



## Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Lays Foundation Stone and Inaugurates Development Projects Worth 18,778 Crore in South Gujarat from Surat

**Surat Is Not a City, It Is a Spirit'; City Emerges as a National Model of Cleanliness and Green Energy in Entire Country: Prime Minister**

**5 projects worth 4,852 crore and inauguration of 19 projects worth 13,926 crore**

- Inauguration of 6 GIDC projects worth over 894 crore in Bharuch district
- Inauguration of the Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway (Package 6 and 7) built at a cost of 7,689 crore
- Inauguration of the Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway (Package 6 and 7) built at a cost of 7,689 crore
- Inauguration of a 4,546 crore transmission network expansion project, including the world's largest digital substation at Navsari (New): High-capacity power flow to reach from Gujarat to Maharashtra

**Gandhinagar:** On the occasion of World Environment Day, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and inaugurated a total of 24 projects of the Central and State Governments from Surat, gifting South Gujarat development projects worth 18,778 crore.

Addressing a gathering at the Deendayal Upadhyay Indoor Stadium in Surat in the presence of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, Deputy Chief Minister Shri Harsh Sanghavi, Ministers and dignitaries, the Prime Minister praised the spirit of Surat and stated that Surat is not merely a city but a "spirit". Surat, which once faced an epidemic like plague, has today emerged as a model of cleanliness and green energy for the entire nation.

Praising the cleanliness initiatives and environmental conservation efforts of the people of

Surat, he said that it is this awareness and commitment that has made Surat the cleanest city in the country today. He added that cleanliness should become a way of life across the nation, as the Swachhata Abhiyan is an important movement for ensuring a healthy future for the country.

Laying the foundation stone and dedicating multiple projects of the Central Government worth Rs. 16,968 crore and development works of the State Government worth Rs. 1,810 crore in the fields of roads, energy, infrastructure, and industry in South Gujarat, the Prime Minister said that these projects will not only enhance industrial production capacity but will also help achieve the goals of environmental conservation and sustainable development.

The Prime Minister further stated that while countries around the world are moving towards environmental protection and a "green future", India too is advancing towards "green growth" through the convergence of economy and ecology. In this direction, Gujarat had established the country's first Climate Change Department at the beginning of this century and had shown the way to the nation by setting up India's first solar park at Charanka in Patan. Today, India is among the world's top five solar energy-producing countries, and Gujarat's contribution to this achievement is highly significant. He expressed satisfaction that Gujarat accounts for nearly 20 per cent of the country's total renewable

energy capacity.

The Prime Minister said that India has adopted the mantra of progress with nature. For the past 12 years, a nationwide campaign has been underway with the objective of "Waste to Wealth", transforming waste into valuable resources on a large scale. This campaign has proved highly beneficial in keeping cities clean and making them greener and more sustainable.

Referring to the current global situation, the Prime Minister said that the present decade has become a decade of crises for the entire world. The severe COVID-19 crisis was followed by wars among various countries, and now a major energy crisis has pushed the world into instability. However, the Central Government has ensured that energy supply chains remain uninterrupted. Through the collective efforts of 1.4 billion Indians, the country is facing every such challenge with resilience.

Praising Surat's "Circular Water Economy", the Prime Minister said that the practice of treating wastewater and supplying it to industries through sale is an excellent example of both environmental protection and economic gain. He stated that the Tapi Barrage Project would provide a permanent solution to Surat's water issues and appreciated the planning of Surat Municipal Corporation to ensure that the city does not face water scarcity for the next five decades.

Referring to Atmanirbhar Bharat, the Prime Minister stated

that Hazira in Surat is emerging as a maritime hub and a global centre for defence production. A robust ecosystem for global trade has developed here, creating bright economic opportunities. Through the Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway, the Dedicated Freight Corridor and modern railway networks, tribal and rural areas have also been connected to the mainstream of development.

Stating that citizens of the country never favour uncertainty, disorder and despair, as reflected in the West Bengal Assembly elections, he said that crores of Indians are committed to achieving success through determined resolve. He assured that if the people take two steps forward, he would take three steps forward to fulfil their aspirations and trust in the nation's development.

Highlighting the crucial contribution of South Gujarat to the industrial development of Gujarat and India, the Prime Minister said that enhanced highway connectivity in the districts of Narmada, Tapi, Bharuch and Chhota Udepur would expand opportunities for "Padhai, Dawai and Kamai" - education, healthcare and employment. He called upon the gathering to work with complete dedication to realise the vision of "Viksit Bharat" and "Viksit Gujarat". On this occasion, Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel said that under the leadership of Prime Minister, both India and Gujarat are continuously progressing.

### Prime Minister

● The Swachhata Abhiyan is a festival of values for the healthy future of the nation

● Hazira in Surat is emerging today as a maritime hub and a global centre for defence production

● Surat, the 'Green City' and 'Clean City', has transformed cleanliness and environmental protection into a mass movement

● Surat's 'Circular Water Economy' is being recognised across the country

● India is moving ahead towards 'Green Growth' through the convergence of 'Economy' and 'Ecology'

### Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel

● Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister, Gujarat is leading the way in building 'Viksit Bharat @2047' through the model of 'Green Growth' and 'Sustainable Development'

● Gujarat is leading the country with a 21 per cent contribution under the 'PM Surya Ghar Muft

### Bijli Yojana'

● Catch the Rain' Campaign Turns Water Conservation into a Mass Movement; 2.20 Lakh Rainwater Harvesting Structures and 2,703 Amrit Sarovars Created Across Gujarat

