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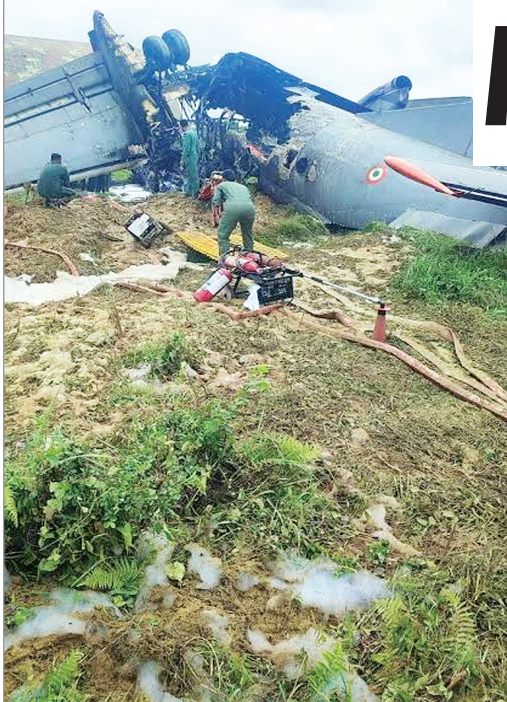
12 Saal Vishwas ke, Vikas ke, Jan-kalyan ke



Ayushman Bharat protection and affordable medicines for over 60 crore people reflect the government's strong commitment to a 'Healthy India, Empowered India'.

- Shri Harsh Sanghavi, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Gujarat

Air Force Transport Aircraft Crashes at Assam Airbase, Five Dead Including Pilot



Aircraft Catches Fire During Landing and Breaks into Two Pieces

Jorhat(GNS): An Indian Air Force transport aircraft crashed during landing at the Rowrah Air Base in Assam's Jorhat on Saturday morning, killing five personnel, including the pilot.

The deceased have been identified as Squadron Leader Prashant Singh, Flight Lieutenant Shubham Kumar, Sergeant Jitendra Sharma, Agniveervayu Khemaram Kumawat and Agniveervayu Danish Alam.

The accident occurred when the aircraft was attempting to land at the airbase. It caught fire after the crash and broke into two pieces.

The aircraft was an AN-32 transport



aircraft, widely used for carrying troops and military supplies. The exact cause of the accident is yet to be determined, and the Indian Air Force has ordered a Court of Inquiry into the incident.

AN-32 Capable of Operating in Mountainous and Difficult Terrain: The Indian Air Force operates a fleet of around 100 Antonov AN-32 tactical transport aircraft. Although the IAF originally acquired 125 Soviet-origin aircraft of this type, the number of active-service aircraft has now come down to around 100.

The AN-32 has served as the backbone of the IAF's medium-lift transport capability since the 1980s. It is considered particularly valuable for operations in hot climatic conditions and high-altitude regions such as the Himalayas because of its rugged performance and reliability.



Storms, Rain and Hail Likely in 25 States Till June 18

El Nino Shadow Looms Over Monsoon

New Delhi(GNS): Weather conditions across the country have changed significantly under the combined influence of the advancing southwest monsoon and an active western disturbance over northern India. During the past 24 hours, thunderstorms accompanied by rain were reported from Jammu and Kashmir to coastal Karnataka, while several regions witnessed strong winds blowing at speeds of 50-70 kmph. Lightning strikes claimed 10 lives in Bihar, while rain-related incidents killed three people in Punjab. Meteorologists expect these conditions to continue at least until June 18. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), thunderstorms and rainfall occurred in Bulandshahr, Hapur, Bijnor, Shamli, Moradabad, Sambhal, Hathras and Mathura districts of Uttar Pradesh. Similar weather conditions prevailed in several districts of Haryana, including Gohana, Sonapat and Rohtak.

Strong winds and scattered rainfall were also reported from Deeg, Bharatpur, Bayana and Dholpur in Rajasthan.

In Bihar, five people died and seven others suffered burn injuries due to lightning strikes in Khagaria district during rainfall. One person each also lost their lives in Bhagalpur, Madhepura, Saharsa and Bhojpur districts.

Police Raid at Abhishek Banerjee's Residence at 3 am

Four-Hour Search Operation; Central Forces Guarded the Premises, TMC Alleges Police Broke Open the Lock

Kolkata(GNS): Kolkata Police conducted a raid at the Kalighat residence of Abhishek Banerjee, nephew of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, at around 3 am on Friday night. A police team accompanied by central security personnel arrived at the residence. While police officers entered the premises, central forces stood guard outside. The search operation lasted for nearly four hours.

Upon receiving information about the raid, Mamata Banerjee rushed to Abhishek's residence, stayed for a short while and then left. According to police sources, the raid was conducted to trace Sumit Roy, Abhishek Banerjee's personal assistant.

A financial fraud case



has been registered against Roy at Salboni Police Station, and he has been absconding since then. His mobile phone was last traced at Banerjee's Kalighat residence, prompting the police search.

Abhishek Banerjee alleged that police officials broke open the lock and

searched every room of the house. The raid took place while a CID investigation into a fake signature case involving him is already underway. TMC MP Sagarika Ghose posted on X that the police found nothing during the search. She described the raid as an act of political vendetta, intimidation and harassment.

Lieutenant General Dheeraj Seth will be the next Army Chief

He will replace General Upendra Dwivedi; he became the Vice Chief of Army Staff two months ago

New Delhi(GNS): Lieutenant General Dheeraj Seth will be the country's next Army Chief. The central government on Saturday approved his appointment as Chief of Army Staff. Seth will replace current Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, whose term ends on June 30. On the same day, Seth will take over as India's 31st Chief of Army Staff. He currently holds the position of Vice Chief of Army Staff. He assumed this position two months ago, on April 1. The Vice Chief of Army Staff is the second-highest-ranking officer in the Indian Army.



