



Fire in a petrochemical pipeline in Bengal, 17 burned, 2 critically injured

Nearby railway line also affected, train services disrupted

Haldia(GNS): A naphtha pipeline exploded and caught fire in Haldia, West Bengal, at 2:45 a.m. on Monday. Several homes in the Chiranjibpur area of Ward 13 of Haldia Municipality were engulfed in flames. Seventeen people were burned in the incident. According to police, all the victims were admitted to Haldia Sub-Divisional Hospital. Five were referred to Tamluk Medical College

and Hospital. Of these, two are in critical condition. More than 12 fire brigade vehicles are engaged in extinguishing the fire. Officials said the fire first appeared in the naphtha pipeline of Haldia Petrochemicals. It quickly spread to the surrounding residential area. According to Southern Railway, the Haldia and Durgachak lines pass near the site of the fire. Train services have been

suspended for the time being.

The cause of the fire is unknown

According to police, the cause of the pipeline fire is unknown. The entire area has been cordoned off. The fire also damaged equipment on the railway's overhead power lines near the site.

Haldia Petrochemicals issued a statement on the incident. The company said,



"Some people have been reported injured in the accident, and the company is providing all possible assistance to the affected people and the administration.

"According to the company, preliminary information indicates that the incident may have occurred near a naphtha storage facility near Plans. However, the exact cause of the fire is being investigated in collaboration with relevant agencies.

Statements of Jail Staff Recorded in Dacoit Jagan Gurjar Murder Case; Family Refuses to Accept Body Without CBI Probe

Ajmer(GNS): Family members of slain dacoit Jagan Gurjar continued their protest outside the mortuary of JLN Hospital in Ajmer, demanding a CBI inquiry into his murder inside Ajmer High Security Jail. Jagan's son, Asaram Gurjar, demanded that the case be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Issuing a warning, he said he belonged to Jagan Gurjar's family and knew how to retaliate both outside and inside jail, adding that the government would be held responsible for any consequences. He also claimed that the life of his uncle, Pappu Gurjar, who is lodged in jail, was under threat and demanded his transfer to Dholpur Jail. The family has refused to accept Jagan Gurjar's body until their demands are met. A heavy police force has been deployed outside the hospital, while senior officials continue to hold talks with the protesting relatives. Circle Officer Manish Badgurjar said the post-mortem of Jagan Gurjar's body would be conducted on Tuesday and that the family's demands had been conveyed to senior authorities.



General Upendra Dwivedi Retires as Army Chief

Says Sindoore Reflects Army's Preparedness, General Dhiraj Seth Takes Charge

New Delhi(GNS): General Upendra Dwivedi retired as the Chief of the Indian Army on Tuesday. Before demitting office, he paid tribute to the fallen soldiers at the National War Memorial in New Delhi.

Addressing the occasion, General Dwivedi said that over the past two years, the

Indian Army had strengthened its preparedness, balance, and vigilance on every front. He cited Operation Sindoore as a prime example of the Army's operational readiness.

He said he was handing over the responsibility to General Dhiraj Seth, an experienced soldier and capable leader. Expressing confidence in his successor, Dwivedi said the Indian Army would continue to uphold its glorious traditions and achieve new milestones



under General Seth's leadership.

General Dhiraj Seth offi-

cially assumed charge as the 31st Chief of the Army Staff. He has nearly four decades of military service, having joined the Indian Army in December 1986.

General Seth comes from a military family. His father, Lieutenant General Krishna Mohan Seth, retired as the Adjutant General of the Indian Army in 1997 and had commanded two major Army formations. General Seth is also an avid sports enthusiast who enjoys tennis and golf. His wife is Komal Seth.

13 Dead as Trees Collapse and Lightning Strikes in UP, Bihar and Chhattisgarh

Bhopal/Jaipur/Lucknow/Patna (GNS): Pre-monsoon showers continued across several parts of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Delhi, while intense heat persisted in six states. Temperatures crossed 43°C in Haryana and Delhi.

Weather systems have become active for the arrival of the monsoon in Uttar Pradesh. Heavy rainfall lashed 15 districts, including Lucknow, on Monday. In Mirzapur, nearly three feet of water accumulated in an underpass following the rain.



ing the rain.

In Firozabad, a neem tree fell on an e-rickshaw in a village, killing five people and injuring two others. Two more people died after being struck by lightning in Basti and Maharajganj districts.

In Bihar, thunderstorms accompanied by rain affected 15 districts on Monday.

Lightning claimed the lives of four people in Sitamarhi, Munger and Patna, while 24 others sustained burn injuries. In Surguja district of Chhattisgarh, lightning killed two children and a young man on Monday evening. Meanwhile, rain was reported in 12 districts of Madhya Pradesh.

Trump Urges Fuel Companies to Cut Petrol Prices Immediately as Crude Oil Becomes Cheaper



Tel Aviv/ Tehran/ Washington D.C., (GNS): US President Donald Trump has urged fuel companies to immediately reduce petrol prices, saying consumers are continuing to pay more despite a sharp decline in crude oil prices. In a post on his social media platform Truth Social, Trump said crude oil prices had fallen to around \$68 per barrel, but the benefit had not been passed on to consumers.

