



Bhopal/Jaipur/Patna/Ahmedabad/Mumbai, (GNS): Five-storey building collapses in Jabalpur; Delhi-Jaipur Highway caves in amid heavy rains

Surat in Gujarat received 18 inches of rainfall within 36 hours, breaking the 85-year-old record of 18 inches set in July 1941. The torrential rain

triggered severe flooding across the city, submerging one floor of a shopping mall and sweeping away vehicles on waterlogged roads. Almost every part of the city was affected by flooding.

Nine people lost their lives in Surat due to electrocution, falling trees, and lightning strikes. Around 3,400 people

Surat Breaks 85-Year Rainfall Record 18 Inches of Rain in 36 Hours



stranded in flood-affected areas have been shifted to safer locations. Schools, colleges, and Anganwadi centres in Surat and nearby Navsari have been closed, and residents have been

advised to step out only in emergencies.

Five-Storey Building Collapses in Jabalpur; Lightning Kills Three in Chittorgarh

A five-storey building collapsed in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, on Tuesday evening following heavy rains.

In Jalore, Rajasthan, a jeep overturned in a river, while in Chittorgarh, three members of the same family were killed after being struck by lightning.

Delhi-Jaipur Highway Damaged; Massive Traffic Jam in Gurugram Heavy rainfall caused a section of the Delhi-Jaipur National Highway (NH-48) to cave in, resulting in a 10-kilometre-long traffic jam. A school bus also got stranded in a drain due to waterlogging.

Several areas of Gurugram were submerged under up to two feet of water. Police have

appealed to companies to allow employees to work from home over the next few days to reduce traffic congestion.

Floods and Landslides Affect 94,000 People in Arunachal Pradesh

In Arunachal Pradesh, heavy rains have triggered floods and landslides, affecting more than 94,000 people across 26 districts. Four people have died, 21 have been injured, and two women remain missing.

Meanwhile, authorities have ordered the closure of schools and Anganwadi centres in Belagavi and Shivamogga districts of Karnataka on Wednesday due to heavy rainfall.

Jammu & Kashmir: Lashkar Commander Zakir Ahmad Killed in Encounter



Srinagar, (GNS): Included in the hit list prepared after the Pahalgam attack; operation in Shopian continued for five days

A top commander of the Pakistan-based terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (TRF), Zakir Ahmad Gani, was killed in an encounter with security forces in Jammu & Kashmir's Shopian district. Security forces recovered his body on Wednesday after a five-day-long anti-terror operation.

The operation began on Saturday evening after intelligence inputs indicated the presence of terrorists hiding in the Chanapora area. While Zakir Gani was eliminated, another terrorist, Latif Bhat, is suspected to still be hiding in the area.

Zakir Gani was among the 14 most-wanted terrorists identified by security agencies following the Pahalgam terror attack. The joint operation was carried out by the Jammu & Kashmir Police Special Operations Group (SOG), the Indian Army's Rashtriya Rifles, and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

Former CM Kejriwal's Official Residence to be Converted into State Guest House

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi government likely to approve proposal soon; facility to accommodate ministers and officials

The Delhi Government is preparing to convert the official residence of former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, located on Flagstaff Road in Civil Lines, into a State Guest House. According to official sources, the proposal is in its final stages and is expected to receive government approval soon.

Bungalow No. 6 will be developed on the lines of other state guest houses and will be used to accommodate visiting ministers and government officials. Guests staying at the facility will be required to pay prescribed charges.

The proposal also includes the development of parking facilities, a waiting hall, and other essential amenities. However, final approval from higher authorities is still awaited.

Bungalow Currently Vacant; Maintained by 10 Staff Members

Sources said the bungalow is currently lying vacant. Around 10 staff members have been deployed for its upkeep, carrying out routine cleaning and maintaining appliances such as refrigerators, air conditioners, and other equipment.

PM Modi Visits Indonesia's Largest Hindu Temple Prambanan



Jakarta, (GNS): Says he has always been blessed with opportunities to connect with Lord Shiva; 1,000-year-old temple features Ramayana carvings

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday visited Prambanan Temple, Indonesia's largest

Hindu temple, located in Yogyakarta. Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto accompanied him during the visit. The two leaders jointly inaugurated the temple's conservation and restoration project, after which the Prime Minister offered prayers.



