



VIKAS BHI, VIRASAT BHI



Construction of the
Grand Ram Mandir in Ayodhya

Transformation of Kashi Vishwanath Dham,
Mahakal Mahalok and Kedarnath Dham

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



From Ayodhya Ram Mandir to Kashi Vishwanath Dham, the Cultural Renaissance led by the Hon'ble Prime Minister has placed India's heritage on the world stage.

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

Modi tells Trump that the safety of Indian sailors is important

Trump said that as long as I am president, a friend of India will be present in the White House



New Delhi/Evian (GNS):

US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday, "As long as I'm president, Modi will always have a good friend in the White House. If India or Modi is attacked, and Modi is the leader,

we will help him."

Praising Modi, he said, "As long as Modi is the leader, India will play a major role in every field. Modi is a calm and powerful leader, but I am not like him." Meanwhile, during his

bilateral meeting with Trump, Modi stated that the safety of Indians at sea is essential. He hoped that the deal with Iran would ensure their safety.

The PM said that it is essential that the Strait of Hormuz remains open. He commends

Trump's leadership in efforts to achieve peace in West Asia. Under Trump's leadership, there is hope for peace.

The two-day 52nd G7 summit was held in Evian, France. Modi and Trump also attended the summit.

Petrol Bomb Hurling at RSS Office in Ranchi Union Minister Calls It a Major Conspiracy

Ranchi(GNS): An attempt was made to attack the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) office in Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand, with petrol bombs late Tuesday night, prompting a police investigation and political reactions.

According to the police, two unidentified assailants filled sauce bottles with petrol and attempted to throw them into the RSS office premises at Nivaranpur under Chutia police station limits. However, both bottles fell short of the boundary wall, averting a major mishap.

City Superintendent of Police Paras Rana said an investigation had been launched. Preliminary findings suggest the involvement of two youths. Multiple teams, including forensic experts, have been deployed to probe the incident. CCTV footage reportedly shows two attackers trying to hurl petrol-filled bottles at the office. The first attempt



BJP Leaders Demand Strict Action: Union Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth and senior BJP leader Babulal Marandi visited the RSS office soon after the incident. BJP leaders questioned the law-and-order situation in the state and demanded an impartial investigation and the immediate arrest of those responsible. Seth described the incident as extremely serious, saying that had the attack succeeded, office-bearers could have been injured.

failed after the burning fuse residents claimed that fell to the ground, while the some employees of a second bottle did not reach nearby hotel were under the premises. Police said suspicion. According to them, RSS members had used to prepare the recently lodged complaints improvised petrol bombs. against the hotel over sanitation and other issues, **Hotel Staff Under Suspicion:** Local leading to a dispute.

Annamalai to Launch New Political Party on September 14

New Delhi(GNS): Former Tamil Nadu BJP president and ex-IPS officer K. Annamalai will unveil his new political party, including its name, ideology and organisational structure, on September 14. He is scheduled to undertake a statewide tour during November and December.

Annamalai is currently mobilising youth through his 'We the Leader' movement and has begun training camps in his hometown of Aravakurichi. Party district coordinators will all be below the age of 50.

OBC and MBC Communities: With actor-turned-politician and Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay's TVK making significant inroads among Dalit and minority voters, Annamalai is expected to target the non-Dalit electorate, particularly OBCs, Most Backward Classes (MBCs), and the general category.

aKongu Region: Often regarded as Tamil Nadu's political gateway to power, the Kongu region has 57 Assembly constituencies. Annamalai plans to focus on the area's middle-class farmers and business community rather than relying on religious identity politics.

Telegram Moves Delhi High Court Against NEET-UG Re-exam Ban



New Delhi, Agency: Messaging platform Telegram has approached the Delhi High Court challenging the Central government's decision to impose a temporary ban on the app ahead of the

Google and Apple Remove Telegram from App Stores: For the first time in the country, an app has been banned over concerns related to a potential examination paper leak. The government said certain individuals were using Telegram to spread rumours about the leak and defraud students. NTA Director General Abhishek Singh said there was "no alternative" as fraudsters were misusing the platform. Acting on government directives, Google and Apple have also removed Telegram from their respective app stores in India.