● Surat Municipal Corporation earns 140 crore annually by treating wastewater and selling clean water to local industries: Deputy Chief Minister Shri Harsh Sanghavi

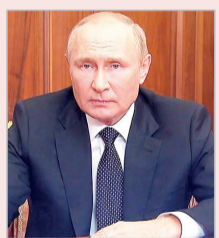
**As a result of Prime Minister's call for water conservation through public participation, India will become self-reliant in meeting its water requirements amid future uncertainties: Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil**

**Prime Minister gifts 24 Central and State Government projects on World Environment Day, giving new momentum to the holistic development of South Gujarat**

**Foundation stone laid for**

## Putin Says Pressure on India Over Russia Ties Is Futile

**St. Petersburg(GNS):**Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that attempts by the United States to pressure India over its relationship with Russia and other issues are futile and unlikely to succeed. Speaking to the heads of major international news agencies, Putin praised India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, describing India as a great nation and a reliable partner of Russia. "India is a great country and a democracy. Russia considers India a trustworthy partner," Putin said.



He added that India prioritizes its national interests and that growing relations between India and the United States would not affect the strong partnership between India and Russia.

## Three Killed, Including Woman, in Fresh Violence in Manipur

**Imphal(GNS):**Three people, including a woman, were killed when armed attackers opened fire in a village in Manipur's Kangpokpi district early Friday morning. According to officials, the attack occurred around 4 a.m. in Loibol Khullen village under the Saikul-Gamphazol subdivision. At least seven houses were also destroyed in the violence. Three Dead in Gun Battle: Officials said the victims were killed during an exchange of fire between rival groups that lasted several minutes, forcing villagers to flee into nearby forests for safety. The deceased have been identified as Lethongam Haokip, Timmeri Haokip and Jangminlal Haokip. Demand for



**Arrest of Culprits:**The Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM), the apex body representing the Kuki community in the state, condemned the attack and demanded a thorough investigation to identify and arrest those responsible. In a statement,

KIM described the killings as a barbaric act of violence against unarmed civilians and said the deliberate targeting of innocent lives, homes and livelihoods constituted a serious violation of human dignity and fundamental human rights.

## Bihar Government Withdraws Z-Plus Security Cover of Lalu and Rabri

**Patna(GNS):**The Bihar government has withdrawn the Z-Plus security cover of Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad Yadav and former Chief Minister Rabri Devi. The decision comes amid an ongoing dispute over the government residence occupied by the family. Under the revised arrangement, both leaders will receive a special Bihar Police security package comprising escort vehicles, a bulletproof car and between eight and sixteen security personnel.



## Calcutta High Court Takes Strong View on Parading Arrested Accused With Ropes

**Kolkata(GNS):**The Calcutta High Court on Friday expressed serious concern over incidents in which arrested persons were paraded on public roads with ropes tied around their waists. The court directed the West Bengal Police to submit a detailed report within three weeks.

### What Is the Case?

The matter reached the court after videos showing arrested accused being publicly escorted with ropes tied around their waists went viral on social media. A petition challenging the practice was subsequently filed before the Calcutta High Court.

## Annamalai resigns from BJP



## Trump Says India Benefited From High Tariffs for Decades

**Washington DC(GNS):** US President Donald Trump has said that India imposed high tariffs on American goods for decades and benefited from the arrangement. He claimed that the situation has now changed and that the United States is earning substantial revenue through tariffs. Trump further stated that a major trade agreement between India and the United States could be finalized soon because of his good relationship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "I like Modi very much. He is a good friend. We

have excellent relations and understand each other well," Trump said. His remarks come as a US delegation recently held multiple rounds of discussions with Indian government officials in New Delhi. Both countries are attempting to reach an interim trade agreement to resolve several trade-related issues. India's Commerce Ministry said the talks had been positive and that both nations were seeking a mutually beneficial agreement.

### US Considering Additional Tariffs

Amid the negotiations, a new



challenge has emerged. The imposing additional import United States is considering duties on countries that it

believes have not taken adequate steps to prevent forced labor practices.

India is reportedly included in the proposed list. If implemented, Indian exports to the US could face an additional 12.5 per cent tariff, potentially making Indian products more expensive in the American market and affecting exporters.

The Indian government has clarified that no final decision has yet been taken and that the US will first seek feedback from stakeholders before making a final determination.

# The True Objectives of Education in the Vedic Era

By Sanjay Goswami

Education in ancient India was not merely a means of acquiring knowledge; it was a system designed to shape character, personality, and social responsibility. The origins of Indian education can be traced to the Vedic Age (c. 1700–900 BCE), when the Gurukul system formed the foundation of learning.

Under this system, students lived with their teachers and their families, often in forest hermitages, where they received holistic education. The primary aim

was not only to impart knowledge of the Vedas and rituals but also to develop moral values, discipline, self-reliance, and civic responsibility.

The Rigveda highlights practical objectives of education, including the ability to participate in public discourse, distinguish right from wrong, and earn respect in society. During the Upanishadic period, education evolved further, emphasizing spiritual knowledge and the pursuit of liberation (moksha).

According to historian



A.S. Altekar, Vedic education focused on three major objectives: Character

Truthfulness, self-control, cleanliness, generosity, and moral conduct were considered essential virtues. Students were instructed to honor parents, teachers, and guests while adhering to ethical principles.

Personality Development: Education encouraged self-reliance, discipline, and the ability to fulfill one's social and familial responsibilities. Students engaged in physical labor and lived a simple life, which

nurtured independence and resilience.