Inflation Rises for the Fifth Consecutive Month

Reaches 3.93% in May; Food Items and Transportation Become Costlier

New Delhi, Agency: Retail inflation in the country accelerated once again in May, rising to 3.93% from 3.48% in April. This is the first time in the last five months that retail inflation has come close to the Reserve Bank of India's target of 4%.

Inflation was relatively low at the beginning of 2026. It stood at 2.74% in January and gradually climbed to 3.93% by May. Compared to April, retail inflation increased by 0.45% in May. On a monthly basis, this is the sharpest rise in prices witnessed in the last 16 months, indicating sustained price pressure in the market.

Food Inflation Higher in Rural Areas: The primary reason behind the increase in inflation continues to be the rise in food prices. Consumer food inflation climbed to 4.78% in May from 4.20% in April. Notably, food inflation remained higher in rural India than in urban areas. Rural food inflation stood at 4.85% in May, while urban centres recorded 4.66%.

Jewellery Prices Surge Over 56% Due to Rising Gold Prices: The steepest increase was witnessed in commodity and



discretionary spending categories.

Inflation in the personal effects category, which includes jewellery and precious metals, jumped by a record 56.35%, making it the fastest-growing component in the inflation basket.

RBI May Raise Interest Rates by Up to 0.50%: The latest inflation figures could increase concerns for the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). Economists have warned that rising

fuel costs, supply disruptions and adverse weather conditions pose risks to food prices. If inflation remains elevated, the RBI may increase the repo rate by up to 0.50%.

Weak Monsoon Could Push Inflation Above 5%: The inflation outlook remains uncertain due to rising crude oil prices and weather-related risks. A weak monsoon or a severe El Niño impact could further increase food prices.

Bombay High Court's Major Ruling

Even an Unemployed Father Must Provide Maintenance to His Children

Mumbai(GNS): The Bombay High Court has directed a father to pay monthly maintenance to his son and daughter, observing that a person cannot escape his legal responsibility towards his children merely by claiming to be unemployed.

The Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court was hearing a petition filed by a man challenging a lower court order directing him to pay maintenance to his children.

The petitioner, a resident of Buldhana district in Maharashtra's Amravati region, was directed to pay a total monthly maintenance of Rs 8,000, with Rs 4,000 each for his son and daughter. Challenging the order, he approached the High Court, claiming that he was unemployed and financially incapable of supporting his children. He also argued that he had sold his auto-rickshaw, which had been his only source of income.

"Supporting Children is a Father's Responsibility"

Rejecting his plea, the High Court observed that he could not evade his obligations. The Bench said that raising and maintaining children is both a legal and personal responsibility of a father. It noted

SIR to Remove Blurred Photos from 300 Million Voter ID Cards

New Delhi(GNS): The Election Commission has entered the final phase of its door-to-door voter verification drive and is preparing to visit the remaining 397.3 million voters across the country. An assessment was conducted to understand the major changes introduced in the Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC) after the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). Following the SIR exercise, photographs of 590 million voters have been updated and are now recent as well as coloured. More than 920,000 Booth Level Officers (BLOs) used mobile devices to link voters' photographs with their identity records and clean up the electoral rolls. No fee was charged for the exercise.

Earlier, Many Cards Had No Photo or Blurred Images: Following door-to-

door verification in Bihar and 12 states covered under the second phase, new voter identity cards have been prepared for 590 million electors.

The most significant change is the photograph on the card. Nearly 30% of older voter ID cards either had no photograph or contained images so blurred that identification was difficult.

The reason is that the Constitution does not specifically mandate a photo identity card, and therefore voters could not be compelled to provide photographs.

The assessment revealed that nearly 300 million photographs were either missing, blurred, outdated or impossible to identify. Many of the existing photographs were 20 to 30 years old.

Donate a drop of humanity, save a life: From safe blood to a strong society

Kantilal Mandot

World Blood Donor Day is celebrated every year on June 14th. It is not just a formal day but a global campaign to serve humanity and save lives. This day honors the millions of voluntary blood donors whose selfless contributions give new life to countless people every day. The theme for the year 2026, "A Drop of Humanity, Donate Blood. Save Lives," further reinforces the message that blood donation is not just a medical aid but a symbol of compassion and social responsibility.

Blood is a precious resource that cannot be arti-

ficially created in a laboratory. Its availability depends entirely on voluntary blood donations from healthy and informed citizens. Blood is needed when a person has an accident, when there is excessive bleeding during childbirth, when cancer treatment is underway, or when patients suffering from thalassemia or other serious illnesses are all needed. At such times, blood donated by an unknown donor can mean the difference between life and death.

India has one of the world's most populous countries, and the demand for blood is also very high. According to various health

reports, approximately 14 to 16 million units of blood are collected in the country each year. This number may seem large, but given the country's vast population and health needs, blood shortages are still felt in many areas. Availability of blood remains a major challenge, especially for rare blood groups and in emergency situations.

Experts believe that if even a small percentage of the country's population donated blood regularly, the problem of blood shortage could be virtually eliminated. A single unit of blood can be separated into different components. This allows red blood cells, plasma, and

platelets to be separated and used to treat three different patients. This means that a single blood donation by an individual can help save the lives of three or more people.

Every year, millions of patients in India benefit from blood donation. Blood serves as a lifeline for everyone, from road accident victims to heart surgery patients, from cancer patients to children with thalassemia. Thousands of children with thalassemia require regular blood transfusions. Without blood donors, these children's lives could be at risk. Similarly, excessive bleeding during childbirth puts the lives of

many women at risk every year. Timely blood donation can save their lives.

There are many misconceptions in society regarding blood donation. Some people believe that donating blood causes weakness or has adverse effects on health. However, according to medical science, blood donation by a healthy person at regular intervals is completely safe.

The body replenishes blood loss within a short time. Blood donation activates the process of creating new blood cells and also helps maintain iron balance in the body. Most importantly, a health checkup before

donating blood also gives a person the opportunity to assess their health status.

