



Regional Aspirations,
Global Ambitions

3

Days
To Go

**vibrant
GUJARAT
REGIONAL
CONFERENCES**
Regional Aspirations, Global Ambitions
**CENTRAL GUJARAT
(VADODARA)**

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Shri Bhupendra Patel
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Gujarat

29th | 30th JUNE 2026

VADODARA

www.vibrantgujarat.com



Two major earthquakes hit Venezuela, killing 164

Magnitudes 7.5 and 7.2; death toll feared at 10,000

Caracas, Venezuela(GNS): Two powerful earthquakes struck Venezuela within 39 seconds. Two tremors of magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 struck the South American nation at 6:04 p.m. Wednesday and 6:05 p.m., respectively. In India, the time was 3:34 and 3:35 a.m. Thursday.

People reported that the city continued to shake for 60 seconds after the earthquake. Twenty aftershocks were also recorded. According to the AP news agency, 164 deaths have been confirmed so far, and 971 are injured. The earthquakes occurred on a national holiday, marking the anniversary of the historic victory in the War of Independence against Spain in 1821. Schools and offices were closed, keeping most people at home. According to the US Geological Survey, there is a 44% chance that the earthquake will kill more than 10,000 people, and a 30% chance that 100,000 people will die. Both earthquakes



struck about 290 kilometers west of the capital, Caracas. Buildings collapsed or tilted dangerously in several cities. Part of the roof of Caracas airport collapsed, sending up a cloud of dust.

NCERT Includes 1975-77 Emergency in School Curriculum

Class 9 Students to Study New Section, Election Commission Praised in Elections Chapter

New Delhi(GNS): The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has, for the first time, included a dedicated section on the 1975-77 Emergency in its Class 9 Social Science curriculum.

The new textbook, *Understanding Society: India and Beyond*, describes the Emergency as one of the most significant challenges faced by Indian democracy. According to reports, NCERT officials have confirmed that a separate section on the Emergency has been introduced for the first time in a Class 9 textbook.

In addition, the chapter titled "Elections" in *Understanding Society: India and Beyond* - Part 1 praises the role of the Election Commission of India in conducting free and



fair elections.

Growing Discontent

Public Against Gandhi Government Highlighted: The textbook states that public dissatisfaction with the government of former Prime Minister Indira

Gandhi had been increasing in the early 1970s. Rising unemployment, inflation, and allegations of mismanagement led to widespread protests across the country. It notes that in June 1975, a National Emergency was declared on the grounds of internal

disturbance. NCERT has presented the Emergency as a critical chapter in India's democratic history, emphasizing both the challenges faced by democratic institutions and the importance of safeguarding constitutional values.

Passport Is a Travel Document, Not Proof of Citizenship: Government

New Delhi(GNS): The Ministry of External Affairs on Wednesday clarified that an Indian passport is not proof of citizenship, but primarily a travel document issued to facilitate international travel. The clarification was made during a press briefing on the occasion of the 14th Passport Seva Divas. The ministry stated that although passports are issued only to Indian citizens, possession of a passport by itself does not constitute legal proof of citizenship.

Distinction Between Nationality and Citizenship: The clarification comes amid ongoing discussions regarding citizenship-related documents. Earlier, the Supreme Court had also observed during hearings related to the special revision of electoral rolls that an Aadhaar card serves as proof of identity, not proof of citizenship. The ministry explained that



nationality indicates the country to which a person belongs, while citizenship defines the legal rights and responsibilities granted by that country. In other words, nationality reflects a person's national affiliation, whereas citizenship determines the legal status and constitutional rights enjoyed within a nation. The ministry reported that the number of Passport Seva Kendras and related facilities has increased from 77 to 545 over the past decade, marking a sevenfold expansion. It also noted that since the launch of chip-

based e-passports in 2025, around 14.7 million e-passports have been issued across the country.

Faster Processing, More Visa-Free Destinations

According to the ministry, the average time required for passport application processing has been reduced to five to six days. The government also highlighted that the number of countries offering visa-free entry to Indian citizens has increased from 16 in 2019 to 27 at present, reflecting improved international mobility for Indian passport holders.

PM Modi Reaffirms Commitment to Constitution on Emergency Anniversary

Vice President Says Constitutional Values Were Put to the Test During Emergency

New Delhi(GNS): India on Thursday observed the 51st anniversary of the Emergency, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan describing the period as one of the darkest chapters in the nation's history.

Marking the occasion of 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas' (Constitution Murder Day), Prime Minister Modi said the day serves as a reminder of a dark period when Indian democracy was severely suppressed.

He reiterated the nation's commitment to building an India dedicated to the ideals of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity enshrined in the Constitution.

India is the world's largest talent hub and a new force for a bright future

(Kantilal Mandot)

In the twenty-first century, if any country has impressed the world with its talent, it is India. There was a time when the country's best scientists, engineers, researchers, and technical experts migrated abroad in search of better opportunities. At that time, this was called brain drain, and concerns were raised that the country's most valuable assets were contributing to the progress of foreign countries. But today, the situation has completely changed. India is no longer merely a source of talent, but has become the world's largest hub for attracting talent back.