Development of Social Responsibility: Education prepared individuals to contribute meaningfully to society as administrators, teachers, priests, merchants, judges, and other professionals. The Gurukul system emphasized the importance of serving both family and community.

The Vedic education system thus sought to create well-rounded individuals capable of leading moral, productive, and socially responsible lives.

## Editorial

### Trinamool uprooted from its roots

The article focuses on the influence of Abhishek Banerjee among the MLAs and MPs in the Trinamool Congress and the growing resentment against Mamata Banerjee's nepotism. Following the split among Trinamool Congress MLAs, it's no surprise that a split among its MPs is also emerging. Just as most party MLAs were unhappy with the behavior of Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee, so are many MPs. Some have even expressed their displeasure. It shouldn't be overlooked that most Trinamool Congress MPs have maintained silence after the rebel MLAs elected their new leader in the Assembly. It's also a fact that when Mamata Banerjee recently staged a sit-in protest against the alleged serious attack on her nephew Abhishek, most MLAs and MPs were absent. Had Mamata Banerjee not given undue importance to her nephew Abhishek, the party might not have slipped from her hands. She is now paying the price for both her patronage of nepotism and the rampant corruption of her leaders. The split in the Trinamool Congress is reminiscent of the split in the Shiv Sena and NCP. One reason for the split in these two parties was that while NCP chief Sharad Pawar was promoting his daughter, Shiv Sena supremo Uddhav Thackeray was promoting his son. While the split in the Shiv Sena and NCP occurred because the rebel faction wanted the support of power, the reason for the separation of disgruntled leaders in the Trinamool Congress was not the pursuit of power. In this respect, the split in the Trinamool Congress is somewhat different. It is clear that the disgruntled leaders did not like Mamata's style of running the party, and especially the promotion of her nephew. Older and experienced leaders never accept the party chief imposing his sons, daughters, or brothers and nephews on them. Family-oriented parties often impose family members who are completely inexperienced. Splits are also more common in political parties that lack an ideology. Understanding the ideology of the Trinamool Congress is as difficult as that of the Aam Aadmi Party, which recently suffered a split.

By Vinod Takiyawala

A People's Movement Towards Green Energy, Savings, and Self-Reliance

As India advances toward becoming a developed nation, energy self-reliance has emerged as a critical pillar of national growth. In this context, the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana has evolved into a transformative initiative that promotes public participation in clean energy generation.

Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in February 2024, the scheme aims to install rooftop solar systems on one crore households, enabling families to generate their own electricity and earn income by supplying surplus power to the grid.

With an allocation exceeding ₹75,000 crore, the initiative represents a long-term investment in India's energy security and sustainability.

By March 2026, more than 2.6 million rooftop solar systems had been installed nationwide, while nearly ₹18,000 crore in financial assistance had been directly transferred to beneficiaries. Approximately 4,500 new installations are being added daily, reflecting growing public acceptance.

The scheme has significantly reduced electricity expenses for participating households. Surveys indicate that nearly 71 percent of beneficiary families have experienced noticeable savings,

while many have seen their monthly electricity bills reduced to negligible levels. Whether it's the Indore honeytrap scandal or the Twisha Sharma case in Bhopal, the police system has been accused of gross negligence in collecting primary evidence, establishing a chain of evidence, preserving electronic and digital evidence, and preserving the crime scene. The Commissioner of Police, Indore, has been found to be incapable of exercising his authority, or his apparent lack of knowledge or lack of knowledge of his authority, raising suspicions of a powerful external influence in institutional functioning. Such influence often indicates the involvement of the system, leading to distrust, and this complicity is

depriving victims of justice.

Now, with the Supreme Court also commenting on the procedures employed in these cases, it is imperative that these departments receive full legal protection from the government and ensure that

One of the initiative's most significant achievements is the democratization of energy production. Citizens are no longer merely consumers but also producers of electricity, contributing directly to the nation's clean energy transition.

Gujarat has emerged as the leading state in implementation, followed by Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. States such as Rajasthan, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Haryana have also reported substantial

progress.

Despite its success, challenges remain. Many citizens still lack awareness about the technical functioning of rooftop solar systems and available financing options. Greater public education and technical support will be crucial in the next phase of implementation. From an environmental perspective, the scheme is expected to contribute significantly to India's climate commitments by reducing carbon emissions and increasing the generation of renewable energy. The first two years of the PM Surya Ghar scheme demonstrate that it is not merely an electricity program but a model of citizen-driven development, green growth, and energy self-reliance.

# Questions Continue to Surround the On-Screen Marking System

By Saurabh Varshney

Education is the foundation of any nation's progress, and assessment systems play a critical role in maintaining its credibility. To improve transparency and efficiency in evaluation, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) introduced an On-Screen Marking (OSM) system for Class 12 answer sheets in 2026.

Under this system, answer scripts are scanned and evaluated digitally. CBSE argues that the process minimizes calculation errors, enhances monitoring, and improves the reliability of results.

However, the implementation has generated widespread

concern among students, parents, and educators. Complaints have surfaced regarding poor scanning quality, alleged mismatching of answer sheets, lower-than-expected marks, and evaluation inconsistencies.

Some students have claimed that the scanned answer scripts shown to them did not belong to them, while others reported issues caused by unclear scans requiring re-evaluation.

Reports suggest that technical and operational shortcomings had been identified during trial runs before nationwide implementation. Concerns regarding examiner training, quality control, and monitoring mechanisms were reportedly

highlighted but not fully addressed.

