



Cloudburst in Jammu & Kashmir, Floods Ravage Arunachal Pradesh

Eight Killed in Lightning Strikes in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar; IMD Predicts Below-Normal Rainfall in July

Bhopal/Jaipur/Lucknow/Patna(GNS):

A cloudburst struck Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir twice on Wednesday morning, triggering flash floods in the Kalagisar area of Bhalesa. Large quantities of debris from the hills washed onto the roads, blocking traffic and disrupting movement.

Meanwhile, Arunachal Pradesh continues to face widespread devastation due to floods and landslides. The death toll has risen to four, with one person killed in a landslide in Sarti village of Anjaw district.

Earlier, three people were swept away in flash floods in Keyi Panyor district. Officials said two people are still missing, while more than 90,000 people



across 28 districts have been affected by the floods. In Madhya Pradesh, three people were killed after

being struck by lightning in Harda and Khargone districts. Four members of the same family suffered burn injuries in Betul, while two youths riding a motorcycle were swept away in the swollen Champa River. In Bihar, five people lost their lives in separate lightning incidents.

In Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh, three people who had gone for a picnic on Tuesday evening were swept away by the strong current of a rain-fed stream. One person died in the incident.

Heavy rainfall has also caused the Rispana River in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, to swell. In view of the rising water level in the Ganga, river rafting in Rishikesh has been suspended until August 31, with the restriction taking effect from Tuesday evening.

Monsoon Reaches 26 States; Rajasthan Still Awaiting Rain The southwest monsoon advanced into Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday after-

noon, taking its coverage to 26 states across the country. Earlier, it had entered Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat on June 24. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast that most parts of the country may receive below-normal rainfall during July.

June Records Fifth Lowest Rainfall Since 1901 According to the IMD, India recorded its fifth lowest June rainfall since 1901. Against the normal rainfall of 165.3 mm, the country received only 99.5 mm, representing a 39.8% deficit. The weather department said the southwest monsoon is likely to advance into Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and the remaining parts of Jammu & Kashmir over the next two

to three days. It attributed this year's weak monsoon performance to the impact of El Niño.

Nearly 90 Million Indian Children at Risk from Heatwaves: UNICEF

According to UNICEF's Children's Climate Risk Report 2026, nearly 89.3 million children in India live in areas highly vulnerable to heatwaves.

The report states that 99.7% of children in India are exposed to at least one climate-related hazard. It further notes that 96.2% of children live in drought-prone regions, while 92% are exposed to extreme heat, with temperatures exceeding 35°C.

UNICEF has described the escalating climate crisis and its impact on children as a matter of serious concern.

117 Eminent Indians and Pakistanis Write to Modi and Shehbaz, Urge Resumption of Dialogue

Call for Ending Hostility and Restoring Bilateral Relations



New Delhi/Islamabad, (GNS):

A group of 117 prominent personalities from India and Pakistan has written a joint letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, urging them to take concrete steps toward improving bilateral relations. According to media reports, the signatories appealed to both leaders to choose the path of dialogue over confrontation to foster peace, stability and development in South Asia.

The letter states that the continuing tensions between the two neighbouring countries are adversely affecting ordinary citizens, particularly the younger generation. It emphasizes the need to revive communication and rebuild trust between the two nations. The 117 signatories include former government officials, political leaders and members of civil society from both countries.

From India, 61 individuals have signed the letter, including former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Ministers Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, and RJD MP Manoj Jha.

From Pakistan, 56 prominent personalities, including former Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri, have endorsed the appeal.

Centre Takes Tough Stand on Digital Security

Government Warns of Action Against Social Media Platforms Like WhatsApp and Telegram Over Security Lapses

New Delhi(GNS): The Central Government has adopted a tough stance on digital security, warning that strict action will be taken against messaging and social media platforms such as WhatsApp and Telegram if their features are found to facilitate cyber fraud or other digital crimes.

While the rapid expansion of digital services has made governance, examinations and public welfare schemes more efficient and transparent, it has also significantly increased the risk of cyber-crime. With government



services becoming increasingly digital, cyber security has now emerged as one of the Centre's top priorities.

Senior government officials, however, acknowledged that no digital system in the world can ever be 100 per cent secure.

Telegram Action Cited as an Example

Officials referred to the recent restrictions imposed on Telegram during the re-examination of a national recruitment test, when the government temporarily limited certain platform features to curb the spread of misinformation, paper leak rumours and examination-related fraud.

During that period, Telegram's message editing feature was also temporarily disabled as part of the security measures.

A senior government official

said that as digital infrastructure expands and more data is stored centrally, the risk of cyberattacks also rises. Therefore, security safeguards must be integrated into digital systems from the very beginning rather than introduced only after a breach has occurred.