Today, Indian talent is recognized in developed countries across the globe. Indian professionals hold leadership roles in major companies in the United States, Britain, Canada, Australia, and the Gulf countries. Demand for Indian experts in fields such as information technology, artificial intelligence, science, engineering, medicine, and research is constantly increasing. This is why India is being called the world's largest talent hub.

In recent years, a new and encouraging trend has been observed: a large number of Indian professionals are returning home from abroad. They are not just coming to work but are creating a new world of opportunities in India. According to a Boston Consulting Group report, over 132,000 highly skilled Indian professionals returned to their country in 2025. This number proves that India is no longer just a land of dreams, but rather a place where dreams can be realized.

Most importantly, these returning Indian youth are working in sectors that will shape the future. Indian experts are establishing new companies in areas such as artificial intelligence, deep tech, semiconductors, aerospace, climate technology, and advanced research. They are building research labs, developing new technologies, and finding solutions to global challenges. This is not just an economic activity but a sign of India's scientific and technological renaissance.

While the number of artificial intelligence experts worldwide is limited, the Indian participation is crucial. India is a leading provider of AI talent. Indian engineers and scientists have become the backbone of global technological development. Today, the world's largest technology companies cannot imagine themselves without Indian talent. This situation reflects the success of India's education system, hardworking youth, and knowledge-based culture.

One reason for India's growing strength is its large youth population. The country's large population is young and this youth group has the ability to rapidly adopt new technologies. Indian youth don't want to limit themselves to just getting jobs; they want to become job creators. The startup culture has given this thinking a new direction. More than 200,000 recognized startups are active in the country, and many of these have already made their mark globally. This achievement demonstrates that the innovation and entrepreneurship environment in India is rapidly strengthening.

Emotional factors are not the only driving factors for professionals returning from abroad, but the opportunities available in India are also playing a significant role. The economic slowdown and changing immigration policies in developed countries have also prompted some reflection. On the other hand, India's rapidly growing economy, robust digital infrastructure, and innovation-promoting policies are attracting talent. Indian experts now believe they can achieve world-class success while staying in their home country.

Editorial

On the progress of the southwest monsoon

The southwest monsoon deficit nationwide has increased from 35% to 43%; the winds' northward advance was stalled near Mumbai; and both the U.S. NOAA and the India Meteorological Department (IMD) expect a moderate-to-strong El Niño this year. The El Niño suppresses the vertical air movement needed for rainclouds to form while a warming Pacific is weakening the trade winds that bring moisture to the subcontinent. The Madden-Julian Oscillation is also in an unfavourable phase and the Indian Ocean Dipole currently cannot offer a buffer. Further, while northwest India has received 5% more rain than normal, central India and the northeast face deficits of 63% and 43%, respectively. But with two-thirds of the seasonal rainfall historically arriving in July and August, the monsoon may still recover and salvage the season. Together with reservoir storage at 30.4% of capacity, compared with 25.1% during previous El Niño years, there is no reason for alarm yet. However, the effects for agriculture are more concerning. The Agriculture Ministry has already prioritised 111 districts out of 315 vulnerable ones based on their irrigation coverage. Extreme heat has been reducing farm labour productivity. High heat and rain shortfall have sown anxiety over the cardamom harvest in Idukki, a fate that bodes ill for other plantation crops in the Western Ghats.

The southwest monsoon deficit nationwide has increased from 35% to 43%; the winds' northward advance was stalled near Mumbai; and both the U.S. NOAA and the India Meteorological Department (IMD) expect a moderate-to-strong El Niño this year.

The El Niño suppresses the vertical air movement needed for rainclouds to form while a warming Pacific is weakening the trade winds that bring moisture to the subcontinent. The Madden-Julian Oscillation is also in an unfavourable phase and the Indian Ocean Dipole currently cannot offer a buffer. Further, while northwest India has received 5% more rain than normal, central India and the northeast face deficits of 63% and 43%, respectively.

There is a global need for moderate smartphone use

(Lalit Garg)

Science and technology have accelerated human civilization to unprecedented speed. Today is the digital age, where the entire world is within our grasp with just a click. Smartphones have reshaped communication, education, business, banking, health, governance, and social relations. But every technological revolution also brings with it serious challenges. The smartphone is a prime example. As much as it has proven to be a boon, it is also becoming an equally significant curse. Its adverse effects, especially on children and adolescents, have alarmed the entire world. Today, it is being recognized worldwide that smartphones are not just a tool, but a power that requires judicious use. Unfortunately, due to a lack of discretion and discipline, its negative side is becoming more pronounced. Smartphone addiction is leading to mental stress, depression, loneliness, violence, pornography, cybercrime, and social disintegration in children and youth. This is why not only traditional societies and developing countries, but also developed countries, are taking drastic steps to address this challenge.

