, that's a good start. Just as there's always something good in everything, there's a touch of humor in most things. Don't display too many emotions: The very definition of carefree is to remain calm and composed almost 24/7. You may display mild interest or happiness—or even a little disappointment or discomfort—but deep within you remain calm, like a deep lake. This doesn't mean you'll be emotionless or cold; it's simply a matter of remaining calm. Friends, regarding things to keep in mind when being indifferent, impartiality is best displayed during times of emotional commitment. It's the best way to conceal your emotions and not intimidate others. It can define us as a strong, stone-like person. Be sensitive to people's feelings. Too much indifference can hurt people and alienate them. Unfortunately, it can also alienate your loved one, if you're not careful. Therefore, if we study and analyze the entire above description, we will find that being carefree is the perfect mantra to protect ourselves from trouble caused by trivial matters and doubt. To ward off high tension caused by trivial matters, it is necessary to refocus our minds and use the weapon of carelessness.

# New flight to the resolve of infrastructure, environmental protection and developed India

## Vinod Kumar Singh

Cabinet approves Rs 39,290 crore

India is experiencing a phase where development is no longer merely a matter of numbers, but is linked to the quality of life, improved connectivity, a clean environment, and expanded economic opportunities. In furtherance of this vision, the Central Cabinet has approved six important projects worth approximately 39,290 crore. These decisions include areas such as the aviation sector, expansion of national highways, construction of coastal connectivity, and environmentally friendly public transport systems. The significance of these projects lies not only in their financial cost but also in their long-term

social and economic impact. These decisions appear to be in line with the country's growing economic needs and the goal of a developed India. One of the most significant decisions is the establishment of the Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) Price Stabilization Fund, for which an amount of 10,000 crore has been earmarked. India's aviation sector has grown rapidly in the past few years. The Regional Connectivity Scheme, the construction of new airports, and increasing passenger numbers have taken the region to new heights. Today, fluctuations in global crude oil prices directly impact aviation fuel. Sudden increases in ATF prices increase airline costs, which in turn impacts passengers. The Price Stabilization Fund will act as a safety net in such

circumstances. This will provide airlines with greater financial stability and help make air travel more accessible and affordable. Another important Cabinet decision relates to a plan to phase out old trucks and buses in Delhi. 5,041 crore will be spent on this plan. The National Capital Region has long faced the challenge of air pollution. Experts believe that smoke from old commercial vehicles is a major cause of pollution. Under the new scheme, old vehicles will be phased out and modern, less polluting vehicles will be encouraged. This is not only an environmental improvement measure but also a public health issue. Clean air plays a vital role in improving the quality of life of citizens. If implemented effectively, this plan could significantly

improve air quality in the capital region. One of the largest road infrastructure projects is the Rameswaram-Konark-Paradip Coastal Highway, which will cost 8,301 crore. India's long coastline is economically significant. Tourism, fisheries, port-based activities, and maritime trade are the backbone of these regions' economies. The construction of the Coastal Highway will strengthen connectivity between several coastal areas of South India and Eastern India. This will boost tourism activities, reduce cargo transportation costs, and attract investment to coastal areas. This project also strengthens the concept of the "Blue Economy," which places special emphasis on the sustainable use of marine resources. The Cabinet also made an

important decision for Bihar. 3,936 crore has been approved for the four-lane development of the Khagaria-Purnia section of National Highway 31 and National Highway 231. Bihar has long felt the need for improved road connectivity. A large portion of the state's population depends on agriculture and small businesses. Improved roads provide farmers with access to markets and enhance the potential for industrial investment. This project is also strategically important for routes leading to Northeast India. The road expansion will reduce travel time, reduce accidents, and increase freight transportation efficiency. A project to develop various sections of National Highways 63 and 563 in Telangana into four lanes will cost 7,597 crore.

# Delhi Govt launches water management reform drive

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Water rationalisation, pipeline replacement & recycling network among key initiatives to ensure equitable supply across Capital

Amid rising water demand and mounting pressure on limited resources, the Delhi Government on Tuesday unveiled an ambitious water management reform programme aimed at ensuring fair distribution of water, reducing wastage and modernising the city's ageing infrastructure.