VIP Darshan in Exchange for Blood Donation First-of-Its-Kind Initiative at Jyotirlinga Shrine

Omkareshwar(GNS): A unique initiative linking blood donation with VIP darshan has been introduced at the Omkareshwar Jyotirlinga Temple in Madhya Pradesh, making it the first shrine of its kind in the country to encourage voluntary blood donation through religious faith.

The initiative has not only eased the shortage of blood in hospitals but has also helped the district blood bank maintain a surplus stock. The scheme is now being considered for implementation at other major religious sites in the state, including Mahakaleswar in Ujjain, Maihar, and Pitambar Peeth in Datia. The idea was inspired by devotees like Simran Lakhani from Ajmer, Rajasthan, who visited Omkareshwar with her family on June 26, 2026. While waiting in a long queue for darshan, she noticed some devotees entering through the VIP gate. On asking a temple volunteer about it, she was told that anyone could avail of VIP darshan by making the "great donation" of blood. She and her family immediately proceeded to the blood donation camp.



According to Dr. Atul Mane, District Blood Bank Officer, devotees are not only receiving the blessings of Lord Omkareshwar but are also giving the gift of life to patients in need. Around 40 to 50 units of blood are being collected every day. From February this year to June 27, over 2,300 units of blood have been donated under the scheme.

Blood Donation Linked to Faster Darshan

Khandwa Collector Rishav Gupta said that nearly 20,000 to 30,000 devotees visit Omkareshwar every day, while the number exceeds 50,000 on Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays.

Charge Sheet Filed Against Yasin Malik After 36 Years in Kashmiri Pandit Nurse Murder Case

Srinagar(GNS): The Jammu and Kashmir State Investigation Agency (SIA) has filed a charge sheet in court in the 36-year-old abduction and murder case of Kashmiri Pandit nurse Sarla Bhat. The 737-page charge sheet, submitted on Monday, names Yasin Malik, former chief commander of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), along with four others as accused.

According to the charge sheet, Yasin Malik and his associates conspired to abduct and murder Sarla Bhat. Malik is currently serving a life sentence in Tihar Jail in a terror-funding case. The main shooter, Khurshid Ahmad Chalkoo, remains absconding and is suspected to be hiding in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). He is accused of fatally shooting Sarla Bhat. Three other accused—Abdul Hamid Sheikh, Mohammad Yousuf Sofi alias Idris, and Ghulam Mohammad Taploo—have since died.

Investigation Handed Over to SIA After 34 Years: The case was transferred to the State Investigation Agency (SIA) in March 2024.



Surat(GNS): An Ahmedabad to Mumbai IndiGo flight (6E-7018) made an emergency landing at Surat Airport on

IndiGo Ahmedabad-Mumbai Flight Makes Emergency Landing in Surat After Three-Year-Old Child Falls Unconscious

Monday after a three-year-old child lost consciousness mid-flight.

As the child's condition deteriorated, the pilot declared a medical emergency and sought permission from Air Traffic Control (ATC) to land the aircraft at Surat. The child, identified as Saurabh, was immediately shifted to a private hospital in Surat after the aircraft landed.

Two doctors travelling



on the flight attempted to provide first aid to the child, but his condition did not improve, prompting

the emergency diversion. Medical Team Ready Before Landing

Following the medical emergency alert, Surat Airport authorities activated emergency protocols. An ambulance, the airport's medical team, and IndiGo's ground staff were kept on standby before the aircraft landed.

As soon as the flight touched down, doctors boarded the aircraft and

provided initial treatment before the child was taken by ambulance to a private hospital for further medical care. After completing all necessary medical and operational formalities, the flight resumed its journey to Mumbai. Airport authorities said the emergency landing was handled smoothly and did not affect the operations of other flights at Surat Airport.

Over-tourism may ruin the tourism indus-

(Prayag Pandey)
Guests are highly valued in Indian culture. An ancient principle of Indian culture is "Atithi Devo Bhava." This statement equates guests with gods and advises guests to be treated with respect. In the current era of modern tourism, uncontrolled, unplanned, and uncoordinated mass tourism has rendered this ancient principle of Indian culture irrelevant. Crowds far exceeding tourist destinations' capacity, rampant commercialism, and consumerism have soured the friendly relationship between guests and hosts, disrupting the cordiality between them. In Uttarakhand's mountainous regions, the influx of tourists beyond the tourist destinations' carrying capacity has led to a sudden increase in conflicts between guests and hosts. Unpleasant incidents such as fights, quarrels, abuse, physical altercations, and scuffles between tourists and local residents over trivial matters are being reported daily at mountain tourist destinations. Due to overtourism, tourist-related crimes are on the rise in Uttarakhand's tourist destinations. Due to tourism mismanagement, Uttarakhand's tourist destinations have lost their capacity to absorb the demand. Uncontrolled tourism has crippled the mountain infrastructure. The influx of tourists has clogged most of the mountain's motorable roads with two-wheeled and four-wheeled vehicles. People are facing hours of traffic jams. A one-hour journey in the mountains is taking ten hours. The entire mountain is plagued by traffic congestion and traffic jams. The daily activities of local residents are severely affected. Excessive mass tourism has created physical, environmental, and social problems in the mountains. The influx of tourists beyond the carrying capacity has increased conflict between hosts and guests. Uncontrolled tourism is being promoted in Uttarakhand without balancing demand and supply. This requires proper management and planned tourism based on local resources. When local residents lack roads to walk on, If roads are blocked, basic amenities are lacking, and tourism is promoted while ignoring the daily needs and amenities of local people, there is a risk that local people will develop hostility towards tourists. This unplanned development of tourism is completely ignoring the aspirations of local people. A well-planned tourism system requires an understanding of local capabilities. To prevent overcrowding from becoming a physical and social burden on local residents, it is essential to control the number of tourists based on the carrying capacity of tourist destinations. Overtourism creates hostility among locals towards tourists, a situation that is not conducive to tourism enterprises. Ensuring the number of tourists is essential to maintain the popularity and commercial value of Uttarakhand's tourist destinations. Only through cordial relations and cooperation with local residents can the tourism industry be made sustainable and long-lasting. Local people will cooperate only if tourism does not disrupt their daily routine and provides them with economic benefits. To ensure a sustainable tourism industry in Uttarakhand, there is a need to effectively curb uncontrolled tourism and directly link tourism activities to the livelihoods of local people. Without this, positive and cordial relationships between host and guest cannot be established.