The need today is not just to collect blood, but to cultivate a culture of regular and voluntary blood donation. Large camps are sometimes organized on special occasions, and a substantial amount of blood is collected, but maintaining a consistent blood supply throughout the year is more important. Young people, in particular, need to be motivated to achieve this. Colleges, universities, and social organizations should conduct regular awareness campaigns to transform blood donation into a social movement.

Editorial

Demographic Shift

The manner in which Home Minister Amit Shah met with the high-level committee formed to investigate demographic change and gave it necessary instructions shows that this issue is on the priority list of the Central Government.

This should be true, because the way infiltration has altered the social fabric of many of India's border areas over the past few decades is no secret. While the most significant demographic changes have occurred in West Bengal and the northeastern states, they can be seen in other states as well.

After all, it's a fact that Jharkhand and Bihar are among the states most affected by infiltration from Bangladesh. Similarly, it's no secret how Rohingya infiltrators have settled in areas ranging from Hyderabad to Jammu. The Rohingyas' entry from Bengal or the Northeast and settling in cities like Jammu and Hyderabad appears to be part of a well-planned conspiracy.

It is a fact that elements involved in infiltrating from Bangladesh into Bengal, Meghalaya, Tripura, Assam, etc. are operating in an organized manner. This is why infiltrators obtain Aadhaar cards, voter ID cards, and even passports with their help. Infiltrators coming from Bangladesh via Bengal and Meghalaya have spread to every part of the country.

In Assam, they have become a major problem. The demographic changes caused by Bangladeshi infiltration and the threat posed to the local culture have necessitated the NRC. It would be appropriate to conduct a nationwide NRC. It must be established how many people living in India are legal and how many are illegal.

We cannot be satisfied with the occasional crackdown on infiltrators in certain states, because unless this is done on a nationwide scale, it will be difficult to identify them all. Infiltration doesn't just originate from Bangladesh; it also originates from Myanmar, and infiltration is one of the reasons Manipur is facing problems. The committee, which will study the unnatural causes and impacts of demographic change in border areas, will also suggest how to address the challenges posed by it.

Karl Landsteiner's legacy: Why is World Blood Donor Day celebrated and what are its benefits?

Sunil Kumar Mahala

World Blood Donor Day is celebrated every year on June 14th. It would not be wrong to say that donating blood in one's lifetime is the greatest act of charity for humanity.

However, according to statistics, only 37% of our country's population is eligible to donate blood, and even among them, less than 10% donate blood annually. Readers will be surprised to learn that approximately 118.5 million units of blood are collected worldwide each year, and 40% of the world's total blood donations come from high-income countries, which account for only 16% of the world's population. According to the World Health Organization, dividing one unit of blood into its various components can save up to three lives. According to available data, 54% of blood donated in low-income countries is given to children under the age of 5, while in high-income countries, approximately 76% of blood recipients are over the age of 60. According to the World Health Organization, blood donations from voluntary donors increased by 10.7 million units between 2008 and 2018. It's also worth noting that in 79 countries, more than 90% of the world's blood supply comes from voluntary and free donors, while in 54 countries, more than half of the blood supply still comes from family or paid donors. According to the World Health Organization, approximately 14 million women experience excessive bleeding during or after childbirth each year, for

whom timely blood availability proves life-saving. According to various estimates, India faces a blood shortage of approximately 1 million units annually, further increasing the importance of regular voluntary blood donation. Interestingly, if just 1% of a country's population donated blood regularly, it could meet the blood needs of most countries. Blood remains a life-saving commodity that cannot be manufactured in a factory; its only source is human blood donors. Life is precious, and blood donation gives life. Blood is nature's most valuable gift to humanity. We can help people in many ways through it, including saving many lives. Donating blood is the best service to humanity. Donating blood is a hope for a new life for the sick and needy. Donating blood can save many lives, so every healthy and capable person should take the initiative to donate blood. I would like to inform you that this day has been declared Blood Donation Day by the World Health Organization. Blood donation is considered the greatest form of donation. It is worth noting that this program, established in 2004, aims to raise awareness about the need for safe blood and blood products and to express gratitude to blood donors, encouraging them to donate life-saving blood.

In fact, there is a special reason for celebrating this day on June 14th. It is reported that scientist Karl Landsteiner discovered the blood group system. For his contributions, Karl Landsteiner was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930. Blood Donor Day is dedicated to scientist Karl

Landsteiner, whose birthday falls on June 14th. It should also be noted that Karl Landsteiner was the scientist who discovered the ABO blood group. He was born on June 14th, 1868, and this day is celebrated worldwide in his memory. It is noteworthy that World Blood Donor Day was first initiated by the World Health Organization, the International Federation of the Red Cross, and the Red Crescent Society. Karl Landsteiner was an Austrian biologist, physician, and immunologist, and is considered the founder of modern blood transfusion. It is due to his contributions that blood transfusions are now possible without endangering the patient's life. Carl was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930 for his unique contributions. Today, many accidents occur daily in the country, and blood is needed for patients with thalassemia, anemia, blood cancer, and women during childbirth. Many times, in emergency situations, when a patient requires blood during an accident, operation, or other reasons, blood donated by donors saves many lives. To recognize the importance of blood donors and to thank them, 'World Blood Donor Day' is celebrated worldwide every year on June 14th. Blood donation is also called the greatest donation, as there is nothing greater than saving a life. Today, people are gradually understanding its importance, and a growing awareness of blood donation is being observed. However, there are many people who are still afraid of donating blood. There are many misconceptions about blood donation, so it

is our duty to make them aware about blood donation. In fact, if someone's life is saved because of us, the satisfaction we feel cannot be expressed in words. In fact, donating blood is the most beautiful feeling in life. Every year, a theme is chosen by the World Health Organization for World Blood Donor Day to highlight the role of voluntary blood donation in saving lives and increasing solidarity within different communities. However, I would like to inform you that World Blood Donor Day is celebrated annually on June 14th, with the aim of raising awareness about the importance of voluntary blood donation and honoring the invaluable contribution of blood donors. The theme for 2025 was "Give Blood, Give Hope: Together Save Lives," which conveys the message of saving lives and spreading hope through blood donation. The theme for 2026 is "A Drop of Humanity: Give Blood, Save Lives." This theme encourages humanity, compassion, and social responsibility, motivating people to donate blood regularly and voluntarily. The role of blood donors is crucial in ensuring the availability of safe blood and saving countless lives. Today, blood supply is less than demand due to numerous misconceptions about blood donation. Some people believe that donating blood weakens them and can cause illness, but this is not true. Doctors say that donating blood is considered beneficial for a healthy and capable individual's health. However, I would like to inform you that a study found that the supply of blood donations was 33.8