NEET-UG re-examination. The court has agreed to hear the matter on Wednesday.

The National Testing Agency (NTA) informed that the government had suspended Telegram's services until June 22, 2026. The app's message-editing feature has also been disabled

until June 30. Telegram's CEO criticised the move, saying the decision punished over 150 million Indian users rather than those responsible for the alleged paper leak. He argued that the ban would not prevent such incidents, as offenders could simply shift to other platforms.

Monsoon Stalls Along Western Coast; Mumbai May Wait Another Week

Bhopal/Jaipur/Lucknow/Patna(GNS): The southwest monsoon has remained virtually stationary along India's western coast since June 8 and is expected to take another seven to eight days to reach Mumbai, according to weather agency Skymet.

The primary reason for the delay is the absence of a strong low-pressure system over the Bay of Bengal. Due to the sluggish advance of the monsoon, only 103 of the country's 723 districts have received normal rainfall so far.

Weather Alerts Across



Several States

The Meteorological Department has issued a yellow alert for thunderstorms and

rainfall in 23 districts of Rajasthan, including Jaipur, Bharatpur and Kota. Over the past 24 hours, ten districts,



including Jhunjhunu, have recorded around two inches of rainfall.

In Madhya Pradesh, districts such as Raisen, Chhindwara, Gwalior and Sagar are expected

to experience thunderstorms and rain. Bihar has issued rain alerts for 26 districts, including Bhagalpur, Purnia and Champaran. On Tuesday, temperatures exceeded 40 degrees Celsius in Patna and six other districts.

Delhi-NCR witnessed rain and strong winds on Tuesday, with maximum temperatures recorded nearly six degrees below normal, making it the coolest day of June so far.

After making landfall in Kerala on June 4, the monsoon has advanced into 19 states within 13 days.

Record number of girls reaches the threshold of IIT

Pratibha Kushwaha

The recent news of girls' impressive success in the JEE Advanced 2026 exam has begun to illuminate the future of women in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields. This is a historic achievement for half the population in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Engineering education, or IIT, remains a male-dominated field in the country. Even those in our households who are vocal about girls' education prioritize their sons becoming engi-

neers and their daughters becoming doctors. Nevertheless, this success offers some clues to the changing mindset and economic conditions in our households.

Newspapers published on June 4th prominently reported that for the first time, nearly 10,000 girls had passed the JEE Advanced 2026 exam. A total of 56,880 candidates passed this exam, including 10,107 girls. This figure represents approximately one in four candidates. This historic achievement is not merely a statistic of exam results, but also a sign of positive changes tak-

ing place in our society regarding education, opportunity, and gender equality. This success is being seen as a push for women into the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Today, AI, data science, robotics, and new technologies have transformed society, culture, and economics. The exclusion of half the population could result in a significant social imbalance. In this context, the results of JEE Advanced 2026 could shape the future of the country. However, there is still a need to further increase women's participation in top ranks and technical fields.

More successes like this alone will not ensure women's participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Women face so many hurdles in their lives that even after studying in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, they are often denied the opportunity to contribute. This education is financially expensive, but the country provides various financial assistance to promote women in these fields. If women are unable to advance into the workforce, the losses to our society and country will be immense.

In January 2026, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, in response to a question in the Rajya Sabha, stated that according to the All India Survey on Higher Education 2021-22, the total share of women in STEM subjects at the higher education level in the country is 43%. Similarly, according to the Department of Science and Technology's Research and Development Statistics Report 2023, the share of STEM professionals in the total female workforce in research and development activities in the country is 18.6%. Of these, 45.8% are employed in government institutions, 27.6% in higher education, and 26.5% in the industrial sector. These statistics also reveal that while many women are choosing career paths in STEM subjects, they are still unable to reach the workforce. UNESCO, in its report, states that women represent 43% of STEM graduates in India, while their job participation in these traditions and perceived discrimination hinder women's employment in these fields. Traditional gender roles significantly discourage women from pursuing careers in these fields, as they require more time and commitment.

