



Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel Holds Fruitful Meeting with Ireland's Consul General in Mumbai, Mr. Patrick Duffy

Invites Irish Industries and Investors to Explore Investment and Business Opportunities in Gujarat

Vadodara(GNS): During Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference held in Vadodara, a fruitful meeting was held between Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel and Ireland's Mumbai-based Consul General Shri Patrick Duffy.

The meeting focused on strengthening the economic partnership between Gujarat and Ireland. Referring to the new opportunities expected to emerge from the upcoming India-European Union (India-EU) Free Trade Agreement (FTA), the Chief Minister invited Irish industries and investors to take advantage of the vast investment and trade opportunities available in Gujarat. The Chief Minister and the Consul



General also discussed development, technology, and sports. Ireland's Consul General expressed his eagerness to participate in the upcoming Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2027 and conveyed his

interest in organising a country seminar to explore areas of mutual collaboration. The Chief Minister suggested that the Irish delegation visiting for VGGIS 2027 should also be taken on visits to the Kite Festival, the Statue of Unity (SOU), and various industrial sites. The event was attended by Chief Secretary Shri Manoj Das, Additional Chief Secretary of the Industries Department Smt. Mamta Verma, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Additional Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Dr. Vikrant Pandey, Secretary, Science and Technology Department Shri P. Bharati, and other senior officials.

Around 1,000 Heat-Related Deaths Reported in France

Record Temperatures Grip 16 European Countries; Roads Melt, Schools Shut, Forest Fires Rage

Paris/London/Madrid(GNS): Europe is in the grip of an unprecedented heatwave, with France reporting around 1,000 excess deaths linked to extreme temperatures.

The country's health agency said on Sunday that the deaths occurred between June 24 and June 27. Excess deaths refer to fatalities above the average number recorded during the same period in previous years. Although the French government has not released an official death toll, authorities said that 85 per cent of those who died were elderly, with most deaths occurring at home. The highest number of fatalities was reported in and around the capital, Paris. Meanwhile, tem-



peratures have shattered decades-old records across Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Italy, Switzerland, and several other European countries. According to estimates by international news agencies, nearly 191 million people across Europe experienced temperatures of 35 degrees Celsius or higher on Sunday. The extreme heat has caused roads to melt, forced schools to close, and triggered massive forest fires in several regions. Scientists warn that Europe is warming faster than the global average and that such extreme heatwaves are expected to become more frequent, more intense, and longer-lasting in the coming years.

Akal Takht Orders Punjab Government to Amend Sacrilege Law Within One Month

AAP MLAs Admit They Signed Bill Without Reading It

Amritsar(GNS): The Akal Takht has directed the Punjab Government to amend the Jagat Jyot Shri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Act, 2026 within one month. During a hearing held on Monday, Akal Takht Jathedar Kuldeep Singh Gargaj raised six objections to the legislation. He said there was no objection to enacting laws to punish those involved in sacrilege, but matters concerning Sikh terminology, religious code, and Panthic traditions could not be decided by the State Assembly alone. He urged the government to keep the law on hold until necessary amendments are made. Before the hearing, the Jathedar played two video clips of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann. All Sikh ministers and MLAs of the Aam Aadmi Party appeared before the Akal Takht barefoot and submitted written explanations. Congress, Shiromani Akali Dal, and Independent MLAs also attended the proceedings.

First Question

The Jathedar played two statements by Chief Minister Mann in which he allegedly said that if a person accused of sacrilege was mentally ill, his or her parents or guardian would also be punished. He asked the ministers and legislators whether such a provision actually existed in the law. Agriculture Minister Gurmeet Khuddian failed to provide a clear answer. AAP MLA Inderbir Singh Nijjar then requested that the hearing not be telecast live, calling it a sensitive matter. The Jathedar responded that it was the Chief Minister himself who had advocated live telecasts of every proceeding and had publicly challenged the Akal Takht.