per thousand, while the demand was 36.3. Consequently, the country falls short of one million units of blood annually. Blood security is lacking, especially in remote areas. This is primarily due to a lack of awareness about blood donation, and in many places, it is considered inappropriate. Doctors believe that blood donation has numerous benefits. It is beneficial not only for the recipient but also for the donor. Regular blood donation maintains optimal iron levels in the body. It also reduces the risk of heart disease and certain types of cancer, such as liver cancer. Donating blood not only saves many lives, but also brings a sense of satisfaction, a sense of having helped someone's life. This has a positive impact on our mental health and maintains good blood circulation. Before a blood test, we undergo a free physical examination, which checks our blood pressure, hemoglobin, and pulse. Donating blood also helps control our weight. After donating blood, the body works to replenish blood loss, increasing the production of red blood cells, improving our health. Donating blood also tests our blood group and Rh factor, as well as HIV, hepatitis, malaria, and sexually transmitted diseases. The entire blood donation process takes 20-25 minutes. There is no discomfort or pain during this time, and there is no risk of infection. Repeated blood donations help blood components (RBCs, WBCs, hemoglobin, platelets, etc.) form faster. After donating blood, the donor can rest for a while and resume their normal activities.

Does Meenakshi Natarajan have the option of filing an election petition?

Saurabh Varshney

After the rejection of Congress leader Meenakshi Natarajan's nomination papers in the Madhya Pradesh Rajya Sabha elections, and the Supreme Court's failure to grant immediate relief against her nomination, the biggest question is whether she still has any legal recourse. The answer is yes, the option of an election petition may still be available, but only after the election process is complete. Article 329 of the Indian Constitution clearly states that courts generally cannot interfere during the election process. The proper means to challenge the validity of an election is through an election petition after the election is over. Citing this constitutional provision, the Supreme

Court refused to immediately intervene in Meenakshi Natarajan's petition. From a political perspective, this matter is no longer just about the nomination of a candidate. The Congress is framing it as a question of electoral fairness and democratic rights, while the Election Commission and the ruling party are calling it a matter of adherence to electoral rules. If Meenakshi Natarajan files an election petition and the court finds that there was a legal error in rejecting her nomination, it could raise serious questions about both the election results and the electoral process. A major message from this entire incident is the importance of balance between the Election Commission, the judiciary, and political parties in Indian

democracy. The provision of election petitions was created to maintain this balance, ensuring that the electoral process is not disrupted and that judicial review of any perceived injustice is possible.

For the Congress party, this case has become a symbol of political conflict. If an election petition is filed, it will not only be a legal battle but could also spark a broader debate on electoral transparency and institutional credibility. On the other hand, if the court upholds the Election Commission's decision, it will be considered an important example of strict adherence to electoral rules. Meenakshi Natarajan has the option of an election petition, but its success will depend on whether she can prove that her

nomination was rejected illegally or arbitrarily. This is why this case could become an important touchstone in Indian electoral jurisprudence in the future.

The Supreme Court flatly refused to interfere with the Returning Officer's order rejecting Congress leader Meenakshi Natarajan's Rajya Sabha nomination. A bench of Justices PK Mishra and AS Chandurkar ruled that Meenakshi Natarajan's petition challenging the rejection of her nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha elections was not maintainable. The Supreme Court clarified that once a candidate's nomination is rejected by the Returning Officer, the only recourse for redress is to the Election Commission. The court

asked Meenakshi Natarajan's lawyer, Abhishek Manu Singhvi, "No matter how wrong the decision, once the nomination is rejected, the remedy usually lies elsewhere. Is there any decision of this Court where we have intervened at this stage?" The Supreme Court made it clear in Meenakshi Natarajan's case that no relief can be granted through a writ petition on election-related matters. A writ petition can only be approached in the Supreme Court on constitutional matters.

An election petition is a legal process for contesting the validity of the results of parliamentary, legislative, or local elections. Simply put, it is a legal means for challenging the election of a winning candidate in court.

Amid NEET-UG, CBSE exam row, Rahul Gandhi to launch student conventions across India

New Delhi(GNS): Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi will launch a series of large student conventions across the country beginning June 17, Congress general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal said. The outreach programme is aimed at bringing together students, aspirants, youth organisations and educators affected by examination-related controversies in the country.

Venugopal said that Gandhi would begin the campaign in Kota on June 17, followed by conventions in Allahabad on July 10, Patna on July 11 and Delhi on July 14.

NEET paper leak The conventions come



amid controversy surrounding the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET-UG) 2026, which was cancelled by the National Testing Agency (NTA) after investigators found evidence that questions similar to those appearing in the medical entrance examination had been circulated before the test.

The examination, con-

ducted on May 3, affected nearly 23 lakh candidates. The Union government subsequently handed over the probe to the CBI, while NTA said that the exam would now be conducted on June 21.

CBSE discrepancies The campaign also comes against the backdrop of concerns raised over cybersecurity vulnerabilities in Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE) digital evaluation ecosystem.

The board acknowledged vulnerabilities in the OnMark portal of its service provider and said cybersecurity experts from government agencies and Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) had been deployed to

strengthen the system.

CBSE said it had contained the vulnerabilities identified in the portal and thanked ethical hackers and members of the public who brought the issues to its notice.

The board has maintained that its live evaluation platform was not compromised and investigators found no evidence of student records being leaked or misused.