Editorial

On India and curbing drug abuse

India is located between two major drug-producing regions: Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran to the west and Myanmar, Thailand, and Laos to the east. While the West has historically dominated heroin production, the International Narcotics Control Board has said Myanmar has become the world's leading source of illicit opium while East and Southeast Asia remain major sources of methamphetamine. Officials have said drugs are being received at Gujarat, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu via maritime routes. Similarly, some drugs are produced domestically using illegally diverted pharmaceutical ingredients, aided by the fact that individuals possessing small quantities of heroin can attract up to six months' imprisonment, whereas drugmakers that cannot account for lakhs of doses often face only slaps on the wrist. The rise of Myanmar, where the territory under ethnic armed organisations is expanding, as a key source is also troubling since it shares a border with India. The Narcotics Control Bureau has noted a dramatic surge in the use of drones to smuggle drugs across borders, especially over Punjab. Traffickers are organising over the darknet and using cryptocurrencies. The pillars of India's response thus aim to keep the enforcement regime from being out-innovated and improve regulatory certainty. States are trying to adopt a 'whole of society' approach recognising the public health and social dimensions. However, India needs to do more. Physical abuse and forced detoxification are frequently reported from many private centres. Punjab has an extensive network of de addiction centres providing opioid substitution therapy, and some northeastern States to a secondary extent, but most large States have much less access relative to need. Most Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts are located in urban areas whereas the highest density of addicts in Punjab are in border villages and rural pockets. Likewise, relapse is often treated as a moral failure and many addicts avoid government centres fearing social ostracisation, particularly in rural North India.

Are Prime Minister Modi's foreign visits financially beneficial for India

(Saurabh Varshney)
Prime Minister Narendra Modi's foreign visits have not merely been formal diplomatic engagements; they have also elevated India's global profile, economic interests, and strategic influence to new heights. Since assuming office in 2014 and ending in June 2026, Prime Minister Modi has undertaken nearly 100 foreign trips, visiting 78 countries. This statistic itself is a testament to India's active presence on the world stage over the past decade. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's foreign visits have been at the center of Indian politics and diplomacy for the past decade. Supporters view these visits as a symbol of India's growing global reputation, while critics view them as excessive publicity-driven and expensive diplomacy. Consequently, the question naturally arises: have these visits actually yielded tangible benefits for India? India's foreign policy today is no longer limited to border security, but has also become a vehicle for expanding trade, investment, energy security, technology, defense cooperation, and global influence. During his tenure, Prime Minister Modi has strived to reorient relations with the United States, Europe, the Gulf, Africa, and countries in the Indian Ocean region. His recent visit to Seychelles, a beautiful island nation located in the Indian Ocean, is considered significant in terms of maritime security, the blue economy, and strengthening India's strategic role in the Indian Ocean region. The greatest benefits of these visits are visible in the economic sector. Increased engagement with global companies has attracted investment in India. India has opened up new opportunities in the digital economy, semiconductor, artificial intelligence, and manufacturing sectors. In recent years, several global companies have announced major investments in India, which is expected to boost employment and industrial development. India's strategic position has also become stronger than before. India is strengthening its presence in the Indian Ocean region and expanding defense and maritime cooperation with small island nations. The handover of an Indian-built patrol vessel to Seychelles is part of this policy. India's acceptance on international platforms has also increased. Many countries have supported India's global role, and India is being seen as an emerging superpower. India's bid for permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council is also receiving support from various countries. However, the success of foreign visits cannot be judged solely by the number of receptions and agreements reached. It is also important to see how many agreements are implemented, how much investment actually comes in, and how much benefit the common citizens of the country receive from them. In some cases, trade disputes, global tensions, and geopolitical challenges also remain before India. In the modern world order, active diplomacy is essential for any emerging power. Prime Minister Modi's foreign visits have strengthened India's international profile, forged new partnerships, and positioned India more influentially in global decision-making. However, the true measure of these visits will be their positive transformational role in the country's economy, employment, security, and the lives of ordinary citizens. The ultimate objective of foreign policy should be the fulfillment of national interests. If foreign visits are benefiting India in the form of investment, technology, energy security, and strategic power, they should be viewed not merely from a political perspective but as part of a broader strategy for national development. India's growing global role will depend on this balanced and result-oriented diplomacy. In the middle of the article, "Seychelles Visit: A New Direction for Cooperation and Strategic Partnership in the Indian Ocean" Relations between India and Seychelles are not limited to diplomatic formalities but are based on shared maritime interests, security cooperation, and shared aspirations for development. The visit to Seychelles will not only elevate bilateral relations between the two countries to new heights but also strengthen the shared goal of peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indian Ocean region. The Indian Ocean has become a major hub for global trade, energy supplies, and strategic competition. A large portion of world trade passes through this sea route. Consequently, the security and stability of this region is crucial not only for the coastal countries but also for the entire global economy. Seychelles, despite being a small island nation, holds a crucial position in the maritime security landscape of the Indian Ocean. India has always prioritized cooperation, trust, and shared development in the Indian Ocean region through its policy of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region). Under this policy, India has continuously developed partnerships with Seychelles in areas such as defense, maritime surveillance, coast guard cooperation, capacity building, and disaster management. Cooperation between the two countries has also proven crucial in combating piracy, illegal fishing, smuggling, and other maritime crimes. The visit to Seychelles signals that India views its relations with its neighbors and friendly countries not only from a strategic perspective, but also recognizes them as reliable development partners. There are vast possibilities for cooperation in areas such as health, education, digital connectivity, renewable energy, and the blue economy. Particularly in the blue economy, both countries can play a significant role in the sustainable use of marine resources and environmental protection. At a time when global power activity in the Indian Ocean region is increasing, strengthening ties between India and Seychelles are essential for regional balance and collective security. This partnership is not a means of competition, but an effort to strengthen an ecosystem based on cooperation, trust, and shared interests. India's role is emerging as a reliable friend and development partner in addressing the development challenges of small island states and the threats of climate change. The visit to Seychelles will further strengthen the relationship between the two countries. It will give new impetus to maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean region and make significant progress towards realizing the shared vision of a secure, peaceful, and prosperous Indian Ocean. In the current global situation, such partnerships will prove to be the foundation of regional stability, economic progress, and long-term peace. (The author is a senior journalist, thinker, and political theorist.)