The controversy raises broader questions about trust in examination systems. Even a small difference in marks can significantly impact higher education and career opportunities. Consequently, many students have sought verification and re-evaluation of their answer sheets.

Digital evaluation itself is not the problem. Similar systems have been successfully adopted worldwide. The challenge lies in effective implementation, examiner training, data security, and quality assurance.

Education authorities have acknowledged certain discrepancies and promised

corrective measures. However, experts argue that a transparent review of the system, public disclosure of technical shortcomings, and timely relief for affected students are essential to restore confidence.

Technology should not only accelerate processes but also strengthen trust. Without transparency and accountability, reforms risk creating new challenges instead of solving existing ones.

Due to the large size of the document, I can

continue with Articles 4–9 (TRP, Supreme Court verdict, Drug Abuse, Global Economy, Dr. Anju Srivastava, and Yogi Adityanath) in the next batch.

EMS / 04 June 26

## Don't take the system lightly

Political nexus of the system or the system being influenced by some reasons has become the reason for the failure of the justice system.

Fortunately, we live in a constitutional democracy. In a democracy, the system is of paramount importance. The system refers to the various departments of government that are directly concerned with public welfare. Departments such as police, revenue, justice, health, education, and local administration directly impact the lives of ordinary citizens, and their consequences are clearly reflected in society.

India has the rule of law and the rule of justice. Current incidents are evidence that these departments are neglecting their roles, putting human life at risk.

The response period of each of these departments should be zero and there must be zero tolerance by the government towards any of their mistakes.

Based on my experience, I would like to say openly that we should not take the system lightly; this is not a slogan but an administrative culture. We talk about good governance, but in reality, the accountability of these departments is the backbone of good governance. System reform is driven not by orders but by intention. The system seeks results, not excuses. The system must now be

proactive, not reactive. Negligence should no longer be considered a mistake but a crime. The message should be clear: work or step aside, fulfill your responsibility or resign. For every officer and employee, responsibility should be greater than the position. We often discuss law and order. Order is essential in a civilized society, and therefore, it is reflected in law. Its primary purpose is to protect the rights of citizens and prevent anarchy. Maintaining law and order in India is a state subject. According to Article 246 of the Constitution and List 2 (2) of the Seventh Schedule, the state police are empowered to do this. The rule of law will prevail only when our system is not above the law. Policy works only when the intentions are clear and the motives, conduct and character of the system operators are transparent.

The system is for the people, not the people for the system. No citizen is above the law, nor below the law. Distributing freebies for political gain or providing free rations and money to 800 million people in the country is causing direct difficulties in daily activities. In this context, the country's highest court, in a public interest litigation concerning the right to shelter for homeless people in urban areas, remarked that instead of integrating them into the mainstream, are we not turning them into a

class of parasites?

The ongoing NEET paper leak scandal and conspiratorial malpractices in other competitive, school, and college examinations have jeopardized the future of students and youth, and have also called the education department into question. Whether it's the Indore honeytrap scandal or the Twisha Sharma case in Bhopal, the police system has been accused of gross negligence in collecting primary evidence, establishing a chain of evidence, preserving electronic and digital evidence, and preserving the crime scene. The Commissioner of Police, Indore, has been found to be incapable of exercising his authority, or his apparent lack of knowledge or lack of knowledge of his authority, raising suspicions of a powerful external influence in institutional functioning. Such influence often indicates the involvement of the system, leading to distrust, and this complicity is depriving victims of justice.

Now, with the Supreme Court also commenting on the procedures employed in these cases, it is imperative that these departments receive full legal protection from the government and ensure that there is no unwanted interference in their legitimate work. Only then will the above-mentioned measure be meaningful.

## PM Surya Ghar Scheme Emerges as a Major Success Story

By Vinod Takiyawala

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# Evaporates on the way': Delhi CM Rekha Gupta's remark on water shortage sparks row

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has blamed evaporation caused by extreme summer heat for part of the water shortage being faced by residents of the national capital.

A video clip of her remarks has been widely shared on social media platform X. Speaking at a BJP event, Gupta referred to the ongoing water crisis in Delhi, where demand for water continues to exceed supply during the peak summer season. She said that high temperatures were contributing to the problem.

"Pani ki kitni dikkat ho rahi hai. Jab itni bhari garmi ho rahi hai, pani jo aata hai wo evaporate ho jata hai beech me kuch pani, to uske karan shortage ho



jati hai," Gupta said. ("People are facing a severe water shortage. When the heat is so intense, some of the water that is supplied evaporates on the way. Because of that, a shortage occurs.)

Her comments quickly drew reactions from opposition leaders and critics. Former Delhi minister

Saurabh Bharadwaj was among those who questioned the explanation. Congress spokesperson Ragini Nayak also took a swipe at the Chief Minister's remarks.

"These are Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta's views on the water shortage in Delhi. There should be some limit to foolishness,"

Nayak wrote on X. Advocate and activist Prashant Bhushan wrote, "Our gutter gas making chaiwala has spawned many scientists as ministers & CMs. Here is our own CM Rekha Gupta with her scientific nuggets on why there is water shortage!" he posted. Evaporation can cause water stress only to a limited extent. During periods of extreme heat, water stored in reservoirs, lakes, canals and open distribution systems can evaporate into the atmosphere. Higher temperatures generally increase the rate of evaporation. However, large urban water shortages are usually linked to a combination of factors such as rising demand, inadequate supply, leakages, infrastructure issues, ground-water depletion and uneven distribution.