Announcing the initiatives, Water Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh said the government was undertaking one of the most comprehensive overhauls of Delhi's water supply system in decades, with a focus on equitable access, conserva-



tion and long-term water security. The move comes amid the Capital's tussle with increased water stress during the summer season. Delhi currently requires nearly 1,250 million gallons per day (MGD) of water, while a prolonged dry spell in the Yamuna has reduced water production by around 100 MGD.

"People should understand

that Delhi's water resources are finite but the city's population is growing rapidly. The answer is not only to bring more water to Delhi but also to manage every drop more efficiently. We are building a system that can serve Delhi not just today, but for decades to come," said the minister.

A key component of the reform package is the proposed Water Rationalisation Project, which will assess population density, demand patterns and existing infrastructure to ensure more balanced distribution across the city. The minister said that every summer, water-related complaints were concentrated in 12 to 13 Assembly constituencies due to long-standing supply imbalances in those areas.

The government will also prioritise replacement of old pipelines. Of Delhi's 16,634-km water distribution network, 5,500-km long connections are over 30 years old, leading to leakages and water losses. "The work that should have been done 10 or 20 years ago is now being taken up on priority. Replacing old pipelines, reducing leakages, modernising distribution systems and strengthening water infrastructure are essential steps to make Delhi water secure," he said.

The Delhi Jal Board is simultaneously working to reduce Non-Revenue Water (NRW) and exploring the conversion of the DSB Canal into a pipeline-based system to curb transmission losses.

# Home Guard crushed to death as truck rams police checkpoint in Gurugram



**New Delhi, (GNS):** A Home Guard on duty was killed after a speeding truck rammed a police checkpoint in front of the Worldmark Mall in Sector 65 around 11:30 pm on Tuesday. The impact destroyed police barricades and damaged a police vehicle stationed at the checkpoint. The victim, identified as Sandeep Kumar, was struck by the truck and died on the spot.

According to eyewitnesses, the truck driver was driving recklessly and broke through the barricades before hitting the Home Guard personnel.

After the incident, the driver abandoned the vehicle and fled. Police

seized the truck and launched a search operation to trace the accused.

The deceased was a resident of Liwasi village in Bhiwani district. It is being said that he had been transferred from Bhiwani to Gurugram just three days ago. Police have informed his family about the incident.

"The other policemen on duty tried to arrest the driver, but he took advantage of the darkness and fled after abandoning the truck. We have seized the vehicle and are conducting raids to nab him," said a senior police officer. The body has been sent for post-mortem examination. Further investigation is under way.

## Delhi model's death in Kerala quarry raises questions

**New Delhi, (GNS):** The death of Delhi-based model Divyanshu Joshi during a location recce, for fashion label Kartik Research, at an abandoned quarry in Kerala has sparked fresh questions about safety oversight on production shoots. According to local officials, the quarry had been shut for more than 20 years after multiple fatalities; no permission was obtained to access the site, and the area lacked basic safety precautions despite its known risks. Meanwhile, the brand maintains that inaccurate accounts of the event have been circulating online. They had come to inspect the location, and the shoot was scheduled for the next day: Grama Panchayat

According to Shaimy Varghese, President of the Mudakkuzha Grama Panchayat, no permission was sought to conduct a shoot at the quarry, which has remained closed for more than two decades. "No permission was sought from us to conduct a shoot at the quarry. It has been closed for over 20 years. A gate was installed in 2017 after a few deaths were reported there. The land belongs to the Revenue Department, and we only manage the gate through a person assigned to oversee it," Varghese said.

No permission was sought from us to conduct a shoot at the quarry. It has been closed for over 20 years Shaimy Varghese, President of the Mudakkuzha Grama Panchayat According to reports, at least three people had passed away in the Pettamala stone quarry in 2017. Varghese added, "The gate was found open, but we are not sure how it was opened; it may have been forced open. From what I understand based on conversations that day, they had come to inspect the location, and the shoot was scheduled for the next day."

"The water body is relatively shallow along the edge, but it becomes extremely deep further inside. Locals are aware of this. Reportedly, they saw someone bathing there and then entered the water themselves," he added.

# My Bharat launches 'Develop Vibrant Village Programme 2026' to boost youth participation in border villages

**New Delhi, (GNS):** My Yuva Bharat (My Bharat), under the Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, has launched the first phase of the Vikasit Vibrant Village Programme (VVVP) 2026. This initiative aims to increase active participation of youth in border villages, strengthen national unity, and promote sustainable development.