(Brainstorming) Seychelles' highest civilian honour named after Modi

(Sanat Jain)
Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded the Seychelles' highest civilian honor, the Guardian of the Blue Horizon, during his visit to the country. The Indian Prime Minister was there to attend the Seychelles' National Day celebrations as the chief guest. This makes PM Modi the first Indian Prime Minister to be honored with the highest civilian honors of 34 countries. A cascade of controversies surrounding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit and this honor is also unfolding in India. Seychelles is a tax haven, with a population of only 110,000. It is Africa's smallest island, with a total area of 459 square kilometers. It is considered a prosperous country, but its economy is primarily a tax haven. It is recognized worldwide for its fisheries, tourism, and financial services. Barely 7,000 to 8,000 Indians live here. Of these, approximately 2,000 Indians have acquired citizenship in recent years. The remaining Indians are born here. This country's name also appeared in the Panama Papers leak. At that time, it also included the names of Indian citizens who had deposited their black money there. After the central government changed in 2014, it was believed that the government would make special efforts to bring back black money. The Modi government has included the names of those involved in the Panama Papers leak. Black money was a major election issue in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. At that time, Narendra Modi promised to bring back black money stashed abroad. He also said that every family would receive 15 lakh rupees. The Modi government made no effort to bring back black money deposited by Indians in countries like Seychelles. On the contrary, questions have been raised from time to time about the way money from tax haven countries has been invested in India's stock market and businesses. Vinod Adani's name also surfaced in this matter. SEBI and the government have kept this matter on hold. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to such a small country, and his nearly three-day stay, has become a topic of discussion in India. The Indian government maintains that Seychelles is part of the Indian Ocean. Despite being a small island in the ocean, it holds significant strategic and maritime trade importance for India. The Indian government has been giving Seychelles undue importance over the past few years. Numerous allegations have surfaced regarding the Panama Papers leaks and investments in the stock market. The Indian government has maintained silence on these issues. The Modi government faces numerous challenges in India. The issue of donations and offerings for the Ram Temple in Ayodhya is currently at its peak. The monsoon session is just days away. The Janata Party's movement has begun. The opposition is aggressive, and a cabinet reshuffle is imminent. In such a situation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Seychelles has become controversial. The spelling error in the highest honor conferred on him and the fact that a new honor is being conferred for the first time have become a topic of discussion in the political arena. Various concerns are being expressed that this visit to a small tax haven country could create difficulties for Prime Minister Modi in the future. It is impossible for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to suffer any losses at any level, no matter what he does. The number of people opposing Prime Minister Narendra Modi is significant. Such protests are frequent. Prime Minister Modi pays no attention to them. It is unlikely that the controversy being created over the Seychelles visit will cause any harm to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Delhi Cabinet Approves EV Policy To Transition To Zero-Emission Transport By 2030

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi government has approved an ambitious electric vehicle (EV) policy. As per the new policy, EV cars priced up to 30 lakh rupees have been exempted from registration fees and road taxes. The new policy also offers a 1 lakh rupees incentive for purchasing new EVs while scrapping old vehicles, and mandates that only electric two-wheelers can be registered starting April 2028. Set for a phased four-year rollout starting from 1st of July, the ambitious framework commits a massive fiscal outlay of 15 thousand



crore rupees to completely transition the national capital toward zero-emission transit by 31st March 2030.