# Fire breaks out at Tata Communications office in Delhi's Greater Kailash



**New Delhi, (GNS):** Blaze broke out in a battery room on the third floor of an office building in South Delhi's Greater Kailash-I early Friday morning, prompting the deployment of 11 fire tenders, officials said.

The Delhi Fire Services (DFS) received a call about the fire at around 2.47am from the Tata Communications office located opposite Savitri Cinema, according to an official statement.

The fire was confined to the battery room, spread across nearly 200 sq ft on the third floor of the multi-storey

building, officials said.

During the firefighting operation, two firefighters suffered burn injuries to their hands and were shifted to Safdarjung Hospital for treatment.

The blaze was brought under control by around 7am, following which cooling operations were carried out to prevent any possibility of reignition.

Officials said the building comprises a ground floor and five upper floors. No civilian injuries or casualties were reported in the incident.

## Indian Army prepared for both short and intense conflicts

### Drones being integrated into every formation: Gen Dwivedi

**New Delhi, (GNS):** In an interview with Media's Surendra Singh, Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi, who has been leading the 12.4 lakh-strong Indian Army since June 30, 2024 and played a



key role in rolling out Operation Sindoor, spoke at length about how lessons learnt from last year's operation against Pakistan are now part of the Army doctrine; how drones are now central to India's battlefield operations; the changing warfare tactics and technologies; and why Pakistan must deter from another terror attack on Indian soil. Excerpts:

General Sir, you led the Army during the conflict with Pakistan last May and played a key role in strategising and implementing Operation Sindoor. Though India was able to bring Pakistan to its knees in just four days, there must be several lessons Indian forces also learnt from that conflict. What are those lessons and how fast have we acted on them? Operation Sindoor was a defining moment, as it demonstrated the Indian armed forces' ability to deliver swift, precise and strategically-coherent military outcomes in a compressed timeframe. Its greatest legacy is the affirmation that integrated, multi-domain and technology-enabled operations are now the decisive template for the future battlefield. The Army was at the centre stage of the orchestration of Operation Sindoor, operating within a 'Whole of Nation' approach and supported by critical enablers across intelligence, technology, air power, cyber, electronic warfare and information management.

# Make Detectors & Sprinklers A Must, DFS Tells Govt

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Delhi Fire Services (DFS) has proposed making smoke detectors and sprinkler systems mandatory in all buildings to strengthen safety measures and help prevent tragedies.

Speaking to Media, Abhilash Kumar Malik, chief fire officer of DFS, said the department has sent a proposal to Delhi govt seeking mandatory installation of smoke detectors and sprinkler systems in all new buildings.

"All buildings constructed in the future should be required to install these systems. The cost involved is not very high, but the benefits are immense. Established data

shows that nearly 97% of lives can be saved if such safety systems are in place," Malik said.

For existing buildings, DFS has proposed that they be brought under the mandate over the next three years. "We have recommended that existing buildings also be covered within the next three years. We have suggested that owners who install these systems in their buildings should be given a rebate in house tax," he added.

The move comes in the wake of deaths reported in fires over the years. In 2016, there were 65 recorded deaths, which rose to 70 in 2017 and slightly increased to



72 in 2018. The number of fatalities rose to 85 in 2019 before dropping back down to 70 in 2020 and reaching a low of 56 in 2021.

The number of deaths

spiked again to 82 in 2022, dipped to 59 in 2023, and shot up to 116 in 2024. The following year, 2025, saw 76 deaths, and for the current year, 2026, the toll stands at

61.

Referring to the fire at the B&B in Hauz Rani, fire officials said the department never received any inspection report or request from MCD. Former DFS director Atul Garg said that the process for granting clearances to hotels and guesthouses is done through a portal. MCD sends requests to DFS for inspections.

DFS inspects the premises to assess compliance for fire safety. Once the inspection is done, it uploads its findings on the portal. Based on the report and other requirements, MCD takes a call on the NOC.

# Checking Into A High Risk Area

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Sealed windows leading to a lack of ventilation, narrow staircases next to lifts and inadequate fire safety measures - violations like these are rampant across affordable hospitality hubs like Mahipalpur and Paharganj, making them vulnerable to catastrophes, similar to the one in Hauz Rani that claimed 21 lives. A reality check across these city hubs by Media revealed several violations and structural concerns that mirror, and in some cases appear even worse than, the conditions that led to the Hauz Rani blaze. In southwest Delhi's Mahipalpur, where hundreds of budget hotels cater largely to tourists because of their proximity to the airport, the potential consequences of a fire could be even more severe.

A typical four-storey building houses at least nine rooms on each floor. In multiple



hotels, windows are completely sealed and can't be opened, leaving virtually no scope for ventilation or emergency escape. Many hotels feature thick glass facades designed to block outside noise, particularly the sound of aircraft from the nearby airport.

However, in the event of a fire, such structures could trap occupants inside smoke-filled rooms and make rescue efforts difficult. Most of these establishments have minimal visible firefighting infrastructure. Several floors have only a single fire extinguisher and a hydrant despite accommodat-

ing dozens of guests. Many rooms are large enough to host entire families, increasing the number of people who could be trapped during an emergency.

Accessibility poses another major concern. The nearest fire station at Vasant Kunj is about 5.6 km away. While the distance is not significant, heavy congestion on the Dhaulakuan-Gurgaon stretch and a maze of narrow internal lanes are likely to delay emergency response, fire officials feared.

Residents pointed to low-hanging overhead wires and tightly packed lanes, making it difficult for large fire tenders to enter. When Media visited one such lane, a small goods tempo took nearly 15 minutes to manoeuvre and turn around.