The program will be implemented in two phases. Under this, 500 My Bharat volunteers selected from across the

country will spend a week in border areas and work with local communities. These volunteers were selected through a nationwide online quiz competition in which over 3 lakh youth participated.

In the first phase, 250 volunteers will work in 43 border villages in Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, while the remaining 250 volunteers will participate in activities in 50 villages in the second phase this month.

This program will provide youth with an opportunity to



closely understand the social, economic, and cultural life of border areas. Volunteers will interact with village residents, Panchayat institutions, local

administration, and security forces, and learn about the development and strategic importance of these areas.

The seven-day program is

based on several themes, including border awareness, cultural exchange, community life, good governance, socio-economic studies, village development planning, volunteerism, and national integration. Volunteers will conduct door-to-door surveys, participate in Gram Sabha activities, support cleanliness and environmental campaigns, and identify development potential in villages. The Nation First Challenge" campaign is also a key component of the program.

## 'Display carbon footprint on product packaging just like ingredients'

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Products sold in the market should be required to display their carbon footprint on packaging, just as they carry information about ingredients and manufacturing and expiry dates. This was voiced during a conference of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) in collaboration with Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organisation (HESCO), where experts discussed practical measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable consumption.

"If food packages can display information, such as calories and other nutritional details, commercial products should likewise carry information about their carbon footprint. This will create greater public



awareness and encourage consumers to make environmentally conscious choices by being more sensitive to carbon emissions associated with the products they use," Sachchidanand Joshi, member secretary of IGNCA, said, adding that recommendations regarding this will be compiled and sent to the Prime Minister.

Environmentalist Anil P Joshi pointed out how consumer habits and patterns of consumerism can significantly

affect carbon footprint. "The products should display the consequential environmental effects of lifestyles and consumption choices, enabling consumers to make more informed decisions," he said, adding that it will set the trend with mass awareness.

He pointed out that 40 billion tonnes of carbon are emitted globally each year, while fluorinated carbon emissions account for approximately 11 million to 12 million tonnes. He said the possibility of reversing the changes remains limited, estimating it at 10% to 12%. Transportation, industrialisation, excessive energy consumption, deforestation and unsustainable consumerism are among the primary drivers behind rising greenhouse gas emissions.

## Delhi's first dedicated pet park set to open in Jangpura this year

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Delhi is likely to get its first dedicated pet park later this year, with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) reviving a long-pending project in Jangpura that has remained shut despite being developed nearly two years ago. Spread across around 1.5 acres near the Jangpura-Defence Colony flyover, the facility is expected to become operational once a private agency is appointed to run and maintain it. Fresh tenders for the project were issued earlier this month under the public-private partnership (PPP) model.

MCD officials said the civic body expects to finalise an operator within the next two to three weeks. The park will be capable of accommodating

more than 20 dogs at a time and is being designed as a comprehensive pet-friendly space. The facility will include dedicated exercise and play areas, dog trails, swimming and tracking zones, grooming and veterinary services and a day-care centre for pet owners. Safety measures such as double-gated entry points have also been planned to prevent pets from accidentally leaving the premises. The project was originally developed in 2023, but failed to open due to delays in appointing an operator. Officials said the absence of a functional MCD Standing Committee for approving tender proposals contributed to the delay, while subsequent approvals also remained pending.

## Supreme Court sets up 5-member High-Powered Committee to define Aravalli Hills and Ranges

**New Delhi, (GNS):** The Supreme Court has constituted a five-member High-Powered Committee (HPC) headed by Director General of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) Kanchan Devi to define the Aravalli Hills and Ranges.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice Vipul M Pancholi ordered that the HPC will be headed ex officio by the ICFRE Director General.

Kanchan Devi, a 1991 Indian Forest Service officer from the Madhya Pradesh cadre, has over three decades of experience in forestry education and research, wildlife and forest policy, and institutional leadership.

The other members of the HPC included former Director General of the Forest Survey of India Dr



Subhash Ashutosh, former Director of the Geological Survey of India Dr Rajendra Kumar Sharma, former Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) Brij Mohan Singh Rathore, and former Head of the Department of Botany at Delhi University Prof Ashok K Bhatnagar.