Warning Issued to WhatsApp

The government also made it clear that if any new feature introduced by a messaging platform leads to increased fraud or misuse, the company concerned will be held accountable.

Need to Build a Generation That Fulfils Its Responsibility Towards the Nation and Society: Yogi Adityanath

Launches Second Phase of Statewide 'School Chalo Abhiyan-2026'

Saharanpur(GNS):Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday launched the second phase of the statewide 'School Chalo Abhiyan-2026' from Saharanpur, emphasizing that education is the greatest strength of an individual, society and the nation. The Chief Minister arrived in Saharanpur about one hour and fifteen minutes behind schedule. His aircraft landed at Sarsawa Airport, from where he proceeded directly to the event venue. Addressing the gathering, Yogi Adityanath said quality education is the foundation for producing responsible citizens, teachers, administrators, doctors, engineers and public representatives. He described education not merely as a means of acquiring knowledge but as the cornerstone of nation-building. He said the objective is to prepare a new generation capable of contributing confidently to society and the country's development. With this vision, the 'School Chalo Abhiyan' was launched in 2017 under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Despite continuous rainfall since morning, a large number of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers, public representatives and local residents gathered at the Maharaj Singh Degree College ground on Janata Road to attend the programme.



Temple Donation Chest Recovered from Accused Avinash's Residence in Ram Temple Theft Case

Chest Marked 'Ram Rajya Fund' with QR Code SIT Gets 15 More Days for Probe

Ayodhya(GNS):Police have recovered a donation chest bearing the inscription "Ram Rajya Fund" from the Ayodhya-based yoga centre of Avinash Shukla, one of the accused arrested in the Ram Temple donation theft case. The chest also had a Paytm QR code affixed to it. A video of the police raid, conducted on June 28, surfaced on Wednesday morning.

Meanwhile, Mahant Nritya Gopal Das Maharaj, President of the Ram Temple Trust, has been admitted to

Medanta Hospital in Lucknow after his health deteriorated. Hospital Director Dr. Rakesh Kapoor said the Mahant was admitted on June 29 after complaining of breathing difficulties and a urinary tract infection. The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the case has been granted an additional 15 days to complete its investigation.

On Tuesday, police questioned all eight accused lodged in Faizabad Jail, with Avinash Shukla undergoing



the longest interrogation. During the two-hour questioning, investigators focused

on the 20 lakh in cash and jewellery recovered on June 5.

Around 400 private security personnel deployed at the Ram Temple complex have also come under scrutiny. Investigators are examining their duty rosters, CCTV footage and entry-exit records. According to sources, the private security agency entrusted with the temple's security is owned by a former Bihar Member of Parliament. The Temple Trust reportedly spends ?1 crore every month on private security, amounting to ?12 crore annually.

Yoga Centre Employee Says Avinash Joined About One-and-a-Half Years Ago

Shivsundar Lal, an employee at the yoga centre, said that brothers Avinash Shukla and Abhishek Shukla had been associated with the centre for a considerable period. He said Abhishek had been living at the centre for nearly 10 years, serving under the revered guru and assisting in his care. Avinash, he added, came to live with his brother at the centre around one and a half years ago.

(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 small-

est 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 gov-

ernment 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.

Editorial

On the latest IIP dataset

India's latest industrial growth figures show that, contrary to global trends and overall perception, the country's industrial output is getting stronger. Notably, the data show a quick bounce-back in industrial performance after the initial hit from the West Asia crisis. However, the new data also raise some important concerns about the composition of the growth, the systems behind the recent data upgrades, and the need for further improvements. Growth in the Index of Industrial Production hit a five-month high of 5.1% in May 2026, up from the 4.9% growth seen in April, which itself was a substantial improvement over the performance in March — the first full month after the West Asia crisis began. Within this, the manufacturing sector grew at a relatively robust 5.5% in May, albeit slower than in April. One view is that this is due to a revival in domestic consumption, since the consumer durables and non-durables sectors also grew at multi-month highs. Consumer durables, especially, have done well in April and May. However, the contrary argument is that domestic demand is in fact not doing well, and it is export growth that is leading to higher production. This is bolstered by the fact that GST revenues from domestic transactions have grown slower over the last six months than in 2025-26 and the year before that. Merchandise exports, on the other hand, hit a four-year high in April followed by an all-time high in May. It would certainly be welcome if India's industry has global demand to fill, but the fact that more of this demand is not coming from within the country is a cause for concern. The economy is already hostage to world events.

The May IIP data were also accompanied by a note from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) stating that it had made a major change to the methodology for computing growth for some sectors. It had abandoned the Wholesale Price Index as its chosen deflator to estimate the value of production in favour of the new Producer Price Index.

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. 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

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.

Over-tourism may ruin the tourism industry

(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 enter-

prises. 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.

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).