Recently, an initiative in Sukhpuri village, in the Nuh district of Haryana, India, attracted national attention. The village was becoming known as a hub of cybercrime. Distressed by this, the villagers collectively decided to abandon smartphones and adopt basic phones. This is not merely an incident of breaking mobile phones, but an expression of the suffering caused by the misuse of technology in society. The protest by the village youth is natural, as education, employment, digital payments, and government services today depend on smartphones. This incident has raised an important question: is the solution to boycott technology or the inculcation of its judicious use? Many countries around the world have begun serious reflection on this question. Countries like Australia, France, Britain, the Netherlands, China, and the United States have taken several initiatives to control smartphone use by children and adolescents. Australia has taken steps to set age limits on adolescents' social media use. France has implemented a smartphone ban in schools. Britain has also issued guidelines to limit mobile use in schools. In the US, lawsuits have been filed against social media companies and they have been fined heavily. These initiatives are not aimed at opposing technology, but at protecting the mental and social health of children.

In reality, while smartphones are a blessing, they are also a curse. They offer both a wealth of knowledge and a world of illusion. They are both a medium of education and a gateway to obscenity and violence. They provide employment opportunities and also pave the way for cybercrime. Today, many young people, driven by the desire to become rich overnight, are becoming entangled in crimes like cyber fraud, sextortion, online gambling, and digital fraud. The proliferation of pornography, fake news, hate, and troll culture on social media has deeply damaged social values. Of greatest concern is the mental health of children and adolescents. Research shows that excessive screen time impairs children's concentration, memory, and creativity. Problems like sleep deprivation, irritability, depression, anxiety, suicidal tendencies, and social isolation are rapidly increasing. Communication within families has diminished, and emotional distances have increased despite digital proximity. Children are increasingly drawn away from playgrounds and lost in the virtual world.

In particular, "smartphones are a double-edged sword." Today, artificial intelligence and advanced communication media have further complicated this challenge. While AI is revolutionizing education, medicine, research, and administration, the threat of its misuse is also rapidly increasing. The use of AI in crimes such as deepfake videos, doctored audio, cyber fraud, identity theft, fake news, and digital blackmail has increased alarmingly. Smartphones have become the most accessible and effective medium for this entire process. With a simple mobile phone, anyone can use AI-based applications to create fake images and videos, spread misinformation, or commit cybercrimes. Especially adolescents and young people, who possess technical skills but lack ethical training and maturity, may engage in such acts unknowingly or out of a desire for quick profit. Therefore, it is essential that, along with the use of AI and smartphones, appropriate training is also provided on digital ethics, human values, and legal responsibilities, so that technology becomes a tool for humanity's development, not destruction. In this context, the statement "Science without prudence leads to destruction, while the same science with prudence becomes a boon for humanity" is extremely relevant. In such a situation, a broad national debate is needed in India as well. India has the world's youngest population and is rapidly progressing towards becoming a developed nation. If India is to fulfill its role as a world leader, it must strike a balance between technology and human values. India's policies can serve as a guide not only for the country but also for the world. Some concrete steps can be taken in this direction: first, set age limits and time limits for smartphone use for children and adolescents. Only essential and controlled digital services should be provided to children up to a certain age.

Second, cyber literacy and digital ethics should be made a compulsory part of the school curriculum. Children should be educated not only on the use of technology, but also on its adverse effects and legal implications. Third, parents should be trained in digital parenting. Responsibility isn't fulfilled by simply handing children a mobile phone—they must also be provided with guidance, communication, and values. Fourth, social media companies should be held accountable. Effective control of harmful and pornographic content, age verification, and algorithm transparency should be ensured. Fifth, employment, skill development, and creative opportunities should be expanded for youth so that they don't turn to crime, lured by the pursuit of quick money.

Indian culture has always been a culture of restraint. Our sages taught that the value of any resource lies in its use. Fire can cook food and burn down homes—the fault lies not with the fire, but with the user. The same applies to smartphones. Today, the need is not to disconnect from the digital world, but rather to foster digital responsibility, cyber literacy, and restrained use. Opposing technology isn't the solution; rather, the lasting solution lies in combining it with morality, conscience, and human values. Smartphones should become a tool for serving humanity, not its master—this is where the well-being of the individual, society, and nation lies.

(Brainstorming) How will Indian citizens be identified

(Sanat Jain)

What is the rationale for birth and death certificates?

Registration of births and deaths has been made mandatory in India. This law has been in effect since 1969. Registration of birth and death certificates is mandatory in all states. Yet, they are not considered proof of citizenship. Prior to this, the voter list was prepared for the first general election in 1952. Through the voter list, citizens over 21 years of age were registered by the Election Commission. This registration was done door-to-door by Election Commission BLOs. After 1969, a law for birth and death registration was enacted. This was considered proof of citizenship and age. Since last year, the Election Commission has decided its own voter cards invalid. The Election Commission's requirement for voter identification regarding SIRs has also been rejected in various decisions by the Supreme Court, the Ministry of External Affairs, and the government. No document is considered a proof of citizenship. This includes even the Aadhaar card. In such a situation, neither the Election Commission nor the High Court has specified the documents required to prove one's Indian citizenship. The Supreme Court and High Court have not decided which documents will serve as proof of citizenship. In a recent Supreme Court decision, the Election Commission's voter list and voter ID card were not considered proof of citizenship.