Second Question

The Jathedar said that while the government was free to enact laws, any legislation concerning Sikhs should be framed after consulting the Sikh community. He asked whether the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) had been consulted during the drafting of the amendments. Nijjar replied that the SGPC had been invited to submit suggestions but did not send any written response.

First Worship of Baba Barfani Held Ahead of Amarnath Yatra

- **Lieutenant Governor Offers Prayers**
- **Pilgrimage to Begin on July 3, Security Trial Conducted**

Jammu/Srinagar, (GNS): Three days before the commencement of the annual Amarnath Yatra, the first ceremonial worship of Baba Barfani was performed on Monday. Lieutenant Governor and Chairman of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, Manoj Sinha, partici-



pated in the rituals. This year's pilgrimage will commence on July 3 via both the Baltal and Pahalgam routes and conclude on August 28, coinciding with Raksha Bandhan. The pilgrimage will last for 57 days.

Officials said that more than 400,000 devotees have registered for the yatra since April 15. The first batch of

pilgrims will leave the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu on July 2.

Base Hospitals Operational: The administration has made base hospitals operational at Baltal and Chandanwari, while medical facilities have also been arranged along both pilgrimage routes. Authorities said most infra-

structure, security, and healthcare preparations have been completed. Snow clearance near Mahaganesh Top on the Chandanwari route is in its final stage and is expected to be completed within the next two to three days. The Amarnath Yatra is conducted through two routes—a traditional 41-km Pahalgam route and a shorter 7-km Baltal route. The Pahalgam route generally takes three to four days and allows pilgrims to gradually acclimatize to the high altitude and low-oxygen conditions. Pilgrims also visit religious sites such as Sheshnag and Panchtarni along the way. The Baltal route is considerably shorter and allows devotees to complete the pilgrimage in less time, but its steep and difficult terrain makes it more challenging, especially for elderly pilgrims, children, and those with limited physical fitness.



PM Modi Meets Indian Community in Seychelles

Pays Tribute to Mahatma Gandhi Before Departing for India

Victoria(GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi met members of the Indian community in Seychelles on Monday, the final day of his three-day visit to the island nation. During his stay in Victoria, the Prime Minister interacted with members of the Indian diaspora and posed for photographs with them. He also offered prayers at the Arul Mihu Navasakthi Vinayagar Temple and paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi's statue at Peace Park before departing for New Delhi. Earlier, India and Seychelles announced 19 major agreements and development initiatives, including the introduction of UPI-based digital payments in Seychelles, a \$12.5 billion (1,250 crore) line of credit, and expanded cooperation in cyber security, artificial intelligence, healthcare, education, agriculture, space, and maritime security.

Monsoon Progress Slows After Covering 22 States

Heavy Rain Alert for Assam, Meghalaya and West Bengal

New Delhi(GNS): After covering 22 states by June 24, the southwest monsoon has slowed over the past five days and has yet to advance across several parts of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Uttar Pradesh. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the monsoon is expected to cover the remaining states by July 5. Meanwhile, pre-monsoon rainfall continues across parts of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi, and adjoining regions. The IMD has issued warnings of heavy to very heavy rainfall for Assam, Meghalaya, low-lying areas of West Bengal, and Sikkim.



In Madhya Pradesh, a tractor and its driver were swept away on Sunday while attempting to cross an overflowing bridge in Sendhwa, Barwani district. The driver remains missing. In Chhattisgarh's Bemetara district, two girls were killed after a wall of a mud house collapsed during heavy rain on Sunday. In Sukma district, one man was killed and four others were injured after being struck by lightning.

Uddhav Thackeray Calls BJP 'Babar Janata Party'

Demands Disqualification of Six Rebel MPs, Says They Chose Self-Interest Over Development

Dharashiv/Parbhani, (GNS): Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray has demanded the disqualification of six Members of Parliament who left his party to join the Eknath Shinde-led faction.