Opposition leaders have repeatedly raised issues related to examination conduct, paper leaks and digital security in educational systems, with the upcoming conventions expected to focus on concerns raised by students and aspirants across the country.

Two cow smugglers held after encounter in Nuh

New Delhi(GNS): The suspects, who were injured after being shot in the legs during an exchange of fire with police, were admitted to Nalhar Medical College for treatment.

Police said they recovered five camels loaded in a pickup vehicle, and seized an illegal firearm with cartridges, from the spot. An FIR has been registered against the accused at Ferozpur Jhirka Sadar police station.

According to police, the incident occurred when a team from the CIA unit in Nuh, led by Sub-Inspector Mahender Singh, attempted to stop a pickup vehicle carrying cattle at a barricade near the toll plaza on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway.

The suspects allegedly broke through the barricade and sped away, prompting a police chase. During the pursuit, the accused opened fire at the police team, police said. In the ensuing exchange of fire, both suspects sustained gunshot injuries to their legs.



The injured men were overpowered, taken into custody and later admitted to hospital for treatment.

Police identified the accused as Sahid and Mustafa, residents of Ward 13 in Ferozpur Jhirka.

"An FIR has been registered and the injured cow smugglers have been admitted to hospital. A pickup vehicle loaded with five camels was also seized. Further investigation is underway," a spokesperson for Nuh police said.

Mumtaz saved 2 sisters, but futile search for cat landed her in ICU;

New Delhi(GNS): Mumtaz (23) is in the ICU of Safdarjung Hospital with burns from the Tughlaqabad building fire. She saved her two younger sisters Friday, and went back in for her cat, Coco. "Meri Coco kahan hai (where is my Coco)?" the young beautician kept asking her family in the burns ward ICU. The family does not know where Coco is as the cat was not seen anywhere. What they do know, though, is how Mumtaz saved her sisters first. As the flames and thick smoke engulfed the building, Mumtaz's first instinct was take her sisters to safety. She helped Kareena (18) and Seema (16) get out of the building.

After that, Mumtaz decided to rescue Coco. By then, there was thick smoke inside the building. Minutes later, Mumtaz realised she was trapped and called up her husband and other family members. Husband Deepak, a bike taxi driver, recalled her words during the phone call around 2am.

Deepak was in Agra. He had gone there to help a friend and was sitting in a police station when his phone rang. "I got a call from Mumtaz. She was screaming and crying. She kept saying 'bachao'. She said she couldn't see a thing because of the smoke," Deepak said. "I told her to stay calm and jump to the neighbouring terrace, if possible. She told me the smoke had reached our house," he said. Mumtaz's mother, Kishwar Jahan, said the family rushed to the building after getting her call. "When we reached, we learnt that she had somehow managed to get her sisters out. She opened the gates and helped them escape. But she went back inside for Coco," Kishwar said.

Coco was a gift to Mumtaz. The cat had come to her a little more than a month ago. She is repeatedly asking about her cat, Kishwar said. Mumtaz, who suffered burns and the effect of the smoke, is at the cusp of making a fresh start. She quit her job in a beauty parlour in Faridabad. She got a new job at a parlour in RK Puram. She was due to join in two days. The family was also preparing to move into a new rented accommodation nearby. "All our belongings were packed. We were supposed to shift tomorrow," Deepak said.

Delhi Tughlaqabad fire: Man escapes flames, runs back for family; never returns

New Delhi(GNS): Pankaj Kumar Pandey had escaped from the burning building in Tughlaqabad when he realised that his family was still inside. He ran back in, and never made it out.

The 28-year-old had a mobile phone shop and was the main earner in his family. He lived with his mum, two sisters and maternal grandmother.

Two years ago, Pankaj bought the flat in Tughlaqabad so that they could finally have a home.

Pankaj, his grandmother Sushila Devi, and sister Soni, lost their lives in the blaze Friday. His mother, Guddi, and younger sister, Moni, are



critical.

Pankaj had lost his father a few years ago and taken on the responsibility of supporting the family and caring for his

sisters.

One of his relatives, Bam Bam Jha, told Media that he had spoken to the family over a video call a few hours before

the fire started. They chatted about routine stuff. "Around 6am, I called up Pankaj and others in the family. No one answered. I became anxious after some time and came to Tughlaqabad. There was a huge crowd outside the building. I learnt about the tragedy then," Jha said. Jha's wife Anshu broke down as relatives and neighbours arrived. "It was horrific. My family is gone," she wept.

Another relative, Suresh Chandra Pandey, said when Pankaj purchased the modest two-room flat, he "advised him against it because the area is too congested, but he was determined to have a house of his own for the fami-

ly".

One of Pankaj's relatives had died in Gonda, Uttar Pradesh, on Thursday. Pankaj was to travel there on June 17. "Before he could leave, this happened," Suresh said.

The family used to live in Pul Prahladpur before moving to Tughlaqabad. The older of the two sisters, Soni, was a graduate and worked in a boutique. Moni, the younger one, had recently finished Class X.

Residents said when Pankaj realised that his mother, sisters and grandmother could be trapped inside, he ran back in without thinking twice. "That's when he got trapped," a resident said.

Delhi Police arrest absconding accused in multi-crore Greater Faridabad housing fraud

New Delhi(GNS): The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi Police arrested an absconding proclaimed offender allegedly involved in a multi-crore real estate fraud linked to a housing project in Greater Faridabad, officials said on Saturday.

According to the police, Shiv Nandan Singh Yadav was arrested on June 12 from Faridabad, Haryana, after sustained surveillance and technical analysis by an EOW team.

He had been evading arrest since 2019 and was declared a proclaimed offender by a Delhi court in 2023 in connection with nine criminal cases.

The cases stem from separate complaints filed by multiple victims, following which nine FIRs were registered in 2019 on the directions of the



Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Shahdara District, Karkardooma Courts.

Investigators found that the complaints shared a common pattern and involved the same accused persons and company.