Addressing the gathering at the temple complex, PM Modi said, "In one form or another, I have always been fortunate to remain connected with Lord Shiva. After Somnath, Kashi Vishwanath, Kedarnath Dham, and Mahakal Temple in Ujjain, I feel blessed to

contribute to the development of Prambanan Temple as well. Wednesday marked the third and final day of PM Modi's visit to Indonesia. He is scheduled to leave for Melbourne, Australia, later in the evening. His Australia visit will continue from July 8 to July 10.

Murder Case Filed Against Gangster Lawrence Bishnoi in US; Chargesheet Submitted

Jalandhar, (GNS): \$50,000 reward announced for Goldy Brar; charges allege conspiracy in Nijjar killing in Canada

The United States has filed a murder case and several other criminal charges against jailed Indian gangster Lawrence Bishnoi and gangster Jaggu Bhagwanpuria. According to US authorities, Washington is expected to seek their extradition from India.

The announcement came after a major crackdown on international crime networks linked to India across the United States, Canada, and Europe. US investigative agencies, in coordination with Canadian authorities, carried out Operation Hard Ball across seven countries, leading to the arrest of 24 suspects. Subsequently, a federal



chargesheet was filed against 37 individuals in a US federal court.

The chargesheet accuses Lawrence Bishnoi, Goldy Brar, Rohit Godara, and others of conspiring to assassinate Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada in 2023. If convicted, the accused could face more than 10 years in prison. This is the first time Lawrence Bishnoi has been formally linked to the Nijjar murder case. According to the chargesheet, Bishnoi allegedly continued to operate his criminal network while lodged in an Indian prison.

Devotees to Wait Two More Months for Kailash Darshan from Indian Territory

Pithoragarh, (GNS): Inner Line Permits to Resume After Two Months; Weather at View Point Changes Daily

Devotees wishing to have a glimpse of the sacred Mount Kailash from Indian territory will have to wait for about two more months, as Inner Line Permits (ILPs) are currently not being issued.

According to the district administration, once permits are resumed around September, pilgrims visiting Adi Kailash and Om Parvat will be allowed to travel to Old Lipulekh, situated at an altitude of 17,000 feet, from where they can view Mount Kailash while

remaining within Indian territory.

At the beginning of this year's pilgrimage season, a large number of devotees had already visited Old Lipulekh for Kailash Darshan. However, the Army later imposed temporary restrictions on movement in the area due to adverse weather conditions and security concerns. After discussions between the administration and the Army, limited access was granted to tourists, but regular devotees are currently unable to visit as ILPs remain suspended.

Old Lipulekh Located at 17,000 Feet
Old Lipulekh lies near



the India-China border at an elevation of around 17,000 feet above sea level. The high-altitude location experiences rapidly changing weather, and dense clouds and fog often obstruct the view of Mount Kailash.

Although a motorable road has been

constructed up to Old Lipulekh, pilgrims must climb a steep 300-metre stretch on foot to reach the final viewpoint. Due to low oxygen levels and the difficult terrain, vehicles often stop before reaching the summit, forcing visitors to walk nearly 1.5 kilometres.

Family Attacked After Punjab Police's 'Operation Prahar'; Nihangs Step In



Ludhiana, (GNS): Nihangs warn of action in their own style; accused families flee and lock their homes

The anti-drug drive 'Operation Prahar' launched by Punjab Police has triggered tensions in a village in

Ludhiana, where a family was allegedly attacked a day after a police raid. The family claimed they were assaulted by suspected drug traffickers who believed they had informed the police about their activities.

The victims also



alleged that when they approached the local police station to lodge a complaint, they were instead threatened with legal action against themselves.

Following the incident, the family sought the support of Nihang Sikhs. On

Monday.

Nihangs arrived in Chaunta village, where, according to local residents, the houses of families accused of selling the synthetic drug chitta were found locked, with the occupants having fled.

Pakistan Cargo Plane Goes Missing Near Karachi

Karachi, (GNS): Navigation system reportedly failed; five crew members on board, search operation underway in Arabian Sea

A Pakistani cargo aircraft went missing on Tuesday night shortly before reaching Karachi. The aircraft was en route from Sharjah to Karachi and had five crew members on board.

According to the Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA), the pilot informed Air Traffic Control (ATC) at around 9:18 p.m. that the aircraft was experiencing a navigation system failure. Controllers attempted to guide the aircraft, but communication was lost approximately three minutes later.

The aircraft was last tracked 155 nautical miles (about 287



km) west of Karachi.

Following the loss of contact, Pakistani authorities launched a large-scale search and rescue operation in the Arabian Sea. The Pakistan Navy, Pakistan Air Force, and other emergency agencies are participating in the search.