Addressing a press conference in New Delhi, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said that the policy focuses entirely on electric vehicles, specifically zero-emission vehicles with the ultimate goal of gradually transforming Delhi into a pollution-free city for the benefit of its residents. She said that the government has devised a comprehensive plan to execute this in phases over the next four years. Ms Gupta said that

the government is planning to invest 8 thousand crore rupees in creating EV infrastructure and waiving road taxes year-on-year. She added

that in total, the people of Delhi will receive benefits worth approximately 15 thousand crore rupees through this policy.

Before The Blaze, What The Firemen Fought

New Delhi, (GNS): The Hauz Rani blaze was not the first challenge the firefighters faced when rushing to the bed-and-breakfast on Wednesday morning. It was the rush-hour traffic. As the fire tenders drove out, they were swallowed by the merciless morning traffic. The crews wrestled with gridlock and frustrated motorists at several intersections. Some refused to yield space to the fire engines, others were simply paralysed themselves. As they neared the spot, a new challenge confronted them.

Malviya Nagar hotel fire: Death toll rises to 22 after foreign national dies during treatment

New Delhi, (GNS): The death toll in the Malviya Nagar bed and breakfast fire tragedy has risen to 22 after a foreign national died while undergoing treatment on Sunday.

The victim was from Nigeria.

The incident took place on June 3 at the Flourish Inn hotel, where a major fire broke out, killing 21 people and injuring several others.

Meanwhile, Delhi Police on Sunday took accused Keshav Negi, who has been arrested in connection with the case, to the incident site as part of efforts to reconstruct the sequence of events.

Negi, who worked as a cook at the hotel, was earlier arrested in connection with the fire. Police said he was taken to the spot for investigation purposes.

Earlier, officials had alleged that Negi's negligence may have contributed to the incident. Investigators have also detained several others as part of the ongoing probe.

Preliminary findings suggest multiple fire safety lapses and serious violations in the building's safety arrangements.

On Saturday, the Saket court remanded Keshav Negi to two days of police custody after he was produced before Judicial Magistrate First Class Bhanu Pratap Singh. Police had sought custodial interrogation for further investigation.

Hotel owner Lovkesh Bajaj, associated with Flourish Stays in Malviya Nagar, is also in police custody in connection with the case.

During the hearing, Delhi Police told the court that custodial interrogation was necessary for the investigation. Officials also indicated that the fire may have been caused due to a leakage of cooking gas.

MCOCA chargesheet against traffic extortion syndicate, assets worth rs 10cr attached

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Police crime branch has filed a chargesheet under MCOCA against an extortion syndicate that controlled vehicle movement and harassed traffic police personnel. Crime proceeds and assets worth over Rs 10 crore have been attached, sources said.

The syndicate used hidden cameras, manipulated videos and made up false complaints to extort money. It operated a highly organised "parallel system" of traffic enforcement that targeted commercial and private vehicle owners, the chargesheet said.

The gang, busted by a team led by DCP Sanjeev Yadav, sold unauthorised stickers and distinct keyrings to drivers for Rs 2,000 to Rs 5,000 a month, guaranteeing them immunity from police fines and illegal passage during restricted "No-Entry" hours.

To enforce this protection and ensure compliance, gang members filmed traffic police personnel on duty. These videos were edited and used to target the personnel. The gang threatened to upload the videos on social media to blackmail and harass the policemen.

This forced traffic personnel to release the syndicate's "protected" vehicles without penalty. Traffic department insiders allegedly colluded with the syndicate. The racket was allegedly operating for nearly a decade, police said.

French, German Find Themselves Out Of Class

New Delhi, (GNS): For years, foreign languages such as French, German, Spanish and Japanese have occupied a distinct place in Delhi schools, offering students a window to global education and careers. But as schools begin implementing the three-language formula under National Education Policy (NEP), many of these programmes are being scaled back, leaving teachers worried about their future and parents questioning the sudden shift in language choices.

For many, the concern goes beyond a change in timetable. It is about the viability of a profession built over years of specialised training and international certification. A French teacher at a private school said there was little clarity on what lay ahead. "We have spent years acquiring specialised degrees, certifica-



tions and training to teach foreign languages. Right now, schools are adjusting us by assigning classes in lower grades or involving us in enrichment activities, but nobody can tell us what will happen after a year," she said.

Teachers fear these arrangements may only be temporary. One teacher noted that the real impact would become visible over the next few years as fewer students enter the foreign language stream.

"If schools stop introducing foreign languages in Class VI, when these students reach Class IX, there may be no foreign language subjects left in the mainstream curriculum. Foreign language teachers could slowly be pushed out of the system," the teacher said. "Currently we are being adjusted, but adjustment is not the same as job security."

According to NEP, with effect from July 1, the study of three languages (R1, R2, R3) shall be compulsory for Class IX, with at least two languages being native Indian languages. A CBSE official said students who wish to study a foreign language might do so as the third language only if the other two languages were native Indian languages, or as an additional fourth language.