"If the rule of law truly exists in the country, these MPs should be disqualified. They did not switch sides for development but for their personal interests," Thackeray said. He also accused the alleged theft of offerings at the Ram Temple, Thackeray described the BJP as the "Babar Janata Party."

"Babar demolished the Ram Temple. Now the Babar Janata



Party is looting the newly built Ram Temple. What is the difference between the two?" he remarked. Thackeray is currently touring the Marathwada region and addressing public meetings in the constituencies of the rebel

MPs. On Sunday, he addressed separate rallies in Parbhani and Dharashiv.

'Operation Devendra' Behind Defections: Speaking in Parbhani, Thackeray alleged that the defection of the six MPs was part of "Operation Devendra." He claimed that the BJP's central leadership first sidelines its own senior leaders, citing Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Nitin Gadkari, and Devendra Fadnis as examples. According to Thackeray, Gadkari was prevented from becoming Prime Minister by curtailing his political influence.

Let Ayodhya remain the centre of faith

(Sanjay Goswami)

Lord Ram was born in Ayodhya, so today, instead of faith, a market of courts and docks should not be turned there. Who can dispense justice greater than Lord Ram? Cases of lack of transparency, financial irregularities, and corruption in the management of offerings, donations, and valuable assets at large and famous temples have been surfacing from time to time. In many cases, allegations of collusion between trust members, local bureaucrats, and some influential individuals have surfaced. The temple's for-

mer chief accountant, Mahipal Singh (who served from January 2021 to April 2022), went to the media and claimed that an organized scheme of fraud had been going on for a long time during the counting of donations. He alleged that when he once detected a theft of ₹5 lakh and complained about it to the trust's general secretary, Champat Rai, he was removed from his post. A public interest litigation has also been filed in the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court, demanding a fair and thorough investigation into the

matter, which calls for a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) investigation and the registration of an FIR. It is crucial to identify which prominent figures within the management or trust are involved in this theft. Given the faith of millions of Ram devotees, the nation is keenly watching the final findings of this report. The Nirmohi Akhara, the Ramanand sect, and established local saints of Ayodhya (such as Jagadguru Ramanandacharya, saints of the Digambar Akhara, etc.) fought for centuries in the long legal and cultural battle

for the Ram Temple. At the time of the trust's formation, many prominent saints felt that their contributions and traditional rights were neglected. The saints argue that the trust is heavily influenced by IAS officers (former and current), politicians, and individuals associated with the Sangh. They believe that when the ruling administrative, social, and political classes exert excessive control over a religious institution, market ideology, rather than spiritual consciousness, dominates decision-making. Regarding the recent allegations of theft of temple offer-

ings and financial irregularities, some saints argue that if the Trust had been under the comprehensive control of Ayodhya's traditional, detached, and impartial saints, such political and administrative nexus might not have developed. Conceptually, the saints' concern is justified: the fundamental character of a religious place should be spiritual, not merely a political and administrative entity. When pure faith in God and political ambitions become mixed, the damage is not to any single party or system, but to the moral fabric of society,

built on centuries of trust. The average devotee visits a temple, mosque, or any holy place seeking personal peace, liberation, and devotion.

But when these places are made the focus of electoral narratives, this solitary and sacred form of devotion begins to transform into a collective vote bank. The very nature of politics is divisive and polarizing. Whereas the fundamental nature of religion is to unite and pacify from within, this conflict between the two ultimately harms the very essence of faith.

Editorial

Identifying infiltrators

The meeting that Home Minister Amit Shah convened with Directors General of Police of all states and heads of central agencies to launch an operation to identify and deport infiltrators demonstrates his commitment to this campaign. There is a pressing need for such an operation. Such an operation will only be successful if it is launched simultaneously across the country. It is a good thing that this is happening for the first time.

Until now, the police of different states had launched their own campaigns against infiltrators. During such operations, they were often identified and apprehended, but the infiltrators often fled to neighboring states as soon as such operations began. In these circumstances, it is essential to launch a nationwide campaign against infiltrators simultaneously.