Officials have not yet confirmed whether the aircraft has crashed or whether there have been any casualties.

If you ask, I will tell you - unless the dead person tells his OTP and password, his funeral will not be held

(Chaitanya Bhatt)

These days, people are increasingly worried about OTPs and passwords. Everywhere, they either provide their password or their OTP. The situation is so bad that if you want to withdraw ten thousand rupees from an ATM at the country's largest State Bank, they first ask for an OTP. So, nowadays, people withdraw five thousand rupees in two installments to avoid having to provide an OTP. Order goods online, and the delivery boy won't deliver the

goods until you provide the OTP. "Brother, we paid, you brought the goods," he said. "You know the address. No neighbors will be staying at home. The only person who will be there is the one who placed the order. No, tell us your OTP first, and only then will the goods be delivered." People are very active on social media these days, obsessed with Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and email, but they want passwords for everything. If you forget your password, you're doomed. Try

as you might, your Facebook, Gmail, Instagram, or WhatsApp won't open. Memorizing lessons in childhood didn't take as much time as memorizing passwords these days. The same is the case with credit cards, debit cards, and ATMs. First, enter the password and then the money will be withdrawn. There are dozens of cards: ATM cards, voter cards, Aadhar cards, driving license cards, vehicle registration cards, Samagra ID cards, PAN cards, employee cards, and

now it has been decided to issue Apaar cards for children as well. A person's wallet is full of cards. There is no guarantee when the government will ask for which card. No one can say anything based on which card it will be declared that you are not an Indian citizen. The situation with OTP will become such that if a lover wants to talk to his girlfriend, she will say, "Tell me your OTP first," and then talk. If a husband wants to romance with his wife, the wife will say, "Tell me your password first or the

OTP." The situation will become such that a patient is about to undergo an operation in the hospital. He is lying on the operating table. The doctor is standing ready with scissors and knife in his hand, but is not performing the operation until the patient tells him his password or OTP. Even if the patient dies, there is no concern for him; the doctor will not touch him until the OTP is received. If you want to board a train, you won't be able to board it without an OTP; if you want to travel by bus, you need

a password; if you want to board a plane, you will have to provide your password or OTP before you can travel. I feel that the day is not far when even the dead at the cremation ground will be asked to provide their OTP or password first; only then will the funeral be conducted, otherwise the body will remain lying there; it is possible that the family may perform the thirteenth day rituals or even the death anniversary, but the funeral cannot be conducted without an OTP or password.

Editorial

On the Taj Mahal

In 2015, a civil suit sought to declare the Taj Mahal a Hindu temple. This April, after an Agra trial court refused the petitioners' request to appoint an Advocate Commissioner to survey the monument, the Allahabad High Court — hearing the petitioners' challenge — has sought responses from the Centre and the ASI before deciding whether the lower court's refusal should stand. The legal position aside, the matter is both frivolous and vexatious. The idea today that the Taj Mahal was 'originally' a Hindu temple is associated with the late 20th century writings of Purushottam Nagesh Oak. Professional historians and archaeologists have repeatedly rejected his claims because they bank on speculative linguistic arguments and unsupported historical assertions. On the other hand, evidence that Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal is rooted in contemporary chronicles, administrative records, European travellers' accounts, architectural histories, and archaeology. No archaeological study has produced evidence of a medieval Hindu temple beneath the Taj. Even though the ASI has previously submitted in affidavits that some rooms are locked because they are structurally vulnerable, supporters of the temple idea have alleged that they conceal Hindu idols. A Bharatiya Janata Party leader also unsuccessfully filed a PIL in 2022 and activists tried to offer 'gangajal' in 2024. Given the right historical, political, economic, and social conditions, an idea can persist long after its origins from pseudohistory.

The ongoing case resembles aspects of the Gyanvapi and Mathura disputes, where requests for ostensibly objective surveys were also platforms to advance revisionist political narratives. Courts are empowered to reject pleadings that disclose no sustainable cause of action — even as they are not commissions of historical inquiry and should not treat every speculative historical hypothesis as sufficient grounds for a supervised investigation. Equally, civil procedure should not tolerate re-litigating claims lacking any real evidentiary foundation. All major monuments accumulate materials of additions and alterations over time but heritage scholars draw a line between studying a monument's evolution and redefining its identity outright.