Editorial Regional parties in crisis

The readiness of six of the nine Lok Sabha members of the Shiv Sena-Uddhav faction to join the Shiv Sena-Shinde faction after the Trinamool Congress not only indicates their eagerness to side with the ruling party but also underscores the growing opportunism in Indian politics. This is the second split within the Shiv Sena.

Even before this, its MLAs and MPs have defected, and the party has even lost its election symbol. It will be difficult for it to recover from this further setback. Now, it faces the challenge of survival. It bears the greatest responsibility for this crisis and disintegration. If Uddhav Thackeray had not, in his greed to become Chief Minister, joined forces with arch-rivals Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party, perhaps his party's position would have been different today.

Uddhav Thackeray not only broke ties with his longtime power partner and ideological ally, the BJP, but also abandoned his own ideology. The Shiv Sena was one of the few regional parties with a strong ideology. It disintegrated primarily because of its departure from its ideology. The Trinamool Congress had no ideology at all. Its political focus was simply gaining power and remaining in it by hook or by crook. As soon as this focus was removed, meaning power was lost, it disintegrated. The problem with regional parties isn't just that only a few have an ideology. Another problem is that they operate undemocratically and like private companies. In such parties, the party chief or a particular family is everything.

No one can stand before him. In a democracy, there should be no place for authoritarian parties, but the tragedy of our country's politics is that many parties operate in this manner. This often leads to their disintegration. The crisis of disintegration in regional parties has become even greater because, for their representatives, politics has become a synonym for opportunism. They change parties at any time. Most often, defections are made for the lure of position, money, or some other political advantage.

The Drugs (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2026 come into effect

cough syrup will no longer be available without a doctor's prescription, even in villages with a population of less than 1,000

(Advocate Kishan)

The Drugs (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2026 are not limited to a ban on cough syrups or a prescription requirement, but are a comprehensive reform that restructures India's drug safety system.

Cough syrups used for coughs, colds, and common respiratory ailments will be readily available in rural and urban areas without a prescription restriction - Immediate, massive raids by the Drug Department are necessary.

The year 2026 will be marked as a turning point in the field of health safety and drug regulation in India globally. The Drugs (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2026, notified by the Central Government on June 9, 2026, are not just a simple legal amendment, but a comprehensive reform initiative to ensure the country's drug distribution system, public health safety, and the quality of medicinal products. In light of the longstanding misuse, adulteration, and unauthorized sale of cough syrups and other medicinal products, and the serious health hazards they pose, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has amended the Drugs Rules, 1945, a step that will impact every citizen, doctor, pharmacist, drug manufacturer, and health administrator. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe this decision is particularly significant given the recent deaths of children in several countries worldwide due to the presence of toxic chemicals like diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol in Indian-origin cough syrups, which have cast doubt on India's pharmaceutical reputation. Drugs in India are regulated through the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and the Drugs Rules, 1945, enacted under it. This law provides the basic legal framework for the manufacture, testing, storage, distribution, and sale of medicines. Over time, these regulations have been amended several times to accommodate changing technology, new health challenges, and the expanding pharmaceutical market. This 2026 amendment is part of that process, but its significance is greater because it directly relates to medicines widely used by ordinary citizens. Cough syrups, used to treat coughs, colds, and common respiratory ailments, have long been readily available in both rural and urban areas. In many places, they have been bought and sold without medical advice, leaving open the possibility of drug misuse, incorrect treatment, and health risks.

Friends, the most important aspect of this amendment is that the government has changed the provision in Schedule K of the Drugs Rules, 1945, which granted special exemptions to syrups from licensing and distribution under certain circumstances. Schedule K essentially specifies categories of drugs that can be exempted from certain regulatory provisions. Previously, the sale of certain cough medicines and syrups was possible in villages with a population of less than 1,000 without a full licensing system. This was intended to ensure the availability of medicines in rural areas. However, over time, this system began to cause numerous problems. Complaints of unautho-

rized drug storage, sale of counterfeit medicines, lack of quality control, and drug abuse began to increase. In this context, the government has decided to remove the word "syrup" from the relevant entry in Schedule K. The removal of the word "syrup" has far-reaching implications. Now, other medicinal syrups, including cough syrups, will no longer enjoy the exemptions they previously enjoyed. This means that the sale and distribution of these medicines will now be limited to duly licensed pharmacies and authorized drug dealers. This will strengthen regulatory control over the drug distribution chain and eliminate the practice of unauthorized shops or unlicensed vendors selling syrups. In practical terms, this will require ordinary citizens to seek medical advice and legitimate pharmaceutical systems to obtain such medicines.