The top court ordered that Prof Jagdish Krishnaswamy of the Indian Institute for Human Settlements and Prof Laxmikant Sharma of the

Central University of Haryana shall be associated with the HPC as special invitees from time to time and officer of the rank of Director in the MoEFCC will serve as Member Secretary. "Further, the High-Powered Committee so constituted shall be at liberty to associate any other domain expert(s) as may be required for the effective discharge of its functions," the Bench said in its May 25 order made public on Wednesday.

Noting that it's essential for the HPC to remain mindful of "varied and often competing considerations" while undertaking its assessment to ensure a comprehensive, balanced, and informed evaluation of the issues falling within its remit. "Accordingly, we direct the High-Powered Committee to actively invite and consider sugges-

tions from all relevant stakeholders. For this purpose, the Committee shall issue an appropriate public notice inviting representations, suggestions, and inputs from interested persons and entities who may be affected by, or have a legitimate interest in, the issues under consideration," it ordered.

The HPC is mandated to conduct a "fair, impartial, independent" review of the Centre's report on the definition and delineation of the Aravalli hill range addressing the "critical ambiguities" in the findings and submit a report by August 31, 2026.

The top court had in November 2025 approved an elevation-linked definition for classifying landforms as part of the Aravalli range - spanning across Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat - for the purpose of mining regulation.

## Turning the tide on 'fugitive plastic': Mother Dairy bets on soil-degradable pouches

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Every day in Delhi-NCR, lakhs of milk pouches are emptied, discarded and replaced. While many enter recycling streams, a significant number do not. They end up in landfills, clog drains and litter open spaces, adding steadily to the capital's plastic pollution burden.

Experts describe such waste as "fugitive plastic" - material that escapes formal collection and recovery systems. The problem is particularly acute for milk packaging. Plastic pouches remain the most practical way to deliver a product that is consumed daily and must meet the demands of affordability, hygiene and large-scale distribution. For the dairy industry, the challenge has been how to retain these benefits while reducing the environmental cost of packaging that never reaches a recycler.

That dilemma has now led



to a new experiment. From World Environment Day on June 5, Mother Dairy, the largest milk supplier in Delhi, will begin rolling out what it describes as India's first milk pouch that naturally degrades in soil, starting with its cow milk variant across Delhi-NCR. "We undertook over four years of research to develop a naturally degradable milk pouch that leaves no trace of plastics in the environment. While these milk pouches will continue to remain recyclable, the key differentiator lies in their ability to degrade

into natural elements, thereby helping address the challenge of fugitive plastic and contributing towards a cleaner ecosystem," said Jayatheertha Chary, managing director, Mother Dairy.

The idea, the company says, is that the pouch should function exactly like conventional packaging during storage, transport, sale and use. If it escapes the recycling chain and ends up in the environment, however, it is designed to gradually break down through microbial action in soil, returning to natural elements instead of persisting for decades.

Mother Dairy unveiled the new packaging on Monday, calling it a step towards addressing plastic waste that falls outside formal collection systems. The initial roll-out will cover its cow milk variant, which accounts for around 35% of the company's daily sales in Delhi-NCR.

# Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Gujarat on 5 June: will Inaugurate and Lay Foundation Stone for National Highway Projects Worth 12,421 Crore in Gujarat

**Inauguration of Vadodara–Mumbai Expressway (Packages VI and VII) Built at a Cost of 7,689 Crore**



Under NH-56 Upgradation, Foundation Stone Laying for Four-Laning of Dhamasia–Bitada and Nasarpore–Malotha Sections

Construction of a 6-Lane Underpass and Flyover at Hazira at a Cost of 149 Crore to Ensure Smooth Movement of Heavy Vehicles

The Projects Will Strengthen Connectivity Across South Gujarat to Boost Economic Development

**Gandhinagar:** Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will visit Surat, Gujarat, on 5

## Inauguration of Vadodara–Mumbai Expressway (Packages VI and VII), built at a cost of 7,689 Crore

The Prime Minister will inaugurate the 36 km KIM-ENA section (Package VI) and the 27.50 km Gandeva–ENA section (Package VII) of the Vadodara–Mumbai Expressway. Both packages have been developed at a combined cost of 7,689 crore. The project features a comprehensive network of major and minor bridges, railroad bridges, flyovers, and vehicle underpasses. A total of 70 underpasses and two interchanges have been built to improve local connectivity and ensure smooth movement for commuters. With the operationalisation of this 8-lane corridor, connectivity in the region will improve significantly, enabling faster travel. To further enhance safety and convenience, seven well-equipped wayside amenities will be developed across both packages for drivers.