# Four injured in Nabi Karim LPG fire

**basement blaze erupts in Humayunpur**

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Two separate fire-related incidents were reported in the city on Thursday, leaving four people injured in one of the cases.

The first incident occurred in central Delhi's Nabi Karim, where four people suffered injuries after a fire broke out while an LPG cylinder was being replaced at a tea stall operating from a small room. Police said a PCR call was received at 9.29 am.

Preliminary inquiry revealed that Sarita, 35, who runs the tea stall, asked a man, Krishna, 37, to change the cylinder. While the regulator was being opened, a sudden fire erupted, injuring Sarita, Krishna, a customer, Ajay, 19, and



Zafir, 35, a passer-by. All were rushed to RML Hospital, where they are undergoing treatment.

In a separate incident, a fire broke out in the locked basement of a building in Humayunpur village, near Safdarjung Enclave. The basement, which earlier housed a café and is now used as a storage space, caught fire around 7.06 pm. No injuries were reported. A short circuit is suspected, said police.

# 'Loss of Rs 70,000': Gurugram tenants forced to vacate flat at night after broker pocketed their rent

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Three working professionals in Gurugram have alleged that they lost nearly Rs 70,000 and were forced to vacate their rented flat after becoming caught in a dispute between a property owner and a broker who had been collecting their rent. The incident, shared on Reddit's r/Gurgaon community, has gone viral.

According to the Reddit post, the tenants moved into a flat near DLF in January after renting the property through a man who presented himself as its manager. They paid a security deposit of Rs 50,000 and monthly rent of around Rs 20,000, which they claimed was regularly transferred to the intermediary.

The situation allegedly came to light about a week ago when the property's



owner arrived at the flat at night and demanded that they vacate the premises.

"According to him, the person we had been paying rent to had not forwarded rent payments to him and had also not cleared other dues. We were completely shocked because from our perspective, we had paid everything on time. The situation became serious enough that we had to

involve the police. After discussions, we were given only one week to vacate," the post read.

The tenants further alleged that the owner refused to return their security deposit and demanded a fresh deposit, higher rent and payment of pending dues if they wished to continue living in the flat.

Meanwhile, the intermediary reportedly

declined to refund the money and told them to pursue the matter through a civil case.

As a result, the tenants claim to have lost around Rs 70,000.

"Any advice would be appreciated. We're honestly exhausted and feel completely helpless right now," the post read further.

The post has drawn widespread reactions online, with users advising the tenants to preserve payment records, rental documents and communication history, and to seek legal counsel.

One user wrote, "Owner and the broker are knowingly doing this. If there's a rent agreement, send a legal notice. Once you'll leave they'll be enjoying 70k, higher rent from another set of tenants and harass them again."

# Schoolkids script their own 'English medium' success story

**New Delhi, (GNS):** In a quick turnaround after Media highlighted concerns over English-medium sections being discontinued in Classes XI and XII in Delhi govt schools, a govt school in Seelampur has introduced an English-medium Class XI section, with nearly 50 students enrolling within days. The development has come as a relief to students who had been demanding the continuation of English-medium education beyond Class X. One of the students who had campaigned for the change said the school had initially refused to create such a section, citing low demand.

"We were told very few students wanted to study in English-medium and that it was not feasible to start a separate section," she said. However, after students raised the issue and sought legal assistance, the school



reviewed its decision.

The student said the response from classmates showed that demand had existed all along. "Within two days of the section being introduced, over 50 students opted for English-medium. The students were always there; they just didn't have the option," she said.

She added that following the intervention, officials visited the school to verify arrangements, and that similar demands raised by students in other govt schools were also being examined.

Education activist and advocate Ashok Agarwal,

who has been pursuing the issue with the Directorate of Education, welcomed the development. "Students who wanted to study in English-medium in Class XI raised their voice and the school created the section," he said, adding that the case underscored the need to protect students' right to continue education in their chosen medium.

The development comes days after students, parents and teachers raised concerns over the discontinuation or merger of English-medium sections in several govt schools, particularly in northeast and east Delhi. In many such schools, separate English- and Hindi-medium sections are offered till Class X but are merged in senior classes due to staffing constraints and lower enrolment in specific subject combinations.

## Man gets life term for murder of 7-yr-old girl

**New Delhi, (GNS):** A fast-track Special POCSO Court in Nuh has sentenced a man to life imprisonment for kidnapping, murdering and destroying evidence related to the death of a minor girl. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 17,000 on the convict.



Additional Sessions Judge, Fast-Track Special POCSO Court, Ashu Sanjeev Tinjan, pronounced the verdict, convicting Abbas, a resident of Doha village under the Ferozpur Jhirka police station area. The case dates back to 2024. A seven-year-old girl was playing outside her house when she was abducted. A missing person's complaint was lodged at the Ferozpur Jhirka police station the following day. During the investigation, the police arrested and questioned Abbas. Based on information obtained during interrogation, the girl's body was recovered from a mustard field, where it had been buried. "The police conducted a thorough investigation, collected crucial evidence and filed a charge sheet in court. The prosecution proved the charges through witness testimony and material evidence. The court found the accused guilty and sentenced him to life imprisonment," said the Nuh police spokesperson.

## GMDA orders blacklisting of two agencies over monsoon readiness

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Taking a firm stand against delays in monsoon preparedness, the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) has initiated blacklisting proceedings against two agencies and set strict deadlines for key drainage projects to prevent waterlogging across the city.