Friends, this decision is driven not only by administrative considerations but also by profound public health considerations. In recent years, tragic incidents involving cough syrups in various countries around the world have raised global concern. In some cases, toxic substances such as diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol were found in the solvents used in syrup manufacturing, leading to the deaths of children. These incidents highlighted the need for more stringent oversight of the manufacturing and distribution of liquid medicines. For India, the world's leading generic drug producer, this was not only a matter of health safety but also a question of global reputation. Therefore, the government not only tightened sales regulations but also took steps to strengthen manufacturing processes and quality control standards.

Friends, in this context, the improvements made to Good Manufacturing Practices and Schedule M are also noteworthy. The revised provisions require pharmaceutical manufacturing units to adhere to more advanced quality management systems, risk management systems, and hygiene standards. Global standards such as the Pharmaceutical Quality System and Quality Risk Management are being more effectively implemented in the Indian pharmaceutical industry. This will ensure quality control at every stage of the manufacturing process and the timely identification of potential risks.

Friends, the government has also made testing for ethylene glycol and diethylene glycol mandatory for liquid medicines. This step is considered essential for protecting the health of children in particular. The chemical testing and quality certification process for any syrup before it reaches the market will now be more stringent. This will reduce the likelihood of counterfeit, adulterated, or substandard medicines reaching the market. While the positive aspects of this decision are significant, it also poses equally serious challenges. A large population of India still lives in rural and remote areas, where health infrastructure is limited. Many villages lack adequate doctors or licensed pharmacies. Where cough syrups were previously readily available at local stores, people may now have to travel to nearby towns or cities to obtain them. This will require additional time, money, especially for the elderly, children, and poor families.

Student power and the message of the Bihar movement

Manoj Kumar

After the Independence Movement, the student movement in Bihar is considered the most influential in the country's history. This movement not only ousted the country's most powerful leader, then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, from power but also led to her defeat in her own seat. It is a different matter that the infighting and selfishness of the ruling leaders thwarted the Janata Party's experiment, and Indira Gandhi returned to power. Subsequently, students and youth led numerous movements, from the Assam anti-foreign infiltration movement to the 2011 anti-corruption movement led by social activist Anna Hazare. The failure of these movements undermined the faith of those who supported mass movements. As a result, the Janata Party, a movement recently formed on the strength of social media, began to collapse even before it began. While issues like the NEET paper leak and the CBSE examination system directly impact millions of students across the country, it's remarkable that children of this age, those born between 1997 and 2012, have transformed the governments of three neighboring countries. However, even in those countries, significant change appears to be lacking. It's difficult to imagine such a movement in a vast country like India, but it's certain that in the absence of a strong opposition, the country's students and youth will have to play the role of a meaningful opposition. In a nutshell, this is the message of the 1974 Bihar movement. Furthermore, many of its messages remain relevant even today. It's a common belief that a student movement in November 1973, launched against the hostel fee hike at an engineering college in Gujarat, evolved into a spontaneous, statewide movement against the corruption, misgovernance, and inflation of the Chimanbhai Patel government, known as the Gujarat Nav Nirman Andolan.

Although Ram Bahadur Rai (currently the President of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and a Padma Bhushan awardee), a leader of the student leaders who led the Bihar movement, claims that the Bihar movement was inspired by Gujarat, preparations for the movement had been underway for a long time. While Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan (JP) accepted the leadership of the movement much later, he and other student leaders had been sharing information about the movement's preparations for much longer. Rai Saheb was also a member of the movement's 11-member steering committee. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and its student wing, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), played a major role in the Gujarat movement. Senior RSS leaders, including K.N. Govindacharya, then the RSS's Patna Metropolitan Pracharak, also played a key role in shaping the Bihar movement. Govind Saheb later held senior positions in the Parishad and the BJP. The pairing of Rai Saheb and Bhai Saheb was at the forefront of leading the Bihar movement.