Govt considers driving licence validity till 50

New Delhi, (GNS): Govt is looking at extending the validity period of driving license (DL) from the current 20 years till the time DL holder turns 50, and making the process of transfer of vehicle ownership and renewal of permits completely online, moves which are aimed at eliminating hassles faced by people.

Media has learnt that road transport ministry is working on both proposals and may roll out these for "ease of living" in near future.



Officials said state govts' revenues won't be impacted as the charges for obtaining and renewal of DL can be collected online without visiting any RTO. "Second, once you have a system to give negative points to drivers for violations and link it to suspension or cancellation of their license, bad drivers will be reined in....," said an official.

She refused to sell, asked to vacate How multi-crore Bengal property drove couple to kill DU professor

New Delhi, (GNS): A multi-crore ancestral property in West Bengal allegedly became the motive behind the murder of Delhi University assistant professor Debosmita Paul, police said on Sunday, after arresting a couple from Bardhaman and apprehending their minor son for the brutal killing in east Delhi's Vasundhara Enclave.

The child was brought so they could "blend in".

According to investigators, the family had been residing since 2023 in an ancestral property in Bardhaman that had fallen to Paul's share through a family settlement. The couple allegedly wanted

to purchase the property and had repeatedly approached her with offers. They claimed that while Paul's siblings were keen on the sale, the 49-year-old professor remained firmly opposed and repeatedly asked the tenants to vacate.

"She refused to part with her maternal grandfather's legacy and became the primary obstacle in their plans to acquire the property. They allegedly harboured deep resentment," an officer said. Police are verifying the claims.

Mobile numbers linked to Aadhaar credentials, CCTV helped nab killers

Police said the dispute escalated after Paul issued a final

warning asking the family to vacate the disputed property. Investigators believe the couple then conspired to eliminate her and began planning the crime.

As part of the alleged conspiracy, the suspects travelled from Bardhaman to Delhi along with their minor child in an apparent attempt to blend in as an ordinary family. Police said they reached Delhi on June 3 and checked into a guest house in Dallupura.

During verification of guest records, investigators found that the couple had used Aadhaar cards belonging to unrelated individuals - identified as residents from Bihar and West Bengal - to conceal their identities.

Fire service still using 1969 era communication network

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi gov't has flagged serious shortcomings in the communication network of Delhi Fire Service (DFS), revealing that the department continues to operate on a wireless communication architecture introduced more than five decades ago for a city with just 17 fire stations, even though the capital has expanded to 71 stations and a vastly larger urban landscape. The gaps were highlighted during an internal review meeting chaired by Delhi home minister Ashish Sood following the recent Hauz Rani fire, which claimed 21 lives. During the meeting, officials

assessed the preparedness of the fire service and the effectiveness of its communication systems, with Sood saying the existing network could no longer meet

present-day operational requirements. According to official documents, DFS introduced its wireless communication system in 1969 using two Very High Frequency

(VHF) frequencies - 148.525 MHz and 148.725 MHz - along with GM 300 and GP 328 wireless sets. "Since then, no revamp or upgrade of the wireless

frequencies and communication system has been carried out. However, the wireless sets were upgraded from time to time and, currently, Delhi Fire Service is using Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) sets," the document stated.

Officials said the system has failed to keep pace with Delhi's rapid growth. While the number of fire stations has increased over four-fold, the city has also seen a sharp rise in high-rise buildings, dense urban clusters, underground spaces and large commercial complexes. The review found that the existing network has exceeded its intended

capacity. It noted that VHF communication relies heavily on line of sight, meaning radio signals work best when there is a clear path between transmission points.

In a dense urban environment, buildings and underground structures can obstruct signals and create coverage gaps, affecting communication between the fire control room, fire stations, field units and firefighters at incident sites. Officials said these shortcomings can hamper emergency response, a concern that has become more significant as Delhi continues to record dozens of fire-related deaths every year.

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Divisional Railway Manager, Commercial Department, NFR section Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008				
Work - Display of Advertisement through various NFR media over Mumbai Division				
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MMCT-ADVT-26-26		13-07-26, 15:00:00		
Sr. No.	LOT NO.	LOCATION / AREA	DAYS	CLOSE DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION
1	ADVT-BCT-ST-OH-498-26-1 (Advertising - Out of Home)	Bulk advertising rights for display of advertisement through wall painting at Surat station on Water Tank, total admeasuring area 1539 sq.ft. for a period of 3 years.	1096	13-07-26 15:30:00
2	ADVT-BCT-KHAR-OSN-479-26-1 (Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk Advertisement Rights for Glow Lollipop with seating arrangement at KHAR station, on deck for a period of 3 years.	1096	13-07-26 15:40:00
Contact details:- Landline no.:- 02267644212, Email ID:- acmadvtgct@gmail.com				
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Before The Blaze, What The Firemen Fought

New Delhi ,(GNS): The Hauz Rani blaze was not the first challenge the firefighters faced when rushing to bedand-breakfast on Wednesday morning. It the rush-hour traffic.

As the fire tenders drove out, they were swallowed by the merciless morning traffic. The crews wrestled with gridlock and frustrated motorists at several intersections. Some refused to yield space to the fire engines, others were simply paralysed themselves.

As they neared the spot, a new challenge confronted them. The narrow lanes surrounding the B&B were choked by haphazardly parked cars. Onlookers had gathered and parked their



vehicles to stare at the unfolding tragedy.