During an extensive field inspection on Thursday, GMDA Chief Executive Officer P C Meena reviewed waterlogging-prone locations, drainage networks, desilting operations and ongoing storm water management works. He directed officials and contractors to complete all critical projects before the monsoon and warned that negligence in public-interest works would not be tolerated.

At Basai Flyover, Meena found that an agency engaged in desilting had dumped excavated silt and soil along the drain instead of transporting it to the designated disposal site. Taking serious note of the lapse, he ordered initiation of blacklisting proceedings. He said the dumped material could wash back into the drain during rains and reduce its carrying capacity.

The CEO also acted against delays in the construction of a drain in front of the Air Force Station in Sector 17. Finding the project pending for an extended period, he directed officials to begin blacklisting proceedings against the executing agency and engage another contractor to complete the remaining work at the earliest.

Meena set a June 20 deadline for completion of the earthen drain being developed parallel to the railway line. The project is expected to improve stormwater drainage and provide relief to residents of Sectors 4, 7 and 9, and Laxman Vihar, which frequently face flooding during heavy rainfall.

The CEO also inspected CRPF Chowk, Sheela Mata Road and Palam Vihar Road.

# CM, LG act tough to curb illegal operations, construction

**New Delhi, (GNS):** While chief minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday ordered a special fire safety audit of hotels, commercial establishments and other public buildings in the city, lieutenant governor TS Sandhu directed that the buck would stop at local engineers, technical staff and oversight officials of Municipal Corporation of Delhi for any undetected illegal modifications or ongoing unauthorised construction in the existing residential or commercial buildings across the city. Gupta said strict action would be taken against those found responsible wherever negligence or violations of rules were found, according to a statement issued by the chief minister's office following a high-level meeting.

The directions came a day after a devastating fire at a B&B in south Delhi's Malviya Nagar claimed 21 lives. The fire quickly spread through



the five-floor narrow building operating without a fire NOC with only one entry-exit point. Preliminary investigation has also revealed several serious safety-related shortcomings, said a senior official.

Ordering a detailed probe into the incident, CM said, "All necessary arrangements related to relief, treatment and rehabilitation will be ensured on priority so that every possible assistance can be provided to the affected families." Gupta has convened another meeting on Friday to discuss measures to prevent similar fire tragedies and curb unauthorised constructions

and violations of fire safety standards. She said govt was fixing the accountability of the departments concerned and officials whose negligence forced govt to face unnecessary difficulties. "We will implement stricter rules to curb illegal constructions." LG has asked MCD to prepare a time-bound strategy for sealing or demolition to curb illegal residential and commercial vertical expansions. During a high-level review meeting of MCD, Sandhu emphasised executing a comprehensive action plan to target, halt and dismantle unauthorised constructions.

"LG asked for a regulatory framework that ensures strict enforcement of building by-laws, penalises illegal constructions/expansions, and fixes absolute institutional accountability across all municipal zones, to be presented to his secretariat at the earliest," said an official.

## Delhi's Lodhi Colony boundary wall collapses during sewage work; 1 dead, 2 injured

**New Delhi, (GNS):** A 55-year-old man died, and two others were injured after a boundary wall collapsed during sewage pipeline work in Delhi's Lodhi Colony area early on Friday, an official of the Delhi Fire Service said.



The incident was reported at 1.18 am, following which personnel from the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) rushed to the spot.

According to the DFS, three workers were trapped under the debris after the boundary wall collapsed during the sewage pipeline work.

"Before the arrival of rescue teams, residents managed to pull out two injured people from the rubble, and the third worker was rescued by DFS personnel," he said.

The deceased was identified as Devender, while the injured were identified as Rajesh (48) and Umar (20), the officer said.

All three were taken to the AIIMS Trauma Centre, where Devender was declared dead.

# CBSE under scanner over OSM evaluation system and three language policy rollout

**New Delhi, (GNS):** The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is facing growing scrutiny over the implementation of two major initiatives: the On Screen Marking (OSM) system for board exam evaluation and the rollout of the three-language policy, with questions being raised about planning, preparedness, and decision-making within the board.

The OSM system, introduced for the evaluation of Class 12 answer sheets, has come under the spotlight following reports that the final contract awarded for the project was significantly more expensive than earlier estimates.

"Reports have raised questions over an increase of nearly Rs. 10 crore in the final contract value compared with earlier estimates, despite



what critics describe as a broadly similar scope of work." The procurement process itself has drawn attention.

The CBSE reportedly issued three separate tenders before finalising

a vendor.

While the first tender failed to attract any bids, the second did not result in a technically qualified bidder. The board then revised several technical requirements in a fresh tender issued in August 2025. Following this process, Hyderabad-based Coempt Edu Teck was selected over Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) after financial bids

were evaluated. Questions have also emerged over the manner in which the system was introduced nationwide.

"According to reports, the CBSE's governing body had recommended pilot projects across regional offices before a nationwide rollout." The concerns were not limited to administrative recommendations.

"According to reports,

some teachers who participated in trial runs said the system required more preparation before nationwide implementation." Further debate has centered on changes made to the tender conditions. Among the revisions were modifications to scanning specifications, the removal of a requirement related to robotic scanners, and adjustments to certification criteria.

## Bomb threat emails sent to Gurugram MC, Mayor's office

**New Delhi, (GNS):** The Municipal Corporation Gurugram (MCG) office and the Mayor's office at Sector 34 received bomb threat emails on Thursday. Similar emails were also sent to the Gurugram Deputy Commissioner (DC) and Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM). After several hours of intensive searches, officials found nothing suspicious.