The dedication of the students and youth in that movement was a remarkable experience. Everyone knows that JP agreed to lead the Bihar movement only after being assured that the movement would be completely non-violent. This had such an impact that the same students who previously took up bricks and stones at the sight of the police, were now shouting slogans amidst the police's batons and bullets, "No matter how severe the attack, our hands will not rise.

AAP MLA Gopal Italia met the family of the farmer who died by suicide in Vadia village of Amreli



Ahmedabad/Amreli/Gujarat Farmer Mansukhbhai Sojitra of Vadia village in Amreli district died by suicide. Yesterday, Aam Aadmi Party MLA Gopal Italia and other leaders visited the family of the deceased Mansukhbhai and expressed their condolences. Thereafter, MLA Gopal Italia addressed the media and stated that farmer Mansukhbhai Sojitra of Vadia village in Amreli district had recorded a video two days ago in which he said that he was taking his

own life due to harassment by certain BJP leaders. After making this statement, he died by suicide and is no longer among us today. Subsequently, community leaders and members of Mansukhbhai's family went to Vadia Police Station to file a police complaint, but the police station clearly refused, saying that "the name of the BJP leader will not be included in the FIR. If you insist, we can include the names of some minor leaders, but the name of the person responsible for the sui-

cide will not be included."

Further, MLA Gopal Italia stated that it is extremely unfortunate that in Vadia village of Amreli district, a Hindu farmer dies by suicide and the entire government, which operates in the name of Hindutva, is unable to prevent such a death. The deceased Mansukhbhai's cousin, Jivrajbhai, also expressed deep anguish today regarding a land access issue and said that he too feels compelled toward suicide because of the situation. I have assured him of sup-

port, and today I have informed the Mamlatdars, Collectors, DySPs and all concerned authorities that they must remain vigilant against the bullying by BJP-affiliated individuals in matters related to road access and provide assistance to farmers.

I have also discussed that a resolution regarding the road access issues of both the deceased Mansukhbhai and his cousin Jivrajbhai should be brought by the Mamlatdar at the earliest.

Delhi University releases first PG merit list, offers 11,548 seats



New Delhi, (GNS): The University of Delhi (DU) has released the first round of seat allocations for its postgraduate programmes, offering seats to 11,548 candidates across various categories. The Round 1 allocation list was made live on Monday for 74 postgraduate programmes. Seats have been allotted under the Unreserved (UR), Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), Other Backward Classes (ST), Other Backward Classes-Non-Creamy Layer (OBC-NCL), Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD), Kashmiri Migrants (KM), Single Girl Child (SGC) and Orphan categories.

Candidates allotted seats in the first round can accept their allocations until June 17. The deadline for payment of admission fees is June 19.

DU said admissions to performance-based programmes, including MA Music, Master of Physical Education (MPed), Bachelor of Physical Education (BPEd) and Master of Fine Arts (MFA), as well as admissions under the CW and Sports categories, will be conducted along with the third round of admissions. Candidates who have applied for these programmes have been advised to visit the websites of the respective departments for details regarding auditions, performance tests and other admission-related schedules and requirements. The postgraduate admission process is being conducted through the Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS-PG) on the basis of candidates' CUET-PG scores and programme-specific eligibility criteria.

IIT-Delhi showcases quantum & deep-tech innovations in France

New Delhi, (GNS): From artificial intelligence-powered industrial solutions and quantum communication technologies to healthcare innovations and sustainable energy products, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, emerged as one of the major attractions at Bharat Innovates 2026, India's flagship innovation exhibition being held in Nice, France.

The three-day event brought together universities, research institutions, startups, investors and industry leaders from across the world to showcase cutting-edge technologies and explore new opportunities for collaboration and partnership.