Aadhaar cards and passports are also not proof of citizenship. Birth and death certificates are also not proof of citizenship. So, which certificate should be considered proof of Indian citizenship? Even the Indian government is unable to explain this. It seems that people coming from Pakistan and other countries can obtain a certificate of Indian citizenship. The Union Home Ministry issues citizenship certificates to those coming from abroad. There is no document in India that can be considered proof of birth and citizenship in India.

This situation is being witnessed for the first time in 75 years, thanks to the Election Commission. Now, the same voice is being heard everywhere: "How can we prove we are Indian citizens?" Now, it's even being said that only a Hindu and a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party will be considered an Indian citizen. This should be considered proof of Indian citizenship. When the central government made birth and death certificates mandatory across the country, its sole purpose was to certify Indian citizenship and age at birth. When the Aadhaar card was also made mandatory, every citizen, including children, was required to register. Irises and palm prints were also required to create a digital record of Indian citizens. The government and the Supreme Court have rejected Aadhaar documents. The Indian government is not even disclosing which proof of Indian citizenship can be accepted as an Indian citizen. This situation is being witnessed for the first time in the country. People are now saying that it's easy to obtain and prove Indian citizenship after coming from abroad. However, despite having multiple generations born in India, receiving education and property in India, there's no proof of Indian citizenship. The Supreme Court and High Court are washing their hands of the matter. Regarding passports, it's said that only two percent of people in India have passports. The Ministry of External Affairs has also stated that it's not a certificate of citizenship. The silence of the Indian government and the Home Ministry on the citizenship issue is surprising.

AAP State President Isudan Gadhvi's Press Conference on the Issue of Power Lines Being Installed Through Farmers' Fields

According to sources, meetings have been held between companies and BJP leaders, and a plan is being prepared to install electricity towers across Gujarat: Isudan Gadhvi

Ahmedabad/Morbi/ Gujarat Farmers in Jetpar, Morbi, are sitting on a hunger strike, and regarding this issue, Aam Aadmi Party State President Isudan Gadhvi held a press conference. Addressing the media, AAP leader Isudan Gadhvi stated that the BJP government is currently committing severe atrocities against the farmers of Gujarat. The BJP government is behaving as if it has become the owner of these companies! The companies have come to earn profits privately and want to make crores of rupees in profit, but now these companies are ready to profit at the expense of farmers. The BJP government, in collaboration with these companies and by supporting them, is providing police protection and committing atrocities against farmers. He further added that today, in Jetpar, Morbi, farmers who are trying to save their precious land have been on an indefinite hunger strike for the last eight days, and women are also participating in it. Their health is now becoming critical. As a soldier of the Aam Aadmi Party and on behalf of lakhs of party workers, I am deeply concerned that while ministers and the Chief Minister of this deaf and mute government are enjoying themselves in air-conditioned chambers, the farmer who feeds the entire nation is sitting hungry. The con-

dition of the farmers has become very critical, and therefore our first demand to the government is that the Chief Minister and ministers should meet the people of Jetpar, accept their demands as much as possible, and end their hunger strike at the earliest. As far as I know, this is the village of a BJP minister. In the same minister's village, farmers were first lathi-charged, and now they are sitting on an indefinite hunger strike while their health continues to deteriorate. Therefore, without wasting even an hour, the government should immediately hold a meeting with these farmers at the Chief Ministerial level and bring an appropriate solution to this problem. Isudan Gadhvi further stated that this is not just the issue of Jetpar. Based on the information received and reports published in newspapers, secret meetings have taken place between private companies and some senior BJP leaders in Gujarat. A massive plan has been prepared to spread high-tension electricity lines across Gujarat like a spider's web by installing poles everywhere. The government should clarify how many lines are to be laid, when they will be laid, and how they will be laid. According to the preliminary information we have received, this project is not limited only to Jetpar, Morbi, Kutch,

Dwarka, Rajkot, or Jamnagar. The government has decided to pass around 100 heavy high-tension lines through 26 districts of Gujarat. That too through farmers' fertile land, not through barren land! It is estimated that one line will be approximately 500 kilometers long, and 100 such lines are planned. If one line requires around 1,500 poles, then imagine how many poles will be needed for 100 lines. This means that approximately 1.5 lakh poles will be installed in farmers' fields, piercing through land that is as precious to them as a piece of their heart, and police protection has already been arranged for this purpose. Therefore, I request the government to stop committing atrocities against farmers. You may oppress farmers, send police, file false cases, intimidate, or threaten them, and perhaps they may retreat temporarily, but at least have some fear of God and your own conscience! If this project is truly in the interest of farmers, why did you not start it before the local self-government elections? If your intentions were clear, the government would have reached a settlement with the farmers. If you do not want to provide proper compensation and only want to commit injustice, then I challenge the government to start installing these poles three