It's difficult to accurately estimate the number of infiltrators, especially Bangladeshi infiltrators, in the country, but there's no doubt that they are significant. Bangladeshi infiltrators and Rohingyas are visible in almost every part of the country. In many cities, they have been living for long periods and have fraudulently obtained various identity cards. In states like the Northeast and West Bengal, they have even become voters and are benefiting from government schemes.

The problem of infiltration is an age-old one, but no central government has yet taken concrete measures to address it. As a result, infiltration continues unabated. There are good reasons to believe that gangs are active in illegally bringing in infiltrators into the country and providing them with identity cards to settle them in various parts of the country. In these circumstances, a well-planned strategy must be developed to identify, apprehend, and deport infiltrators. All state governments must actively cooperate in this strategy. Strict action against infiltrators is essential because they not only pose a burden on the country's resources but are also altering the social fabric of many border areas.

Paper leak again: Internal betrayal the traitor within destroys the house

(Advocate Kis Sanmukhdas Bhavani)

Questions raised by the Maharashtra TET 2026 paper leak - a comprehensive analysis.

The preparation, travel, mental stress, and future of millions of candidates being left in limbo in one fell swoop raises serious questions about the entire country's examination system.

Like the team preparing the Union Budget, there's an urgent need to keep the experts, moderators, and relevant officials who set the question papers under complete secrecy until the exam is conducted.

The global adage "The enemy within destroys the enemy" seems to hold true for India's examination system more than ever. Once upon a time, news of leaks in water pipelines, gas lines, or tankers were hot topics of discussion, but today, the first question that comes to mind when people hear the word "leak" is: Which exam paper was leaked? This situation is extremely worrying for any democratic and knowledge-based society. The leak of an exam question paper is not merely an administrative error, but a blatant theft of the years of hard work, dreams, and future of millions of young people. When a student works day and night to reach the examination center, only to have the exam canceled or postponed at the last minute, they lose not only time and money but also their faith in the system. The postponement of the Maharashtra Teacher Eligibility Test (Maha TET 2026) just before the exam is a perfect

recent example of this deep-seated malaise. The Maharashtra Teacher Eligibility Test was scheduled for Sunday, June 28, 2026, but the government was forced to immediately postpone the exam after the police busted a paper leak racket in Thane's Bhiwandi area a day earlier. The preliminary investigation, which confirmed the recovery of the original question paper from the accused, made it clear that this was not a rumor, but an organized crime. The preparation, travel, mental stress, and future of lakhs of candidates were suddenly upended. This incident is not limited to Maharashtra, but raises serious questions about the examination system across the country. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavanani, believe that the biggest question is: how are such incidents still occurring when claims were made to make the examination system leak-proof after the national paper leak incidents? If security has been strengthened, how did the question paper reach the criminals before the exam? The answer lies not only in technical weaknesses, but in the human corruption and institutional collusion inherent within the system. Almost every major paper leak incident indicates that it is not solely the work of external criminals. There are numerous steps involved, from question paper preparation to printing, packaging, transportation, safe storage, and distribution. If someone at any of these stages breaks confidentiality due to

money, influence, or greed, the entire security system collapses. Therefore, it would not be an exaggeration to say that most paper leaks are not external attacks, but internal betrayals. In fact, the root of this problem is a situation of a traitor destroying the house.

Friends, the facts revealed in the Maharashtra case investigation also point to this. After receiving a tip-off, the police conducted an undercover operation. Officers approached the accused, posing as customers seeking to purchase the paper, and monitored their activities for two days. They were lured into a deal with a large sum of money, and as soon as the question paper was handed over, three of the accused were arrested. The investigation revealed indications of an interstate network spanning several states, including Delhi. Following this, the Special Investigation Team launched investigations in various states. This clearly demonstrates that paper leaks are no longer a small-scale crime; they have transformed into an organized criminal network worth crores of rupees. While digital technology has increased convenience, it has also provided criminals with new means. Question papers can reach thousands of people in a matter of minutes via WhatsApp, Telegram, and other encrypted platforms. Therefore, security at the printing press alone is insufficient. Cybersecurity, digital surveillance, and data security must also be given equal importance. If

digital channels are not secure, no confidential documents can remain safe.