IIT-Delhi presented a diverse portfolio of innovations developed by its researchers and startups across sectors such as healthcare, defence, artificial intelligence, smart textiles, energy and quantum technologies. The exhibits attracted strong interest from global technology

companies, investors, policymakers and academic institutions, underlining the institute's growing role in translating research into real-world applications and commercial solutions. aero-engine maintenance operations. The startup also signed an agreement with Dutch semiconductor company Innatera to develop ultra-low-power neuromorphic AI systems for intelligent sensing and wearable technologies.

A key highlight of the exhibition was the recognition of IIT-Delhi's international partnerships. During interactions at the event, French President Emmanuel Macron referred to the institute's collaboration with Sorbonne University as an example of the deepening India-France partnership in higher education, research and innovation. The institute also played a prominent role in shaping the broader innovation agenda at the event. Along with IIT-Bombay, IIT-



Delhi served as co-chair of the Incubator Innovation Bridge, a global platform designed to connect startups, incubators, universities, investors and research organisations. The initiative aims to facilitate mentoring, startup exchanges and cross-border technology transfer, helping deep-tech ventures access international markets and growth opportunities.

Several IIT-Delhi-linked startups were among the 120 startups selected from across India to showcase their innovations at the event. Among

them was deep-tech startup CYRAN-AI, which announced a strategic partnership with French aerospace and defence major Safran Aircraft Engines to deploy advanced Edge AI technologies in precision manufacturing and aero-engine maintenance operations. The startup also signed an agreement with Dutch semiconductor company Innatera to develop ultra-low-power neuromorphic AI systems for intelligent sensing and wearable technologies.

Man poses as ED officer for info on gaming scam probe from another agency

New Delhi, (GNS): Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a complaint with Delhi Police alleging that an unidentified man impersonated one of its senior officers and tried to obtain details of an ongoing GST evasion probe linked to an alleged Rs

4,600-crore online gaming scam. According to the complaint, an officer of the additional director rank brought to the agency's notice an incident involving impersonation in his name and an attempt to gather sensitive information related to the investigation.

Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) of Ghaziabad Regional Unit is probing the case. The ED officer stated that on May 19, an unidentified person called a senior investigating officer of DGGI and fraudulently introduced himself as an additional

director of ED.

The impersonator had sought details of the investigation, including information about the accused persons and the action taken against them. The officer clarified that he had made no such call, had no connection with the

mobile number used, and had never sought any information from DGGI regarding the case.

ED said the call was clearly made by an impersonator to extract sensitive law enforcement information from another investigating

agency. On checking the caller's identity through a mobile application, officers found that the person had identified himself as a joint director of enforcement and falsely displayed the ED headquarters on APJ Abdul Kalam Road as his address.

Government School Mid-Day Meal Workers Seek Sanjay Tandon's Intervention Over Pending Salaries

Chandigarh (GNS): Mid-Day Meal workers engaged in government schools under the Chandigarh Administration met senior BJP leader Sanjay Tandon to highlight their long-pending grievances, including the non-payment of salaries for the months of April and May and the need for better wages and service conditions.

Representatives of the workers informed Tandon that despite rendering essential services in schools, they have not received their honorarium for the last two months, pushing many families into severe financial hardship. They appealed to him to take up the matter with the Chandigarh



Administration and the Education Department to ensure the immediate release of their pending salaries. After listening to

their concerns, Tandon spoke to the UT Education Secretary and urged the Education Secretary to look into their grievances posi-

tively. The Education Secretary promised that their pending salaries will be released in a week's time. "Salaries of hardworking

Mid-Day Meal workers should not be delayed under any circumstances. These employees play an important role in ensuring nutritious meals for schoolchildren, and their welfare must be treated as a priority," said Tandon.

During the meeting, the workers also raised two key demands and sought parity with neighbouring Haryana. They pointed out that Mid-Day Meal helpers in Chandigarh receive only 4,500 per month, whereas their counterparts in Haryana are paid 7,000 per month. They urged the Administration to revise their honorarium in line with Haryana. The workers further highlighted that Chandigarh Mid-Day Meal

staff are paid for only 10 months in a year, while Haryana provides remuneration for 11 months. They demanded that the same benefit be extended to workers in Chandigarh.