months before the elections, in October 2027, and then we will see how much courage you have! The local self-government elections are over, and there is still one and a half to two years left before the Assembly elections, and only now you have started this work. That is why questions arise regarding the government's intentions. Questions arise because lakhs of farmers are suffering in this matter. According to one estimate, 77 vighas of land per kilometer will be affected. I also appeal to all farmers to unite now. Today this problem may be in someone else's field, tomorrow it will come to your brother's field or your own field because this is a massive project worth crores of rupees. This project could affect nearly 38 lakh vighas of land, impacting more than 5.5 lakh farmers and their families, along with laborers, totaling approximately 30 to 40 lakh people, yet there is no discussion about it. Isudan Gadhvi further stated that my direct demand to the government is that a state-level compensation committee should be formed instead of a collector-level committee. This committee should include senior officials, representatives of the central government, and representatives of the affected farmers. Compensation should be determined by considering the estimated

value of the land after the next 25 years. The government should either make farmers stakeholders in the project or provide compensation in such a way that farmers receive rent of around ₹1 lakh per month per pole. Whatever compensation is decided, the consent of farmers must be mandatory. Aam Aadmi Party stands with the farmers, and we will continue this struggle until our last breath. On the coming 27th, at 4 PM in Surendranagar, Aam Aadmi Party has organized a state-level "Kisan Maha Panchayat." All these issues will be discussed there, resolutions will be passed, and phased agitation programs will be announced thereafter. If the government does not accept our just demands, Aam Aadmi Party will organize aggressive programs against these high-tension lines in all districts in the coming days. On the other hand, the government is targeting our party MLA, who committed the so-called "crime" of becoming the voice of the tribal community and awakening tribal people. The BJP adopted the policy of persuasion, money, punishment, and division, and made every effort to bring him into the BJP through intimidation and pressure. But when all those efforts failed, a day-to-day case was run against Chaitarbhair Vasava, and he was sentenced to

seven years in prison. There is immense anger among tribal youth, women, mothers, and daughters across the tribal community against the BJP over this injustice, and protests are taking place across Gujarat. On this issue, Aam Aadmi Party has decided that on the 26th, we will organize awareness campaigns and rallies in all districts under the slogan "I Support Chaitar Vasava." Thereafter, on the 28th and 30th, we have also planned various programs. Under this, we will hold around 1,000 small and large meetings at the Assembly and District Panchayat levels and conduct a signature campaign in support of Chaitarbhair Vasava. We will make people aware of how the BJP trapped a popular MLA in a false case and got him punished simply because he became the voice of the tribal community and fought for poor farmers and tribals. For this legal battle, we have today formed a team of eight expert lawyers, including prominent lawyers from Delhi as well as Gujarat. Within the next two to three days, we will file an appeal against this sentence in the High Court. If necessary, we are prepared to fight this matter all the way to the High Court and the Supreme Court. Aam Aadmi Party is fully prepared to fight up to the highest court for Chaitarbhair and his associates.

24-year-old Delhi woman dies by suicide, alleges harassment by in-laws



New Delhi (GNS): Hours before she was found hanging at her matrimonial home in outer Delhi's Nangloi area, a 24-year-old woman allegedly recorded a video on her mobile phone accusing her in-laws of harassment and speaking about the distress she had been facing, police said on Wednesday. The woman was found hanging from a ceiling fan at her in-laws' house on Tuesday afternoon. While no suicide note was recovered, investigators found a video clip, over three minutes long, in which she addressed her parents, husband and other family members. In the video, Tina can be heard telling her father that she was "leaving". She asked her parents not to fight over her death and urged them to take care of her one-and-a-half-year-old daughter. She also said she did not want her child to be hand-

ed over to anyone else, including her husband. Married for around two-and-a-half years, Tina lived in Nangloi with her husband, a private sector employee. The couple has a one-and-a-half-year-old daughter. "I only wanted a small family. I never practised any black magic," she said in the video, while also alleging ill-treatment by her husband's family. She further described her husband as unstable and said she could no longer live with him, according to police sources. After receiving information about the incident on Tuesday, police rushed to the spot. The body was taken into custody and sent for post-mortem examination. A case has been registered on the basis of statements recorded before the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), and further investigation is underway, police said.

30.9 lakh MT silt removed, 1,900km drains cleaned: Verma checks monsoon preparedness

New Delhi (GNS): As Delhi ramps up preparations for the monsoon, PWD minister Parvesh Verma checks desilting works in the Moti Nagar assembly constituency and reviewed the progress of drainage and flood-prevention measures across the city.



The inspection is part of a wider campaign under which senior officers, chief engineers and field teams are carrying out physical verification of roads, drains and other critical infrastructure to minimise waterlogging and disruption during the rainy season. The review highlighted significant progress made by both Public Works Department and the irrigation & flood control department in strengthening Delhi's drainage network ahead of the monsoon, said officials.

According to the latest PWD report, desilting has been com-

pleted on 1,900.2 km of drains out of a total network of 2,125.9km, achieving 89.4% of the target, in the past three months for smooth flow of stormwater, prevention of drain blockages and reduction of water accumulation on major roads during heavy rain. The flood department has removed 30.9 lakh metric tonne silt against last year's 19 lakh.

Officials said the removal was expected to improve drainage capacity, enable faster discharge of rainwater and strengthen flood-prevention measures across the city.