Friends, the biggest loss of paper leaks is not just the postponement of exams. This has the most serious impact on the psychology of young people. Students who have put in years of hard work feel cheated. They begin to believe that money, influence, and corrupt networks are more important than hard work. This sentiment breeds frustration, distrust, and mental stress among talented youth. If this situation continues, it will impact not only education but also the country's administrative quality, social trust, and economic development. It is time for India not to limit itself to arresting the perpetrators, but to restructure the entire examination system. Simply forming an SIT and making a few arrests after a paper leak is not a sufficient solution. What is needed is a system that makes paper leaks technically and administratively virtually impossible.

Friends, in this context, many countries around the world have developed highly effective models from which India can learn significantly. China's national university entrance exam, Gaokao, is considered one of the most secure exams in the world. Question papers are considered national secret documents. Question papers are printed in highly secured premises and transported under armored vehicles, GPS tracking, video surveillance, and armed secu-

urity. Biometric verification, face recognition, AI cameras, radio jammers, and electronic detection systems are used at exam centers.

Paper leaks there are considered not just indisipline but a serious crime against national security. The United States has taken a different approach. It has rapidly implemented a digital system for university entrance exams. The availability of question papers in physical form has been eliminated for a long period. Questions are made available encrypted just before the exam begins. Special lockdown software prevents candidates from using other websites, screenshots, or external applications. This virtually eliminates the possibility of traditional paper leaks. Australia has also scientifically developed an online examination system. There, a lockdown browser, staggered question order, AI-based monitoring, and personal accountability of authorized officials have been ensured. If any official violates security protocols, strict punitive action is taken against them. South Korea's model is particularly noteworthy. There, teachers and experts preparing national examination question papers are completely isolated from the outside world until the exam is over. Their mobile phones, internet, and external contacts are cut off. This system, while strict, has proven extremely effective in ensuring the secrecy of the question papers.

Criminals are in trouble now

(Kumar Krishnan)

Bihar Chief Minister and Home Minister Samrat Chaudhary's speech at a public meeting held at Tetiya Bamber in Munger, Bihar, was not merely a political address but also a public declaration of the government's intentions regarding law and order in the state. Following the recent violent incidents in Samastipur, Nawada, and Darbhanga, the opposition has been continuously questioning the government's law and order situation. At such a time, the Chief Minister's statement that action against criminals will not stop and that those responsible will have to go to Nepal clearly indicates that the government does not intend to convey any message of leniency.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister asked the people whether

action against criminals should continue, and the crowd unanimously supported him. While gaining public support in democratic politics is one thing, the true test of crime control is determined by the impartiality of the police, the strength of the judicial process, and improvement in crime statistics.

The Chief Minister compared criminals and rioters to household garbage and stated that the campaign to remove this garbage from Bihar will continue. This language is certainly politically effective and projects a strong image of the government to the general public. However, in a democratic system, it is equally essential that action against criminals be taken within the ambit of the law and in accordance with constitutional procedures.

Since Samrat Chaudhary became

Chief Minister in April 2026, the state government has prominently emphasized its zero-tolerance policy. Police have launched special operations against organized crime, encounters, illegal weapons seizures, and organized crime in several districts. The government claims that these actions have created an atmosphere of fear among criminals. On the other hand, the opposition and some human rights activists question whether crime control is possible not only through encounters, but also through robust investigations, speedy justice, and a high rate of convictions.

The crime problem in Bihar is multifaceted. Alongside traditional challenges like murder, kidnapping, extortion, and illegal arms trafficking, cybercrime, financial fraud, and juvenile delinquency have rapidly

emerged. Munger, in particular, has long been notorious for illegal arms manufacturing and trafficking. Although the police have periodically carried out major crackdowns, the illegal arms network has not been completely eradicated.