Funeral of the Century: Is Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's final farewell on July 9, 2026

Shaping up to be the biggest religious, political, and geopolitical show of power of the 21st century

(Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani)

All eyes on July 9, 2026. Many analysts believe this event could influence future negotiations, regional alliances, and security dynamics. Globally, the history of the Middle East is not just written by wars, oil, nuclear programs, and diplomatic conflicts, but also by symbolic events that influenced the politics and public opinion of generations to come. The funeral of Iran's former Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, on February 28, 2026, appears poised to be one such event. Following his death in a US-Israeli attack in February, the funeral could not be held immediately due to security concerns and had to be postponed for several months. Now, the Iranian leadership is presenting the multi-day funeral procession, which began in July, as not just a religious ritual but a symbol of national unity, martyrdom, resistance, and a political message. According to several international media outlets, the funeral procession will begin in Tehran, pass through various religious sites, and conclude with burial in Mashhad on July 9th. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani, am constantly seeing on electronic social media that Iranian state media and several international reports are calling it the "Funeral of the Century." Organizers claim that millions of people could attend the entire event, while independent international agencies are currently only citing a potential crowd of millions to tens of millions, saying final numbers will be confirmed later. Some reports estimate attendance at 15 to 20 million, and some even higher, but the accuracy of these figures remains to be independently confirmed. However, all this information has been taken from the media.

Friends, if we consider the four-month preservation of the bodies, Shia tradition, and unprecedented national prepara-

tions, the most extraordinary aspect of this entire event is that the bodies of Ayatollah Khamenei and four other deceased family members were preserved for nearly four months. Normal Islamic tradition considers prompt burial after death to be optimal, but delays are permitted in times of war, major security crises, or other extraordinary circumstances. Experts believe that during this period, the bodies may have been kept in refrigerated cold storage at controlled temperatures, rather than chemical preservation (embalming), to maintain respect for religious beliefs. Postponing the funeral due to wartime conditions was not merely a religious decision but also a national security strategy. Iran feared that if such a large public event were held during the war, enemy countries or terrorist organizations could target the crowd or the top leadership. Therefore, the funeral was postponed until comprehensive security arrangements were in place.

Friends, for the mourning ceremony that began in Tehran, the capital has been placed under an unprecedented security blanket. According to various reports, the army, police, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, volunteer organizations, and administrative machinery have been jointly deployed. Surveillance has been heightened in sensitive areas, and special airspace has been placed under control for a period. Claims of preparations including 50 million loaves of bread, thousands of water sprinkling stations, hundreds of parking spaces, and millions of pilgrims have surfaced on social media and some news outlets. However, independent confirmation of these specific figures is not available. Therefore, they should be viewed as claims by Iranian or other media outlets, not as established facts. On the other hand, it is clear that, given the scale of the event, elaborate arrangements have been made for

food, drinking water, medical assistance, crowd control, and transportation.

Friends, this funeral is being presented not merely as a state ceremony but also as a continuation of Shia religious culture. Martyrdom holds a profound significance in Shia tradition, and the historical memory of Karbala remains a cornerstone of religious and political consciousness. For this reason, the Iranian leadership is attempting to establish Khamenei's death as a symbol of national resistance and religious fortitude. On the other hand, it is also true that not all citizens within Iran view the event in the same light. Exiled opposition groups and some critics call it a state-sponsored political demonstration, while for supporters, it is an occasion for national honor and tribute. Therefore, the funeral has become not only a time of mourning but also a reflection of the political divisions within Iran.

Friends, if we consider the response of Muslim countries: a mix of solidarity and pragmatic politics, reports indicate that delegations from approximately 30 countries are expected to attend. Representatives from Russia, Pakistan, and several other countries in the region are reported to be attending, while the absence of most Western countries remains a topic of discussion. This indicates that many Muslim and regional countries wish to maintain dialogue with Iran, despite their differing foreign policies. Could this truly be the largest funeral in world history? There have been numerous large funerals in history, including the funeral of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in 1989, where attendance of approximately 10 million people is widely reported. Some reports about the current event claim that the crowd could surpass that record. However, only after final and independently verified figures are available will it be possible to say with certainty whether this was

indeed the world's largest funeral. This funeral is being seen as not just a religious event but also a symbol of the changing power structure in the Middle East. Iran wants to send a message to its supporters and allies that its political and military structure remains intact despite the change in leadership. Meanwhile, the US, Israel, and their allies are closely monitoring the entire development. Many analysts believe this event could impact future negotiations, regional alliances, and security dynamics.