Under the leadership of AAP leader Pravin Ram, ASHA worker sisters and ASHA facilitator sisters launched a movement demanding minimum wages, which was also supported by Pinkiben Parmar of Gujarat ASHA Union

In Gir Somnath, under the leadership of AAP leader Pravin Ram, ASHA sisters and ASHA facilitator sisters submitted a memorandum regarding their demands on the letterhead of Rani Laxmibai ASHA Union and Gujarat ASHA Worker Union

Ahmedabad/Gir Somnath/Gujarat In Gir Somnath, under the leadership of Aam Aadmi Party leader Pravin Ram, ASHA sisters and ASHA facilitator sisters launched a movement regarding their various demands, including minimum wages. Gujarat ASHA Union leader Pinkiben Parmar was also present at the program and extended her support. The ASHA sisters and facilitator sisters submitted a memorandum regarding their demands on the letterhead of Rani Laxmibai ASHA Union and Gujarat ASHA Worker Union. It was announced on the occasion that from tomorrow, ASHA and facilitator sisters of Gir Somnath

district will go on strike and will also boycott the polio campaign. A large number of ASHA sisters from across the district attended the program. The ASHA sisters alleged that they have not been paid their salaries for the last four months across Gujarat, and in the current inflationary conditions, they receive only ₹75 to ₹100 as payment, making it difficult to support their families. Therefore, a demand was raised for the government to immediately accept their demands and provide proper wages as well as clear the pending payments. On this issue, Aam Aadmi Party leader Pravin Ram stated that today a memorandum has been submitted at the Gir

Somnath Collector's office regarding the issues of ASHA worker sisters and ASHA worker facilitator sisters of the district. According to the information I have received, the incentives given to these sisters in Gir Somnath district and across Gujarat have not been paid for the last four to five months. Along with this, certain tasks are assigned to these sisters, but they are not compensated for that work. Payment under PMMVI has not been made since 2023. At present, the time for polio vaccination has arrived, and if anyone has contributed the most to polio eradication, it is the ASHA worker sisters and facilitator sisters. However, they are paid extremely

low wages. For years, these sisters have been demanding minimum wages. A memorandum regarding all these issues has been submitted to the Collector, and all these sisters have decided to declare a one-week strike until next Wednesday. On Wednesday, the sisters will decide whether satisfactory resolutions have been reached on these issues or whether any appeal has come from the administration, and a decision will be taken thereafter. Therefore, the strike will continue until next Wednesday, and the polio campaign has been boycotted. I appeal to the government to resolve all these issues immediately.

Construction of new Central Secretariat metro station starts

New Delhi (GNS): Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) commenced construction work at Central Secretariat Metro Station for Central Vista corridor Wednesday. The station is being developed under Phase V(A) as an extension of existing Magenta Line from Janakpuri West to RK Ashram Marg.

Central Secretariat station will become a triple interchange station, where new Magenta Line station will seamlessly connect with existing Yellow Line and Violet Line. This facility will significantly benefit govt employees and commuters accessing Lutyens' Zone and the surrounding administrative districts. The construction work of

the new station began in the presence of union minister of housing and urban affairs and power Manohar Lal and other senior officials.

The corridor spans 9.9 km and includes nine underground stations, including Shivaji Stadium, Yuge Yugeen Bharat, Central Secretariat, Kartavya Bhawan, India Gate, War Memorial-High Court, Baroda House, Bharat Mandapam, and Indraprastha.

"This project marks a significant step in strengthening connectivity to the heart of New Delhi, providing efficient access to major govt offices, judicial institutions, national memorials and convention facilities.

Citywide Safety Crackdown on Coaching Centres

New Delhi (GNS): Launching a citywide crackdown on coaching institutes, Delhi govt has ordered extensive safety inspections across major coaching hubs and warned of strict action against centres found violating norms.

As part of an immediate enforcement drive, Delhi's minister for education, higher education and technical education, Ashish Sood, directed Delhi Development Authority, MCD, Delhi Fire Service and Delhi Disaster Management Authority to launch a special inspection campaign across major coaching hubs, including



Mukherjee Nagar, Rajender Nagar and Katwaria Sarai. Inspection teams will verify compliance with fire safety norms, building regulations and other mandatory safety requirements.

Sood chaired a high-level review meeting Wednesday to assess safety standards, infrastructure and the regulatory framework governing coaching institutes across the capital. The meeting was attended by senior officials

from the home department, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Urban Development Department, Delhi Fire Service, Delhi Disaster Management Authority and directorate of higher education. To facilitate coordinated action, MCD will provide inspection teams with the list of 923 coaching centres surveyed across Delhi.

Expressing concern over infrastructural deficiencies and safety lapses at coaching centres, Sood said, "Any negligence affecting student safety will not be tolerated. All coaching institutes must strictly comply with safety norms and guidelines issued by the govt and

courts from time to time."

The meeting focused extensively on fire safety measures, regulatory gaps, student welfare and unfair commercial practices adopted by certain coaching institutes.

Sood also directed all concerned departments, including Delhi Fire Service and Delhi Police, to initiate strict action against institutions found violating prescribed safety standards or operating in contravention of applicable regulations. MCD has been instructed to submit a daily Action Taken Report (ATR) to the minister's office on enforcement and compliance measures.