Police alleged that the accused, operating through M/s GRPL Globe Reality Pvt Ltd., launched a housing project called "Krishan Kunj Township" in Village Tilori Khadar, Greater Faridabad, in 2013. The project was adver-

tised as a well-developed residential township comprising 496 plots spread across approximately 10.26 acres.

According to the investigation, prospective buyers were lured through attractive s and assurances regarding the development. However, the company and its directors allegedly misrepresented material facts and did not possess sufficient lawful land required for the proposed township. After collecting substantial sums from investors, they allegedly failed to hand over the promised plots and abandoned the project.

The EOW said its team continued efforts to trace the absconding accused despite years of unsuccessful attempts before acting on specific intelligence to locate and arrest him in Faridabad.

B.Sc nursing graduate held for job scam targeting youths in Delhi

New Delhi(GNS): A B.Sc Nursing graduate has been arrested by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi Police for allegedly duping unemployed youths on the false promise of jobs at Guru Teg Bahadur (GTB) Hospital. Police said the accused used the money to fuel his gambling addiction.

The accused, Manish Kumar, had allegedly been on the run for months before being traced and arrested from GTB Enclave in Shahdara on June 9.

The case was registered following complaints from 23 people, who alleged that Kumar promised to secure them jobs as data entry operators and nursing assistants at GTB Hospital.

Additional Commissioner

of Police (EOW) Ravi Kumar Singh said, "The accused claimed there were contractual vacancies with a monthly salary of around Rs 21,000. He told aspirants that his father held a senior post at the hospital and that he had strong connections within the administration to facilitate appointments."

Believing his claims, the victims submitted copies of their educational certificates, Aadhaar and PAN cards, along with other personal documents. "Kumar collected between Rs 20,000 and Rs 25,000 from each applicant as a 'security deposit'. He continued to assure them that the recruitment process was underway, later claiming that vacancies had been temporarily put on hold and promising appointment letters within 45 days," the officer said.

DoE asks schools to highlight optional maths under NIOS to cut dropout

New Delhi(GNS): Even as concerns persist among sections of Delhi govt school teachers that students passing Class X through National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) continue to face problems in getting admitted to science and commerce streams in govt schools, Directorate of Education (DoE) is increasingly positioning NIOS as a tool to prevent vulnerable students from dropping out. Under recent guidelines issued through DoE's NIOS Project, schools have been directed to inform parents that subjects often considered difficult, including mathematics, are not compulsory under the NIOS system and that students who clear Class X through NIOS remain eligible for admission to Class XI in their parent govt schools. The intervention



specifically targets students who have failed Class IX more than once and are considered at greater risk of exiting the education system.

To strengthen retention efforts, DoE has asked all govt schools to identify and counsel students who have failed Class IX twice or thrice and guide them towards continuing education. In a recent circular issued after the declaration of Class IX compartment examination results, school heads were instructed to prepare lists of such stu-

dents and personally reach out to both students and their families.

Schools have been asked to invite parents for discussions at mutually convenient times and ensure that interactions are conducted in a "supportive and non-judgmental environment". The circular places counselling at the centre of the intervention and directs schools to explain the long-term importance of completing school education while reassuring parents that institutional support will continue.

"In the absence of proper guidance and motivation, these students are at risk of discontinuing their education. Schools have, therefore, been directed to first encourage them to continue through the regular schooling system wherever possible," an official said.

However, where students

or parents are unwilling to continue in regular school, authorities have been asked to introduce the NIOS route. Under it, students can take direct admission to Class X, select subjects according to their interests and abilities, avoid compulsory mathematics, if needed, and continue learning at their own pace while preventing the loss of an academic year.

The circular adds that heads of schools must inform parents that after completing Class X through NIOS, students can continue in the parent school for Class XI, enabling continuity in schooling.

The push comes even as Government Schools Teachers' Association, Delhi, has urged govt to review what it describes as restrictive admission rules for NIOS students.

LG directs banks to speed up PM SVANidhi loans as Delhi receives over 4.3 lakh applications

New Delhi(GNS): Lieutenant governor TS Sandhu Friday directed banks and govt agencies to expedite processing of applications under the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme, stressing that no eligible street vendor should face delays in accessing financial assistance.

Reviewing the scheme's implementation in the capital, which is administered by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), LG said the strong repayment record of beneficiaries reflected financial discipline and should encourage banks to extend credit without hesitation.

Officials informed him that a total of 4.3 lakh loan applications have been received under the scheme so far. Of these, 2.7 lakh loans have been sanctioned

by banks, while 1.9 lakh street vendors - including rehriwalas, thelewalas and hawkers - have benefited through disbursements across Delhi.

Under PM SVANidhi, street vendors are provided collateral-free working capital loans in three tranches of Rs 10,000, Rs 20,000 and Rs 50,000 to help them start, sustain and expand their businesses. So far, loans worth Rs 367.1 crore have been sanctioned and disbursed directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

LG was also informed that 1.4 lakh loans have been fully repaid. Citing this performance, he asked banks to ensure timely sanctions and disbursements and to remove unnecessary hurdles in extending credit to eligible

vendors.

Data presented during the review showed that in the first loan category, banks received 2.9 lakh eligible applications, sanctioning 1.9 lakh loans and disbursing 1.9 lakh. In the second tranche, 1.1 lakh vendors applied for higher credit, resulting in 57,567 sanctions and 52,282 disbursements. In the third category of Rs 50,000, officials processed 21,719 applications, leading to 13,378 sanctions and 11,921 disbursements.

The review also highlighted growing digital adoption among street vendors, with over 1.5 lakh vendors now digitally active. Cashback incentives totalling Rs 12 crore have been disbursed to encourage digital transactions, while interest subsidies worth Rs 9.5 crore have been provided.

Delhi Tughlaqabad fire

Neighbours turn into heroes during midnight rescue

New Delhi(GNS): When flames ripped through a multi-storey residential building in Tughlaqabad on Thursday, which claimed lives of three, it was the residents themselves who became the first line of defence.