Friends, there are reports of representatives from various countries attending the ceremony. China has announced a senior delegation, while regional allies and several religious delegations are also reported to be participating. Media reports have also emerged of the participation of some public figures from India, although the nature of the official Indian government representation has varied across reports. Thus, this event is no longer just a funeral; it has become a confluence of Iran's internal politics, Shia religious identity, national security, public support, and global diplomacy. In years to come, historians will likely accurately view it not only as a religious event but also as one of the most influential political and symbolic events of the 21st century.

Friends, if we consider the impact on the United States: diplomatic pressure and new strategic challenges, then if the funeral is attended by a large crowd and delegations from many countries, it will be more than just a mourning ceremony for the United States but also a political message. Iran is presenting this event as a symbol of national unity, resistance, and the continuity of its state system. Many analysts believe that Tehran may also use this occasion to exert psychological and diplomatic pressure on the United States and its allies.

Is education a service or a market A national debate is needed on the mandatory purchase of textbooks

uniforms, and educational materials in schools

(Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani)

Parents are not customers of school management, but partners in education. Relationships based on trust, cooperation, and transparency are the hallmarks of any excellent school. Will schools remain temples of knowledge or will they gradually become extensions of the market? This question must be answered jointly by the government, school management, teachers, parents, and

society.

Globally, in India, the month of July each year marks the beginning of a new academic session for millions of students and parents. New classes, new dreams, new books, new uniforms, and new hopes all combine to create a celebration of education. But amidst this celebration, a problem continues to deepen, questioning the very purpose of education. For years, complaints have surfaced that many private

schools in the country are directly or indirectly forcing parents to purchase books, notebooks, uniforms, shoes, bags, and other educational materials from specific stores or the schools themselves. This seems to shift the purpose of education from acquiring knowledge to a commercial activity. On July 2, 2026, the Minister of School Education delivered an important message in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, clarifying the government's position

on this issue. He stated that the state government's objective is to ensure timely delivery of essential materials to every eligible student at the beginning of the academic session.

If there are any delays or irregularities in distribution in any district or school, responsibility will be fixed and action will be taken against the concerned officials. He also clarified that no private school can force parents to purchase books, uniforms, or other school materials from a specific shop. If such complaints are received, action will be

taken against the schools concerned as per the rules. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe that this statement should not be limited to Maharashtra alone, but should be seen as a policy message for the entire Indian education system. Indeed, the Constitution of India recognizes education as the foundation of equal opportunity. The right to education is not limited to school admission; rather, it is the state's responsibility to ensure that economic conditions do not become a barrier to a child's education.

Delhi draws inspiration from India's civilisational heritage: L-G Sandhu

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu on Tuesday said the national capital continues to draw inspiration from India's enduring civilisational values. He was welcoming Shankaracharya Shri Shankara Vijayendra Saraswati Swamigal of the Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham at an India Foundation programme held at the Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre.

Addressing an audience that included policymakers, diplomats and scholars, Sandhu described it as a privilege for the Capital to host one of India's oldest living spiritual traditions. He also congratulated the India Foundation



for bringing together participants from different fields for the programme.

Calling the Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham a living civilisational institution established by Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya at Kanchipuram, Sandhu said it has preserved an unbroken lineage of 71 Acharyas for more than 2,500 years. He said the

institution had carried forward its legacy through three pillars: Veda, by preserving Vedic scholarship; Vidya, through integrated Pathashalas and institutions such as the Sri Chandrashekharendra Saraswati Vishwa Mahavidyalaya; and Vaidya, through a network of charitable healthcare institutions serving com-

munities across the country.

He also highlighted the Peetham's work beyond religious traditions, referring to its efforts to strengthen national integration through spiritual outreach in the North East and Jammu and Kashmir. He further noted its initiatives to preserve India's heritage through manuscript digitisation and the revival of traditional temple architecture.

Concluding his address, L-G Sandhu said Delhi, as the country's capital and a meeting point of diverse traditions and communities, continued to draw deep inspiration from such civilisational institutions in its journey towards a Viksit Bharat.

Can't proactively remove court proceeding videos: Meta, Google to Delhi HC

New Delhi, (GNS): Meta and Google said they cannot proactively identify and remove unauthorised recordings of court proceedings from their platforms, arguing they neither had the obligation nor the technical ability to screen such content before it was uploaded.

The responses were submitted to the Delhi High Court on Tuesday in response to a plea against Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal and other political leaders. The plea alleged leaders had unlawfully recorded and circulated videos of court proceedings on April 13, when Kejriwal sought the recusal of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma from the CBI's Delhi liquor policy case.