After the implementation of prohibition, a new challenge emerged in the form of the illegal liquor trade. In many cases, it was observed that liquor mafias used teenagers and underage children for smuggling and distribution. This has exacerbated the problem of juvenile delinquency.

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)'s Crime in India 2024 report further deepened this concern. According to the report, Bihar is among the top states in the country in terms of the number of juvenile offenders. Juvenile crime, i.e., crimes committed by children

under the age of 18, has increased nationally, but this problem appears to be relatively more severe in Bihar. This is not just a law and order issue, but also a question related to numerous social challenges such as education, family, social environment, unemployment, and drug addiction.

According to NCRB data, Bihar has seen a significant increase in the number of heinous crimes reported. In 2023, over 52,000 cases of serious crimes like murder, rape, and robbery were registered, while in 2024, the number exceeded one lakh. However, the same report also states that Bihar is below the national average in terms of crime rate per one lakh population. This means that due to the state's large population, the total crime count appears high, while the per capita crime rate is relatively low.

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

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

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

NEET paper leak
The conventions come



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

The examination, con-

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

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

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

strengthen the system.

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

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

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

Two cow smugglers held after encounter in Nuh

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



critical.

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

sisters.

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

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

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

ly".

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Shahdara District, Karkardooma Courts.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Additional Commissioner



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

However, where stu-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

extending credit to eligible vendors.

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

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

Delhi Tughlaqabad fire

Neighbours turn into heroes during midnight rescue

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

First responder who raised alarm

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

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



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

Teenager used sari to save life

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

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

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

Man who cut through iron

grilles

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

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

Woman who turned water tanks into lifelines

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

After CJP intervention, suspended Haryana teacher gets back job

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

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



court.

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

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

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

New Delhi, (GNS): A Delhi court has rejected the bail plea of Zoya Khan alias 'lady don', wife of alleged gangster Asim alias Hashim Baba, in connection with the murder of gym owner Nadir Shah, holding the allegations point to her active participation in a wider criminal conspiracy. According to the order passed on June 9, the prosecution has alleged Zoya Khan played a key role in facilitating the movement and harbouring of the alleged shooters before and after the September 2024 killing of Nadir Shah outside a gym in Greater Kailash.

Investigators have relied on witness statements claiming she issued telephonic instructions regarding the shooters, informed associates after the murder that the crime had been carried out, and instructed them to go underground.

The prosecution has also cited the recovery of a pistol and five live cartridges from her residence, and claimed that call data and internet protocol detail records established her links with key conspirators, including her husband and the alleged shooters. Opposing the allegations, Zoya Khan argued that her implication was based solely on statements of unreliable witnesses, challenged the alleged recovery of the firearm, and sought parity with co-accused who have been granted bail.



Power surcharge spike to make electricity costly in Delhi

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



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

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

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

BRPL's PPAC has

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

The report found that in 2025, about 77% of the surveyed kilns were found using coal, while in 2026 coal use was observed in about 72% of the surveyed units. Most kilns used coal in combination with biomass rather than as a standalone fuel. Coal deliveries were often arranged on a daily basis and frequently took place during evening or night hours.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

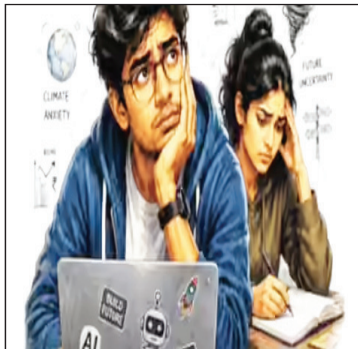
Students have more choices than ever, so why does it feel harder

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

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

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

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



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

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

Kanwar, principal, Amity International School, Mayur Vihar.

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

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

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

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

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

STUDENTS SPEAK UP

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

Delhi University's Campus of Open Learning opens admissions

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

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

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



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

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

Studies and will be available in both classroom and online modes.

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

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