Overhead, a web of dangling electrical wires threatened to snag the trucks, making it nearly impossible to position heavy vehicles near the burning building.

For Surrender Singh (47) and Kamal Dagar (36), both posted at the Bhikaji Cama Place fire station, the chaotic

morning was a stark contrast to how their day had been moments before the alarm went off. One was ending an exhausting 24-hour shift. The other was just settling in.

Minutes later, they were racing towards a tragedy that ultimately claimed 21 lives and required the rescue of 30 others.

Seconds to Spare, Miles to Go

Singh had just completed his round-the-clock duty and was getting ready to head home when the alarm pierced the station walls. "I immediately put on my fire gear, rushed to the fire tender, and took my position

behind the wheel," he said.

For Dagar, the emergency interrupted the quietest moment of his morning. "I had just picked up a glass of milk when the siren went off," Dagar told Media. "I left everything on the table and rushed to the vehicle."

Despite the blaring sirens and flashing beacon lights, the road ahead remained stubbornly blocked.

"Whenever we encountered traffic congestion, the officer in charge leaned out and urged motorists to make way, shouting that it was an emergency," Dagar said. "The siren and beacon lights were on, and we kept pleading with drivers to give us space."

Singh, navigating the

massive fire engine through the chaos, felt the weight of the clock. "At every fire call, there is pressure, and that day was no different. We had to reach the incident site as quickly as possible while driving safely. At times, other motorists fail to follow traffic rules. But the equation is simple. The faster we reach, the more lives we can save."

Fighting from the Ground Up

The crew reached the spot within 20 minutes. By then, thick plumes of black smoke were already visible from several blocks away, and a massive crowd had gathered outside.

"When we arrived, we saw roaring flames and heavy smoke," Singh said. "Our

immediate objective was to control the fire and prevent it from spreading through the building's plastic materials and decorative items. Our absolute priority was to rescue the people trapped inside."

While teams of firefighters ran into the choking smoke to pull survivors out, the two drivers played a critical, high-pressure support role on the ground.

Singh manned the heavy pumping system, ensuring a steady supply of water to the hose lines inside. Dagar continuously regulated the water pressure and sprinted back and forth, ferrying vital rescue equipment from the truck to the firefighters on the front lines.

Delhi Police head constable found dead in car near Rohtak

New Delhi ,(GNS): A Delhi Police head constable was found dead inside his car parked along the Rohtak-Delhi National Highway near Sampla town on Monday morning.

The deceased was identified as Sudhir (35), a resident of Asoda village in Jhajjar district. He was posted at the Adarsh Nagar police station in Delhi.

Vinod Kumar, the investigating officer, said the police received information around 7 am about a body lying inside a parked car near the highway.

"A police team rushed to the spot and found the man dead inside the vehicle. Preliminary investigation suggests that the death may have occurred due to suffocation," Kumar said.

A team of forensic experts also visited the scene and collected evidence.

"The family members have been informed. The body has been sent to a hospital for post-mortem examination, which will help ascertain the exact cause of death," the police added.

Further investigation is under way.



Bengal couple travelled 1,400 km to murder Delhi University assistant professor

New Delhi ,(GNS): The Delhi University assistant professor was murdered allegedly by a family from West Bengal over a long-running property dispute, with the police apprehending a married couple and their minor son, an official said on Sunday.

Debosmita Paul, the assistant professor at Shivaji College, was found dead in her flat at Satyam Apartments in east Delhi's Vasundhara Enclave on June 3.

Police said the accused family had been residing in Paul's ancestral property in Burdwan, West Bengal, since 2023, which had been allotted to her through a family settlement. "The victim had repeatedly asked them to vacate the premises, leading to a prolonged dispute," a senior police officer said.



According to investigators, the victim had recently issued a final warning to the family to vacate the property, after which they allegedly conspired to eliminate her and travelled to Delhi, almost 1,400 kilometres, on June 3 with preparations to execute the crime.

Police said the accused, who were known to the victim, gained entry into the sixth-floor apartment without resistance. Initial investigation pointed to the property dispute as the main motive behind the murder.

Paul had been living alone in the flat after separating from her husband in 2022. During the probe, police also questioned her husband, who currently resides in Bengaluru.

Investigators said CCTV footage from the housing complex showed the accused arriving at the apartment building with their minor son. They were seen moving through the premises while concealing their identities and using the staircase and lifts at different stages.

Police said it has emerged that the accused carried the murder weapon with them and killed Paul inside her residence.

The accused allegedly took several steps to evade detection. CCTV footage showed them changing clothes after the crime and keeping their faces con-

cealed while moving in and around the apartment complex.

After committing the crime, the family hired a taxi and an auto-rickshaw to flee the area. "They travelled to Anand Vihar and then proceeded to New Delhi Railway Station, from where they boarded the Poorva Express at around 5.40 pm on June 3. They reached Burdwan the following day," said the police officer.

The breakthrough came after investigators detained the cab driver who had transported the suspects and analysed ride details to identify the passengers.

Police scrutinised footage and records of nearly 200 visitors who had entered the housing complex on the day of the murder and shortlisted 13 suspects for detailed examination.