He further stated, "I will also strongly advocate their genuine demands for honorarium parity with Haryana and the extension of remuneration for 11 months. These workers belong to economically weaker sections and their concerns deserve immediate and sympathetic consideration. Tandon reiterated his commitment to safeguarding the interests of workers and ensuring that deserving employees receive fair treatment and timely compensation for their services.

NCR states decide not to touch Aravali, conservation zone as Plan 2041 on hold

New Delhi (GNS): NCR states Tuesday agreed to keep Natural Conservation Zone (NCZ) provisions intact in the Regional Plan 2041 and not touch Aravali, even as NCR Planning Board deferred finalisation of the plan by a couple of months.

The board decided to set up a sub-committee, comprising senior officials from central and state governments, to look into new suggestions from board members.

The panel will submit its final report by August 15. Union urban affairs minister Manohar Lal, who chaired the board's meeting, told reporters that there are several suggestions from members and some issues need to be addressed. He, however, did not specify the issues.

Responding to questions on Aravali and NCZ, he said that a very large area of Aravali and forest falls



under NCR, and all stakeholders want the green cover to increase.

He said there is always a concern regarding how much area should come under forest and how much under green cover. The minister said forest areas are recorded and the board cannot do anything as these fall under union environment ministry or there are court rulings.

However, he said several suggestions have been given. "Sometimes there

are restrictive things that cannot be followed... There are many decisions of NGT, Supreme Court, high courts and MoEF. There will be no violation of those decisions," Lal said.

Media has learnt that some participants from Haryana claimed that Aravali in NCR is confined to Delhi, Gurgaon and Alwar as per a MoEF notification, suggesting that large tracts of Aravali in Faridabad won't fall under NCZ. However, officials

said provision of NCZ, including Aravali, in the Regional Plan would remain intact.

UP and Rajasthan urban development ministers A K Sharma and Jhabar Singh Kharrar said there was consensus on all agenda items, including NCZ. "There was no disagreement on any issue," they said. Earlier, in response to a question whether any fresh survey of NCZ would be carried out considering that Haryana and Delhi are yet to delineate conservation zones, Lal said there will be no fresh surveys.

He added sometimes it is not clear from satellite imagery whether a green area is forest or it just looks green. Lal said there are possibilities that a grassy area or "even if there are weeds in a pond, that will also look green". The minister said that therefore, ground proofing has to be done.

Delhi police arrest 7 in Pakistan-backed terror plot; weapons, recce videos recovered



New Delhi (GNS): Delhi Police's Special Cell has busted a Pakistan-backed international terror-crime syndicate allegedly linked to gangster-turned-terrorist Shahzad Bhatti and his associate, Ajmal Gujjar, arresting seven key operatives.

Police said the accused were involved in smuggling illegal arms, ammunition and narcotic substances from Pakistan through Punjab and supplying them across Delhi-NCR. The arrests also helped thwart several planned terror incidents in the region.

The seven arrested have been

identified as Anas Tyagi (26), Mohit (26), Deepak Agrola (38), Arif (30), Karanveer Singh (26), Jatan (29) and Sabir (30).

According to police, intelligence inputs received in May indicated that the Pakistan-based handlers were planning attacks in Delhi-NCR through youths recruited via social media platforms. Acting on the information, police first apprehended Mohit from northeast Delhi and seized an illegal pistol, cartridges and a mobile phone containing alleged communications with the network.

South Delhi traffic relief: Govt approves 4-km elevated corridor in Chhatarpur

New Delhi (GNS): To tackle chronic traffic congestion in south Delhi, Delhi govt has approved construction of a 4km elevated corridor along Sant Shri Nagpal (SSN) Marg in Chhatarpur, Public Works Department minister Parvash Verma said Tuesday.

The corridor will run from intersection of Anuvrat Marg (NH-148A) and SSN Marg near Qutub Metro Station to near Tivoli Farms alongside Fatehpur Beri. The project aims to segregate the through traffic from local movements, thereby reducing congestion and improving travel efficiency. As per project documents, the corridor currently handles traffic from Mehrauli, Chhatarpur, Fatehpur Beri and adjoining residential areas.