First responder who raised alarm

Sourabh Sharma (35) immediately called the fire department after hearing cries for help from the building. He guided PCR personnel and firefighters to the spot, helping speed up the rescue operation. Together with other neighbours, he helped prevent the flames from spreading further.

He said, "It was around 2.19am when my daughter, who was awake at the time, heard a woman on the top floor crying for help. I immediately called the fire department.



ment. When I stepped outside, I saw a PCR van and guided them to the spot. Within 15 minutes, the fire brigade arrived."

Teenager used sari to save life

Sharma's 16-year-old daughter spotted a man trapped on the second floor and quickly improvised an

escape route. She got hold of her mother's sari and threw it to the man, who tied it to the balcony and climbed down to safety.

Her father said, "Thinking quickly, she threw her mother's sari to him, which he tied to the balcony and used to climb down to safety."

Man who cut through iron

grilles

Vivek Singh (40) saw four women and a man trapped behind iron-grilled windows. Initially, he tried to break the grilles using sticks and a crowbar. As the attempts failed, he brought a grinder machine and cut through the iron bars and pulled the trapped residents into his house, sheltering them until they were safe.

He said, "On the top floor of the building opposite my house, four women and a man were trapped, screaming for help. Their windows were covered with iron grilles."

Woman who turned water tanks into lifelines

Renu Bhutani (45) rushed to a neighbouring building with her son after learning about the fire. Together, they connected a ladder between terraces to access the affected building.

After CJP intervention, suspended Haryana teacher gets back job

New Delhi(GNS): Dalal, a teacher and supporter of the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP), was suspended through an order issued by the district elementary education officer after she attended a protest organised by the party at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on June 6. The order, effective from June 8, cited a violation of conduct rules and stated that she had failed to seek prior permission before participating in such activities. It also restricted her movement by directing that she could not leave her headquarters without approval from the competent authority.

The action quickly drew attention because Dalal had attended the protest not merely as a political supporter but also as the mother of a 21 year old affected by the NEET paper leak controversy. She maintained that her presence at the demonstration was driven by concern for students impacted by examination irregularities and government lapses. Arguing that the suspension lacked clear grounds, she announced her decision to challenge the order in



court.

The matter escalated further after the CJP publicly condemned the suspension. In a statement issued through its official communications channel, the party described the action as an attack on the constitutional rights of citizens to speak, assemble, question and dissent. It argued that no citizen should be forced to choose between livelihood and conscience and questioned the use of unspecified conduct rules as the basis for disciplinary action.

The party also demanded that authorities publicly disclose the precise grounds on which the action had been taken.

Gym owner murder case: Delhi court rejects bail plea of Zoya Khan

New Delhi(GNS): A Delhi court has rejected the bail plea of Zoya Khan alias 'lady don', wife of alleged gangster Asim alias Hashim Baba, in connection with the murder of gym owner Nadir Shah, holding the allegations point to her active participation in a wider criminal conspiracy. According to the order passed on June 9, the prosecution has alleged Zoya Khan played a key role in facilitating the movement and harbouring of the alleged shooters before and after the September 2024 killing of Nadir Shah outside a gym in Greater Kailash. Investigators have relied on witness statements claiming she issued telephonic instructions regarding the shooters, informed associates after the murder that the crime had been carried out, and instructed them to go underground. The prosecution has also cited the recovery of a pistol and five live cartridges from her residence, and claimed that call data and internet protocol detail records established her links with key conspirators, including her husband and the alleged shooters. Opposing the allegations, Zoya Khan argued that her implication was based solely on statements of unreliable witnesses, challenged the alleged recovery of the firearm, and sought parity with co-accused who have been granted bail.



Power surcharge spike to make electricity costly in Delhi

New Delhi(GNS): Power bills will increase for lakhs of consumers in the city as Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) has allowed power distribution companies to recover higher power procurement costs through an increased fuel and power purchase adjustment surcharge (FPPAS), commonly known as PPAC. In percentage



terms, consumers in areas served by BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) - east and central Delhi - are expected to rise by roughly 5.7%. In areas served by

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL), which are in south and west Delhi, the increase would be of 3.4%. Areas under Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (TPDDL) are unlikely to see any detectable change as the PPAC change is marginal.

The hike will be implemented in June, and consumers will have to pay more from July onwards.

BRPL's PPAC has

increased from 14.5% to 17.9%, while BYPL's has risen from 11.7% to 17.4%. TPDDL's PPAC has changed from 15.9% to 16%.

The PPAC surcharge helps distribution companies recover from fluctuations in power purchase prices and fuel costs. As electricity generation depends largely on coal and natural gas, any increase in these costs raises the cost of power produc-

tion and procurement. In Delhi, power purchase accounts for nearly 80% of a discom's total expenditure, making the PPAC an important component of the electricity bill.

An official said that until March, PPAC was revised on a quarterly basis. From April onwards, the surcharge is being revised every month based on the actual power purchase costs.

Despite CAQM ban, coal keeps burning in NCR brick kilns, finds CSE

New Delhi(GNS): Coal continues to be widely used in brick kilns across Delhi-NCR despite a ban, according to a survey by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). With brick kilns being one of the contributors to Delhi's air pollution, the report found widespread non-compliance, weak enforcement, poor transition support and limited adoption of cleaner fuels across the brick-making sector. It also noted the use of carbon black as fuel at several kilns, with stocks typically stored discreetly and supplied mainly at night.

The report, Rules Without Reach: How the brick-making industry has fared on CAQM compliances in Delhi-NCR, is based on two rounds of surveys conducted across brick kiln clusters in Delhi-NCR. The first round in 2025 covered 128 brick kilns, while the second round in 2026 surveyed 152 kilns across Baghpat, Ghaziabad, Bulandshahr, Shamli, Jhajjar, Panipat and Sonapat, and virtual communications with 60 kiln owners.

"The brick industry is among the most



polluting and least regulated sectors in the country. Commission for Air Quality (CAQM)'s coal ban was a necessary step, but a direction without a transition strategy is unlikely to change behaviour on the ground," CSE programme officer Subhrajit Goswami said, adding that the sector needs technical guidance, financial support and institutional hand-holding. "None of that was provided and the survey results reflect exactly that gap," he pointed out.