Haryana CEO inspects polling booths, stresses voter inclusion

New Delhi(GNS): Haryana Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) A Sreenivas on Wednesday reviewed the progress of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Gurugram and directed officials to ensure that all eligible citizens are included in the voter list through a transparent, efficient and citizen-friendly process.

Accompanied by Badshahpur Sub-Divisional Magistrate-cum-Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) Sanjiv Singla, the CEO inspected



several polling stations across the city. These included Booth No 154 in Heritage City, Booth No 130 at the National Media Centre, Booth No 348 in DLF Magnolias and Camellias in Sector 42, and Booth No 378 at Government Primary School

(GPS C2) in Sushant Lok-I. During the inspection, Sreenivas examined Booth Level Officer (BLO) registers and reviewed the status of the revision work being carried out at the polling stations. He interacted with BLOs and field staff, checked record

maintenance practices and issued directions for the timely completion of the electoral roll revision exercise.

Officials also discussed operational challenges being faced during the exercise. At the DLF Magnolias and Camellias polling station, the BLO informed the CEO that a large number of electors were away on holiday, making it difficult to distribute revision forms and collect voter-related information.

Addressing the issue, the CEO said electors who are temporarily away

from their place of residence can submit their details through the Election Commission's online facility.

He clarified that officials can physically verify their information after they return, ensuring that eligible voters are not excluded from the revision process because of their temporary absence.

Emphasising the importance of accurate and updated electoral records, Sreenivas said the revision exercise should remain citizen-centric and aim to facilitate greater voter participation.

NHAI steps up action against encroachments, identifies 595 unauthorised parking sites on highways

New Delhi(GNS): The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has intensified action against unauthorised parking and encroachments along National Highway corridors, identifying 595 critical locations of unauthorised parking across various states. The authority is working with state governments, district administrations and enforcement agencies to remove the obstructions. The initiative is being undertaken in compliance with directions of the Supreme Court. NHAI has also stepped up efforts to clear encroachments under the provisions of the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002. It is coordinating with state govern-



ments for the establishment of District Highway Safety Task Forces and the appointment of nodal officers to oversee compliance, facilitate inter-agency coordination and ensure continuous monitoring of safety-related issues. In addition, NHAI has directed its field offices to undertake immediate audits of all Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) installations and ensure that components such as traffic monitoring cameras, video incident detec-

tions, variable speed detection systems, variable message signboards and emergency call boxes are fully operational. The deployment of ambulances and recovery vehicles, enhanced highway patrolling, integration of ATMS alerts with enforcement agencies, and maintenance of safety infrastructure are also being prioritised to enable faster incident response and improved enforcement on National Highways.

How a fake Delhi call centre tricked exporters with bogus foreign orders

New Delhi(GNS): The Cyber Police Station of New Delhi District has busted a fake export consultancy racket operating under the guise of a company called India2Exports.com, apprehending 18 individuals allegedly involved in cheating exporters across the country, officials said on Thursday.

According to police, the syndicate lured aspiring exporters by promising assistance in securing overseas buyers and facilitating export-related certifications. The operation was uncovered during an analysis of cyber fraud complaints received through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP).

According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Sachin Sharma, the victims were initially persuaded to pay a registration or token fee of Rs 5,000. They were later induced to make additional payments of Rs



19,780 for export service packages and Rs 41,300 towards purported Global GAP/Trust Certification and other export formalities.

To gain the confidence of victims, the accused allegedly used international WhatsApp numbers and impersonated foreign buyers from different countries. Exporters were shown fabricated communications and assured that export orders were being processed. However, after receiving payments, the accused either stopped responding or avoided further communication, causing financial losses to the complainants, the DCP mentioned.

Ahead of SIR, Delhi Chief Electoral Officer holds meeting with parties

New Delhi(GNS): Ahead of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls scheduled to begin on June 30, the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Delhi held a meeting with representatives of major political parties to brief them on the upcoming exercise and seek their cooperation in ensuring an accurate voters' list.

Representatives of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), and the Indian National Congress attended the meeting, where election officials outlined the objectives and procedures of the revision process.

According to the CEO's office, the primary aim of



the exercise is to ensure that no eligible voter is left out while no ineligible person is included in the electoral roll.

During the meeting, political parties were briefed on the key activities to be undertaken during the enumeration phase, including the process for filling enumeration forms in various sit-

uations. Officials explained procedures related to self-mapping, progeny mapping, and cases where no mapping is possible with reference to the 2002 electoral roll.

Election officials also clarified the process for married women who have moved to Delhi after the previous intensive revision and whose names do

not appear in the electoral rolls of their native places.

Several queries raised by party representatives regarding the revision exercise were addressed during the meeting. The CEO urged political parties to actively cooperate with election officials at all levels, and the parties assured full support and participation in the exercise.

As part of the SIR, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will conduct a door-to-door verification drive from June 30 to July 29. The draft electoral roll will be published on August 5, after which voters and political parties can submit claims and objections until September 4.

Illegal property of drug peddler razed in Gurugram:

New Delhi(GNS): The Gurugram police on Wednesday demolished an illegally built house belonging to an alleged drug peddler in the Pataudi area. The demolition drive was carried out jointly by the police and district administration in the presence of a heavy police deployment.