The route also serves as a key link for commuters travelling between south Delhi and rapidly developing settlements such as Satbari, Jonapur, Dera Mandi and Asola.

Officials estimate that nearly 82,819 passenger car units (PCUs) use the corridor daily, of which around 74,370 PCUs are expected to shift to the elevated structure. The project is designed to facilitate nearly 90% signal-free movement, significantly improving traffic flow.

Verma said commuters currently take an average of 18.9 minutes to traverse the stretch, with average vehicle speeds of 12.7kmph during peak hours. Once the corri-



dor becomes operational, travel time is expected to reduce to 6.6 minutes while average speeds could increase to 36.4kmph, he said.

The project is also expected to improve connectivity with public transport infrastructure in the area. The corridor passes close to Qutub Minar Metro Station, which acts as a major transit hub for residents of south Delhi, said Verma. Authorities believe smoother road access and reduced congestion will strengthen integration between road and metro transport systems. Officials said the tender would be done soon and the project would be completed in one-and-a-half years.

Project documents state that the elevated corridor will enhance the capacity of the existing road network, improve intersection performance at key junctions and accommodate growing traffic demand in the Chhatarpur region, which has witnessed rapid urbanisation over the past decade.

Charged up, but not sold: Why Delhi riders still cling to petrol bikes

New Delhi (GNS): For years, the possibility of a weekend ride to Agra or Mathura barely required a second thought for Sandeep Gupta.

The 52-year-old from RK Puram, who runs a confectionery business, would simply check whether his motorcycle had enough fuel and head out. The petrol bike, bought in 2007, carried him across Delhi and neighbouring cities for nearly 15 years. Distance was never part of the calculation.

Three years ago, he switched to an electric scooter. And while the vehicle has significantly reduced his commuting costs, it has also altered the way he thinks about travel. "Inside Delhi, it works perfectly," said Gupta. "But when someone suddenly suggests going beyond NCR, I hesitate."

His dilemma captures the larger debate unfolding in the capital as Delhi prepares for perhaps its most ambitious mobility transition yet. The Draft EV Policy 2.0, 2026-30, pro-



poses that from April 1, 2028, only electric two-wheelers will be eligible for new registrations.

Petrol and CNG motorcycles and scooters would effectively disappear from the new vehicle market. Fleet aggregators have already been barred from adding new petrol or diesel vehicles, while all existing commercial two-wheelers are expected to transition to electric by 2030.

The proposal is designed to accelerate Delhi's shift towards cleaner transport. However, it also raises a question confronting lakhs of riders: is the city ready to give up petrol-powered two-wheelers? For Gupta, the switch was driven less

by environmental concerns and more by economics.

Every few months, there would be something to spend on, like PUC. Sometimes, I would forget to renew the pollution certificate and end up paying fines. Neighbours frequently borrowed the motorcycle, and rising petrol prices started affecting budget. And there would often be news that govt may ban vehicles that did not follow a particular emission norm," he said.

After buying an electric scooter in 2023, Gupta said his charging bills are much lower now. "If I charge around an hour to an hour-and-a-half, the scooter can run 100 km.

The pickup is good and the noise is next to nil. For city use, it works very well."

Yet, anxieties remain when it comes to long journeys. While conventional motorcycle mechanics are available in nearly every neighbourhood market, EVs often require authorised service centres. Gupta once faced a battery malfunction during severe monsoon waterlogging. "I got the issue fixed, but mechanics are not easy to find," he said.

His concerns are reflected in the number of electric bikes being used in Delhi. Despite years of incentives since the first EV policy came out in 2020, petrol motorcycles continue to dominate the capital's roads. So far this year, petrol and petrol-E20 motorcycles accounted for nearly 91.3% of all two-wheeler registrations while electric two-wheelers represented just 8.7%. Compared to over 2.2 lakh petrol-powered two-wheelers registered, merely 21,530 EVs were registered.