The report found that in 2025, about

77% of the surveyed kilns were found using coal, while in 2026 coal use was observed in about 72% of the surveyed units. Most kilns used coal in combination with biomass rather than as a standalone fuel. Coal deliveries were often arranged on a daily basis and frequently took place during evening or night hours.

Explaining why the transition has not happened, the report said kiln owners consistently maintained that coal was essential for producing good quality bricks as biomass didn't have the same calorific value. Coal offers 4,000 to 6,000kcal/kg, while most crop residues provide only 3,000-4,000kcal/kg.

"Most owners said a blend of at least 20-30% coal with 70-80% biomass is the minimum needed to maintain product quality. Going to zero coal, as the mandate requires, is something the sector is not technically ready for, and the research needed to get it there has not been done at the scale required," said CSE.

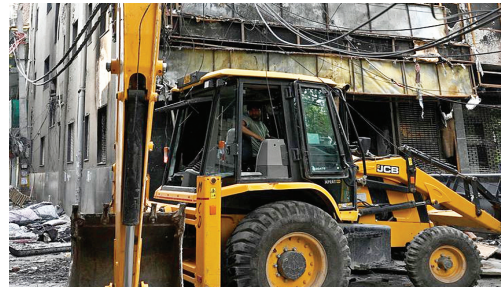
Delhi: Rs 10 lakh compensation for Malviya Nagar fire, Saket collapse victims

New Delhi(GNS): Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Friday announced an ex-gratia of Rs 10 lakh for the families of those who lost their lives in the recent Hauz Rani fire in Malviya Nagar and the building collapse in Saidulajab, Saket.

The Delhi Government will also provide financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh to those injured in the two incidents.

The announcement was made at a special programme at the Delhi Secretariat where the Chief Minister paid tributes to the victims and honoured citizens, police personnel, officials and rescue workers who played a key role in the relief operations.

Addressing the gathering, Gupta described the two incidents as tragedies that had shaken the conscience of society and left several families devastated. She directed officials to ensure that compensation and relief were disbursed swiftly and transparently so that affected fami-



lies received immediate support. A two-minute silence was observed in memory of those who died in the incidents. Among those honoured was Riyazuddin Mansoori, who helped save lives during the Hauz Rani fire by placing mattresses below the building to assist people attempting to escape the blaze. The Chief Minister announced reimbursement of the cost of the mattresses and presented him with a commendation certificate and a cheque of Rs 21,000. Similar certificates and cheques were awarded to other individuals involved in the rescue efforts.

Students have more choices than ever, so why does it feel harder

New Delhi(GNS): FOR this generation, education is a paradox. Good grades alone are no longer enough. Internships, certifications, leadership roles and networking have become essential parts of a competitive profile.

The rise of artificial intelligence has added another layer of uncertainty, forcing students to think not only about getting a job but also about staying relevant in a rapidly changing workplace.

At the same time, social media fuels constant comparison, while rising living costs, environmental concerns and the pressure to succeed early have made the journey more demanding.

Yet, students acknowledge the advantages of growing up in a connected world. A smartphone can unlock lectures from leading universities, global



internships and communities built around even the most niche interests. Geography is less of a barrier, career choices are more diverse and learning extends far beyond the classroom.

"Technology has made knowledge instantly accessible. Students have far more career choices, professional guidance and opportunities to learn beyond textbooks. The New Education Policy encourages creativity, critical thinking and practical skills," said Meenu

Kanwar, principal, Amity International School, Mayur Vihar.

"At the same time, greater access to information has intensified competition and expectations. Students face rising stress, anxiety and pressure to succeed. The focus must be on holistic development," she added.

Parents, too, see the contradiction. "I remember cycling to the library to find material for school projects. My daughter can access the same information in seconds on her phone. Yet, I don't think her life is easier," said Anjali Sahoo, a parent of a teenager.

"I only had to focus on marks. She is constantly thinking about internships, courses, entrance exams and future careers."

Ishmeet, a student, says that during her parent's time, scoring above 60%

was considered good. When her elder sister scored 86% in Class XII, it was celebrated. "But when my results came, even 96% felt inadequate unless you were the topper," she said.

STUDENTS SPEAK UP

"I feel we have access to far more opportunities than previous generations, but we also face distinct challenges. Technology has made education accessible and opened up new possibilities. However, competition for limited seats in top colleges and desirable jobs has intensified. There is constant pressure to build strong profiles through internships, extracurricular activities and certifications, leaving little time to unwind. The fast-paced nature of life has contributed to rising stress and anxiety. Pollution and extreme weather affect health and routines.

Delhi University's Campus of Open Learning opens admissions

New Delhi(GNS): The University of Delhi's (DU) Campus of Open Learning (COL) has announced admissions for a range of foreign language and professional programmes for the 2026-27 academic session, expanding opportunities for students seeking flexible and career-oriented education.

The admission process for one-year certificate and diploma courses in eight foreign languages has begun through the School of Open Learning (SOL), Department of Distance and Continuing Education (DDCE), and the Open Learning Development Centre (OLDC) under COL.

Providing details about the initiative, COL Director Professor Payal Mago said, "The programmes are being offered in German, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Chinese, Japanese and Korean in collaboration with the Department of Germanic



and Romance Studies and the Department of East Asian Studies at the university. To increase access to quality language education, OLDC will soon launch these programmes in online mode, allowing students from across the country to participate."

The university has also expanded its language offerings with a one-year certificate course and a one-year diploma course in Russian. The programme is being launched in collaboration with the Department of Slavonic and Finno-Ugrian Studies and will be available

in both classroom and online modes.

In addition to language programmes, admissions to several flagship professional courses offered by SOL and DDCE will begin from June 17, 2026.

These include Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Library and Information Science (MLISc), Bachelor of Library and Information Science (BLISc), and Post Graduate Diploma in Advertising and Digital Media Leadership (PGDADLM).