The commissioning of these sections will improve freight movement along the Delhi–Mumbai expressway and help reduce logistics costs for local industries, aligning with the objectives of the Bharatmala Project. Additionally, four NHA projects worth 4,732 crore will also see foundation stone laying. These include four-laning of NH-56 (Package 4) from Dhamasia to Bitada/Movi, four-laning of NH-56 (Package 6) from Nasarpore to Malotha, a 6-lane Vehicle Underpass (Reliance), and a VUP-cum-flyover at Kawas on the Surat–Hazira section of NH-53.

## Upgradation of NH-56 to Strengthen Connectivity in Tribal Districts

The four-laning of the Dhamasia–Bitada and Nasarpore–Malotha sections under the NH-56 upgradation in Gujarat will increase connectivity to the Statue of Unity and the tribal districts of Narmada, Tapi, Valsad and Chhota Udepur. The project will also support local development by connecting farmers, industries and key trade routes. The 107.67 km four-lane corridor will reduce travel time by around 40 minutes and increase average speeds by nearly 75%. It will connect pharma and medical clusters, fishing and seafood clusters, tribal regions, and key logistics nodes, including one airport, two railway stations and two ports.

June 2026, World Environment Day. During the visit, he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of National Highway projects worth 12,421 crore in the South Gujarat region. He will inaugurate two packages of the

Expressway and lay the foundation stone for four key highway projects. The projects will strengthen connectivity across Gujarat, including South Gujarat, and give a strong boost to regional economic development.

## 6-Lane Flyover and Vehicle Underpass to Be Built in Hazira

Two projects worth about 149 crore will be taken up on the Hazira Port–Surat section of National Highway 53. These include a 6-lane flyover and a vehicle underpass to ensure smooth movement of heavy goods traffic towards Hazira Port and nearby industrial areas. The projects will support maritime trade and industrial growth while also enabling safer and congestion-free travel for residents of Surat. They will help ease traffic pressure in the high-density industrial zone near Hazira Port and improve overall transport efficiency.

## Nigerian national out on bail held with drugs worth Rs 3 lakh in Delhi's Dwarka

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Delhi Police arrested a Nigerian national allegedly involved in the supply of amphetamine in the national capital and recovered narcotics worth around Rs 3 lakh from his possession in Dwarka, officials said on Wednesday.

The accused, identified as 42-year-old Cyrcus Ifeanyi Onyekaonwu, a resident of Anambra State, Nigeria, was also found to be illegally staying in India without a valid visa or passport. Police seized 14 grams of high-grade amphetamine-classified as an intermediate quantity under the NDPS Act along with a scooter allegedly used for drug deliveries. According to police, the arrest was made under the recently launched anti-drug campaign "Nashe Par Lagaam, Desh Ko Salaam", aimed at intensifying action against drug traffickers and curbing substance abuse in Delhi.

## Days after Kasol firing, 60-yr-old local run over twice by 'drunk' Delhi tourist near Manali



**New Delhi, (GNS):** A 60-year-old pedestrian was killed in a horrific road accident in Kullu after he was allegedly hit, dragged and run over twice by a Delhi-registered car in the Farm area on Naggar Road, near Manali, in Kullu district on Monday. The incident comes two days after a tourist from Punjab shot a local man in the leg allegedly after a minor dispute over parking at Kasol in Kullu district on Saturday.

According to eyewitnesses, the Maruti Swift car, bearing registration number DL12CU0584, was being

driven on the wrong side of the road when it hit the victim, Ram Krishan, a local resident, who was walking along the roadside.

Eyewitnesses alleged that the driver, identified as 29-year-old Vikrant Vij of Karol Bagh in Delhi, dragged the victim for nearly 25 feet before reversing the vehicle and running over him again, resulting in his death on the spot. Om Prakash, an eyewitness, said he was heading towards the town after getting his vehicle washed when the speeding car from Delhi overtook him.