Under its zero-tolerance policy, the Gurugram police have been taking strict action against land mafias, drug traffickers and habitual offenders. As part of the ongoing campaign, an illegally constructed property in Vyapari Mohalla, Pataudi, was identified on the basis of intelligence inputs and demolished with the assistance of the district administration. The land was later restored to its original condition.

The accused, identified as Shoaib, alias Sikku, a resident of Vyapari Mohalla, Pataudi, has been involved in several serious criminal cases.

Delivery person's morning ride exposes water leak near Punjabi Bagh

New Delhi(GNS): New Delhi : For Shambhu Kumar (29), a delivery person who spends most of his day navigating Delhi's roads delivering online shopping parcels, a routine Monday morning ride turned into an unexpected discovery of a major water wastage issue.

Kumar, a resident of Bhalswa village, was riding from Moti Nagar towards Punjabi Bagh around 7 am. As he reached the red light near the Punjabi Bagh cremation ground, he noticed a large quantity of water gushing out from a pipeline running along the roadside near



the drain.

Surprised by the continuous flow of water, Kumar stopped and recorded the scene on his phone. The video showed water leaking from a large Delhi Jal Board (DJB) pipeline, with a significant quantity flowing into the Sahibi river, which is locally referred to as a drain by residents because of its

condition.

He later uploaded the video on his Facebook account, bringing the issue to public attention.

When a Media reporter came across the video, contacted Kumar, and visited the location, the spot revealed a large pipeline running parallel to the road near the bridge, surrounded by overgrown vegetation. During the visit, water was seen slowly seeping out from a damaged portion of the pipeline.

Kumar said he noticed the leakage while waiting at the traffic signal.

Women hangs self in Delhi's Nangloi; family alleges husband used to beat her up

New Delhi(GNS): A 26-year-old woman from Nangloi Extension allegedly died by suicide after enduring repeated physical abuse by her husband, who used to assault her under the influence of alcohol, according to allegations made by her family, the police said on Thursday.

Police said information regarding the woman's death was received at Nangloi Police Station on Wednesday after she was brought dead to Sanjay Gandhi Memorial (SGM) Hospital.

During the inquiry, it was found that the woman had allegedly died by hanging within seven years of

her marriage, prompting the police to inform the concerned SDM for inquest proceedings as per legal provisions.

According to police, the deceased's mother, in her statement recorded by the Tehsildar of Mundka, alleged that the woman's husband, Rohit, frequently beat her up after consuming alcohol.

Investigators further revealed that Rohit is currently undergoing treatment for a life-threatening head injury sustained in an accident a few months ago. Doctors treating him have reportedly stated that he is unlikely to survive beyond the next two to three years.

DU admissions 2026: Over 8,100 PG admissions confirmed; BTech Round-I allocations released

New Delhi(GNS): Delhi University (DU) has released the first round of seat allocations for its BTech programmes under the 2026 admission cycle, while admissions to postgraduate courses continue to witness strong participation from candidates across the country.

According to the latest admissions data released by the university, a total of 3,620 applications were received for DU's BTech programmes.

Applicants submitted 10,328 course preferences, reflecting significant interest in the university's engineering courses. Following the completion of



Round I, DU has allocated 388 seats, including those under supernumerary categories.

Meanwhile, admissions to DU's two-year postgraduate programmes have also progressed steadily. As of the closure of the seat acceptance window, the university has recorded 8,163 confirmed admissions across various PG courses.

270 km of roads to get facelift under 658cr strengthening plan

New Delhi(GNS): Delhi govt Wednesday approved road strengthening projects worth Rs 657.9 crore, covering more than 270 km across east, north and south Delhi.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the expenditure finance committee (EFC) in which chief minister Rekha Gupta, minister Parvesh Verma and other senior officials were present.

According to the CMO, the works will be completed by Oct and will include strengthening of several key arterial roads used daily by lakhs of commuters.

Among the major roads identified in east Delhi are road number 66 from the Seelampur red light on GT Road to the Gokalpuri red light; Outer Ring Road from Chandgi Ram Akhara to Wazirabad; BBM Road, GT Road and Avtar Singh Marg.

In north Delhi, work will be undertaken on Pankha Road (Bhagwan Mandir Marg), Satguru Ram Singh Marg, Lala Ganesh Das Khatri Marg, Major Sudesh Marg and Old Pankha Road.

In south Delhi, the project will cover stretches of SSN Marg, Mandi Road, Barapullah Elevated Road (Phase-I), Nelson Mandela Marg and Pankha Road.

Officials said Rs 147.08 crore has been earmarked for strengthening 58.29 km of roads in the East Maintenance Zone, Rs 247.31 crore for 104.42 km in the North Maintenance Zone and Rs 263.61 crore for 107.92 km in the South Maintenance Zone.

The project will involve cold milling of damaged road surfaces, laying of dense bituminous macadam (DBM) and bituminous concrete (BC) layers, along with road markings, signages, reflectors, safety barriers and kerb channel works for drainage management. The measures are expected to enhance the structural strength of roads and improve driving conditions.