Delhi to add 2,800 new e-buses under PM E-DRIVE Scheme

New Delhi ,(GNS): The Delhi Government is set to significantly expand its public transport network with the planned induction of 2,800 air-conditioned low-floor electric buses under the Centre's PM E-DRIVE Scheme, Transport Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh announced on Sunday. The proposed fleet will comprise 1,400 nine-metre and 1,400 twelve-metre electric buses, aimed at improving public transport accessibility across the national capital while strengthening connectivity in underserved and peripheral areas. According to the Transport Department, the decision follows the encouraging performance of nine-



metre electric buses already operating in Delhi, particularly in meeting feeder and local transportation requirements. The new fleet is expected to create a balanced public transport system capable of serving both high-density routes and neighbourhood level connectivity. Highlighting the government's commitment to sustainable mobility, Singh said, "Delhi is com-

mitted to building a cleaner, greener and more efficient public transport system. The planned induction of 2,800 new electric buses will significantly strengthen connectivity, improve commuter convenience and accelerate our transition towards sustainable mobility. This initiative reflects our commitment to providing world class public transport while reducing vehicular emissions across the city." The move forms part of the Delhi Government's larger plan to expand the city's public transport infrastructure and increase the share of zero-emission vehicles. The government aims to grow Delhi's overall bus fleet to nearly 14,000 buses

by 2028-29, ensuring wider service coverage and improved accessibility for commuters. Delhi currently operates nearly 4,300 electric buses, making it one of the largest electric bus fleets in the country. The government plans to increase this number to around 7,500 electric buses by the end of 2026. In the next phase of expansion, the Delhi Government is also pursuing the induction of 3,330 additional electric buses under PM E-DRIVE Phase-II, including 500 seven-metre electric buses designed to strengthen feeder services and last mile connectivity, particularly in residential, rural and underserved areas.

Delhi: Officials told to ensure govt services reach citizens

New Delhi,(GNS): Delhi Water and Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh on Sunday directed officials to strengthen grassroots governance and ensure that government services and welfare schemes reach every eligible citizen.

During a review meeting with Zonal Revenue Officers (ZROs), the minister emphasised the importance of transparency, accountability and citizen-centric administration. He instructed officers to maintain regular contact with residents, understand their concerns and ensure that information about government benefits and services reaches every household.

Stressing the need for



greater public engagement, Singh said officers should not remain confined to their offices but actively work among communities and serve as a bridge between the government and the people.

"Every citizen should know how they can access services. Our officers must work among the people, understand their concerns and resolve issues with honesty and sensitivity," he said.

Green belt, Smart City upgrades: Manesar set for Chandigarh-style makeover

New Delhi,(GNS): Manesar is set for a major urban transformation, with the Municipal Corporation of Manesar (MCM) unveiling plans to develop the city on the lines of Chandigarh's famed landscaped design. The ambitious initiative aims to create greener roads, aesthetically designed roundabouts, improved air quality and smarter civic infrastructure over the next six months.

Under the plan, major roundabouts on roads maintained by the Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) will be redesigned to resemble Chandigarh's iconic traffic circles, known for their lush landscaping and organised urban character. Municipal officials said the revamp was intended to improve both the city's visual appeal and traffic management.

A key component of the project is the development of nearly 35km of green belts across the city. These stretches will be created through public-private partnerships and corporate social responsibility (CSR) funding, with industries operating in the region being encouraged to participate in the city's greening drive. Treated water from sewage treatment plants will be used for irrigation and maintenance of the green corridors, reducing pressure on freshwater resources.

To tackle dust pollution, which remains a major concern in the rapidly industrialising city, the civic body also plans to install anti-smog infrastructure, including anti-smog towers and enhanced dust-control measures.

Why Anime Merch Spending Is Exploding as India Goes Mainstream

New Delhi ,(GNS): Not long ago, owning an anime figurine or a Naruto hoodie in India marked you as part of a small, slightly misunderstood subculture. Today, that same hoodie is streetwear, and the figurine sits on a shelf as a statement of identity. Two trends are driving this shift at once: a global explosion in anime merchandise spending, and the rapid mainstreaming of anime in India. Together, they are reshaping how a generation watches, spends, and expresses itself.

The Global Merch Boom

The numbers behind anime merchandise are striking. According to a



Research and Markets report published via MyAnimeThoughts, the global anime merchandising market was valued at roughly \$11.19 billion in 2025 and is projected to reach \$22.89 billion by 2033, growing at a compound annual rate of about 9.36%. Grand View Research places the 2025 figure even higher, near \$12 billion, with figurines

making up the single largest product category at over 37% of sales.

What changed? Streaming. Platforms like Crunchyroll, Netflix, and Disney+ pushed anime out of niche forums and into the global mainstream, and merchandise quickly became a major revenue stream for studios and licensees. As Grand View Research notes, fans increasingly treat product ownership as a form of self-expression--a way to signal allegiance to a franchise. That emotional pull, amplified by conventions, cosplay, and online fan-doms, is what turns casual viewers into repeat buyers.

How Anime Went Mainstream in India

India is now one of the most important growth stories in this global picture. Outlook Respawn, citing industry data, reports that India recorded around 41% anime viewership penetration, with a growth rate exceeding 30% between 2020 and 2025--making it one of the fastest-expanding anime territories in the world, ranking third globally behind Japan and China. Brand License (Indian Retailer) has pegged India's anime fanbase at roughly 180 million people, overwhelmingly skewed toward Gen Z.