## South Delhi building collapse: 'Let's go to sleep, we will be saved if it's destined'; how 2 friends trapped in debris kept each other alive

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Beneath a mountain of fallen concrete, a shattered table became a sanctuary where two friends traded words to keep the darkness at bay. Even as the air grew thin and his own limbs went numb, 24-year-old engineer and Indian Engineering Services (IES) aspirant Vishal's final plea to rescuers was: "Save my friend first."

Speaking to Media from his bed at AIIMS Trauma Centre, Vishal recounted over three hours of suffocation, agony and uncertainty after the Saidulajab building collapsed as they were eating dinner. "I could hear people screaming from under the rubble," he said. "But I didn't know if anyone could hear me."

Vishal, who attends coaching classes nearby and lives in a PG in the neighbourhood, had gone to the mess next door with friends for what would become their final meal together. Two of his friends, Kapil and Nalin, died in the collapse. Vishal, Anuj and Aditya were injured, while another friend, Ashutosh, escaped. "It was around 7.30pm and we were getting ready to leave," Vishal said. "Mess aunty Parvati came inside and



raised an alarm about the collapse. Before we could react, debris started falling all at once. Everything fell in seconds." The next thing he remembers is darkness. "I lost consciousness. When I woke up, I was trapped," he said. "A table had shielded my upper body, but pillars had crushed my legs. My right leg was buried deep in the debris."

Another pillar crashed near his chest. "After that, I couldn't move at all," he said. "Even trying to shift my body was impossible." Somewhere nearby, his friend Anuj was also trapped. "We kept talking to each other," Vishal recalled. "We kept saying, 'stay awake, stay awake.' Just hearing his voice gave me hope. At one point I told him, 'so jaate hain, bachna hoga toh bach jaayenge.'"

Desperate to contact someone, he tried to locate a phone. "I

couldn't feel most of my body. I asked Anuj if he could reach his phone, but he said he couldn't move at all." Somehow, we kept trying. And when he checked, there was no network," said Vishal. In and out of consciousness, he lost track of time. "The next thing I remember is waking up to the sound of sirens. It must have been around 9pm. Soon, rescue teams located me." But locating him was just the beginning. "They first managed to cut and lift the pillar crushing my right leg," he said. "As they removed the debris, they told me that moving another piece resting on my left leg could be dangerous." "My mind was fogged," Vishal added. "Most of my body had already been freed by then," he said, pausing. "I thought I was definitely going to survive. So I told them, 'pehle Anuj ko nikalo (save him first).'"

Vishal, like many other witnesses, said that the rescuers lacked resources. "They were doing everything they could," he said. "But it was clear they were also scrambling for equipment."

Once he had been taken out of the rubble safely, Vishal said he was asked for his name and contact details of his family. "I kept losing consciousness even then. I remember a cop managed to retrieve my phone nearby, while I gave them my details." Rushed in an ambulance, he said, "reality completely set in when I finally made it to the hospital around 11pm". He is recovering with multiple fractures, while Anuj remains critical, fighting for his life in the ICU.

Standing beside Vishal's bed, feeding him lunch was his elder sister, Lovely Devi, who rushed to Delhi from Kanpur after being contacted by his friends. His exam is scheduled for January next year.

As he clutched a hospital blanket and looked at his heavily bruised and swollen legs, Vishal said the collapse should serve as a wake-up call. "I just want strict action against illegal buildings," he said.

## MCD to use drones, digital twin technology to detect unassessed properties, boost tax base

**New Delhi, (GNS):** The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has launched pilot projects using drones, LiDAR mapping and Digital Twin technology to identify unassessed and under-assessed properties, a move aimed at strengthening property tax collection and creating a comprehensive digital inventory of the capital's civic assets.

The civic body on Tuesday signed MoUs with four agencies to undertake drone-based geospatial surveys and technological demonstrations across select areas in Delhi.

The pilots will employ aerial drone surveys, 3D city modelling, GIS-based asset mapping and advanced data analytics to generate highly accurate digital representations of urban areas. The technology is expected to help authorities identify properties that are either outside the tax net or paying lower taxes than applicable. According to the MCD, the projects will be carried out at no financial cost to the civic body, with participating agencies bearing the expenditure for surveys and demonstrations.