The threat email was sent in the name of the "Khalistan National Army". It opened with the statement: "Haryana will become Khalistan." The message claimed that Hindu temples were being targeted and warned of IED blasts at the Gurugram Mayor's office and MCG office between 1.11 pm and 3.11 pm.

The email also threatened to detonate IEDs on railway tracks between Chandigarh, Ambala and Delhi on June 5 and 6 at 9.11 am. It warned



people to protect their children and avoid travelling.

Titled "Badla, badla, badla", the email claimed that people in Delhi and Haryana distributed sweets on the day of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale's death and called for revenge on June 6. It also referred to the Indian Army's action at Darbar Sahib in Amritsar on June 6, 1984.

The email further threatened attacks on several Hindu temples, including Gauri Shankar Temple in Chandni Chowk,

Kalkaji Temple, Yogmaya Temple in Mehrauli, Bhima Devi Temple in Pinjore, Kartikeya Temple in Pehowa and Sthaneshwar Mahadev Temple in Kurukshetra. The names listed as senders were Khalistan National Army, Gurbaksh Singh, Rukan Shahwala and Gur Nirvair Singh Khan Rajada.

Following the threat, the entire MCG complex was evacuated as a precaution. Employees and members of the public were moved to safety.

## Police demolish encroachments at Gurugram colony



**New Delhi, (GNS):** The Gurugram police on Thursday demolished illegal encroachments on government land at Peer Colony, Sohna. Illegal structures built by two habitual offenders were razed using a JCB machine.

A campaign is underway against land mafia and habitual offenders involved in illegal encroachments across the city. Acting on information, the authorities identified and removed encroachments on

government land.

The police identified Shahrulkh and Arshad, both residents of Peer Colony, Sohna as habitual offenders with several criminal cases registered against them in Gurugram. Shahrulkh faces 34 theft cases, while Arshad has three theft cases and one case under the NDPS Act. Investigation revealed that the accused allegedly used the property for theft-related activities.

## Liberian student, keen to meet aunt, now waits for her remains

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Maria, a Liberian student with a red suitcase, made her way to the AIIMS Trauma Centre on Thursday morning, unable to process that she had just lost her aunt in the bed and breakfast fire in Delhi.

Janjay N Roland, Maria's 61-year-old aunt, came to India last week with her husband for his treatment at Max Hospital, where he is admitted. The aunt's arrival had meant that after two years, Maria would meet someone from back home. That meeting never happened. On Wednesday, in the bed and breakfast fire in Hauz Rani that claimed 21 lives, Janjay died. Maria got a call from the police in Dehradun, where she studies.

Janjay was among 12 foreign nationals who died in the blaze. Maria received an image that had confirmed her aunt's death. At AIIMS, the young woman made frantic phone calls to relatives, trying to navigate through the paperwork and the grief at once.

Maria left Liberia two years ago for India. Since then, she had not seen much of her extended family. The couple's visit to Delhi was supposed



to change that.

"I was going to come to Delhi to see my aunt this week," she said, her voice breaking as she waited. She was coordinating with relatives across continents, informing her loved ones about the tragedy, while also trying to figure out the next steps. Officials from the Liberian embassy were present at the mortuary to assist Maria.

Also present in the mortuary was Habib Abid, an Iraqi who lost his 21-year-old brother-in-law, Ali Amer Mosa.

# 1,244 guest houses in city hold valid fire NOCs

**New Delhi, (GNS):** A total of 1,244 guest houses in the city currently hold valid fire no objection certificates (NOCs), according to Delhi Fire Services (DFS) records. Around 2,600 applications for fire clearances have been received from guest houses over the years, of which 421 NOCs issued earlier have since expired. Another 541 applications failed to meet the prescribed safety norms required for approval. In addition, 233 applicants were directed to reapply after rectifying deficiencies identified during inspections.

The records show that 129 establishments were found to be outside the purview of the department's NOC requirements, while 30 applications were closed. In two cases, applicants were issued guidelines and asked to fulfil the necessary conditions before their applications could be processed further. Guest houses and hotels with a height of more than 12 metres, including structures comprising a ground floor and three



upper storeys with a mezzanine floor, are required to obtain a fire NOC before commencing operations.

A K Malik, chief fire officer of DFS, said while earlier fire safety certificates issued to guest houses were valid for three years, following recent amendments, compliance with fire safety norms will be audited annually. A private auditor will inspect guest houses every year to verify whether the prescribed measures are being complied with. During inspections and audits, the officials examine several critical aspects, including the avail-

ability and accessibility of emergency exits, ventilation arrangements, width of staircases, evacuation routes, emergency lighting and signage, and the condition of firefighting equipment. Special attention is paid to fire suppression systems, such as sprinklers, hose reels, fire extinguishers, water storage tanks and pumping systems, to determine whether they are functional and capable of operating effectively during an emergency.

"During inspections of establishments denied NOCs, we found that several fire safe-

ty systems, including sprinklers, failed to function automatically, while hose reels were either missing or not properly maintained," an official said. The inspections also found fire pumps were not operational, emergency exits were obstructed and firefighting equipment had not been serviced for long periods. In several establishments, staff were either inadequately trained or unaware of basic firefighting procedures, raising concerns about their ability to respond effectively during the crucial initial stages of a blaze.

"If these systems are not maintained regularly, they will not work when needed. In many cases, owners take corrective measures only following a fire, instead of ensuring that safety mechanisms remain functional at all times," the official added. Several guest houses still operate without fire NOCs, particularly in densely populated and congested localities, which have narrow lanes and multi-storey buildings, the officials said.