The petitioner alleged the circulation violated court rules and sought their removal from social media platforms. Meta said intermediaries were under no legal obligation to



proactively monitor user-generated content, including unauthorised recordings of court hearings. Google took a similar stand, stating that it was impossible to monitor every video uploaded to YouTube.

The company said it neither owned nor controlled the user-uploaded content and could not determine whether a video was unlawful unless notified. It described itself as a 'mere intermediary' and said responsibility, if any, lay with the uploader of the content.

Delhi: BSES sets up war rooms QRTs for monsoon-related exigencies

New Delhi, (GNS): BSES on Tuesday said it has activated its monsoon preparedness plan and issued a safety advisory for consumers, outlining measures to ensure reliable power supply and minimise rain-related disruptions across its distribution areas in the national capital.

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL) and BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) said their monsoon action plan follows an integrated and proactive approach aimed at ensuring consumer safety and reducing downtime arising from heavy rainfall and waterlogging.

A BSES official said the discoms were fully geared to ensure reliable power supply to over 54 lakh consumers and more than 2.25 crore residents while taking all necessary safety measures during the monsoon.

"Consumers, too, have an important role to play in ensur-



ing an incident-free season by following simple safety guidelines. We urge all residents to stay alert, exercise caution around electrical installations and report any safety hazards promptly," the official said.

The power distribution companies said preventive measures had been undertaken to minimise moisture-related breakdowns, including raising the foundation height of transformers in low-lying areas, preventing waterlogging and moisture ingress in switchgear, and ensuring proper fencing around transformers.

Shah launches 'mission 70L tree plantation drive' in Delhi

New Delhi, (GNS): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday launched Delhi's ambitious "Mission 70 lakh Tree Plantation Campaign" under the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" initiative, unveiling an extensive ecological restoration plan aimed at transforming the Capital's Ridge into its "green lungs". The initiative also includes measures to clean the Yamuna, expand electric mobility and strengthen public infrastructure.

Launching the campaign after planting saplings at the Central Ridge and Nanakpura Ridge, Shah said the Centre and the Delhi Government would work together to restore nearly 6,300 hectares of Ridge forest over the next four



years by planting more than one crore native trees, along with lakhs of shrubs, bamboo and climbers.

Shah said invasive and ecologically unsuitable species such as acacia, which have spread across parts of the Ridge over the years, would gradually be replaced with indigenous species,

including peepal, banyan, neem, arjun and jamun.

He said the Delhi Government had revived a process pending for nearly three decades by notifying around 5,000 hectares of Ridge land as forest, providing it legal protection. He said the government would ensure conservation of the Ridge's biodiversity, soil

and water through legal safeguards while restoring the fragile ecosystem.

The afforestation programme goes beyond tree planting. The government plans to create theme-based forests such as Nakshatra Van, Rishi Van and Tirthankar Van, develop more than 70 water bodies, restore archaeological structures and improve biodiversity as part of a long-term ecological management plan.

Appealing to residents to join the campaign, Shah urged Delhiites to plant a tree in the name of their mothers and use the newly launched green drive portal to register for plantation activities. He said more than 12 lakh saplings would be distributed free of cost across the city.

Delhi University announces 2,153 sports quota seats for UG admissions; volleyball, basketball top the list

New Delhi, (GNS): The University of Delhi (DU) has released the sports supernumerary quota seat matrix for undergraduate admissions for the 2026-27 academic session, offering a total of 2,153 seats across 28 sports disciplines.

The announcement comes as Phase II of the Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS-UG) 2026 is under way, with candidates currently filling their programme and college preferences.

According to the seat matrix, 1,119 seats have been earmarked for male candidates and 1,034 for female candidates. Among all disci-



plines, volleyball has the highest number of seats at 222, followed by basketball (206), football (195), cricket (192) and athletics (151).

The university has also

released a college wise seat matrix, allowing aspirants to check the availability of sports quota seats in their preferred colleges and disciplines.

One roof, one Nation Karnal's Unity Mall taking shape to boost MSMEs

New Delhi, (GNS): In a major step towards promoting local industries and empowering small business, a grand Unity Mall (Ekta Mall) is being constructed in Karnal under the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative of the Union government.

The ambitious project aims to provide a dedicated platform for showcasing and marketing products made by micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) from across the country.

The mall is being developed over 3.87 acres in Sector 37 along NH-44 in Karnal. The authorities claimed that once completed, it is expected to emerge



as a major commercial and cultural hub, bringing together India's rich handicrafts, traditional products, and region-specific specialties under one roof.

They further claimed that the project is being implemented to create new market opportunities for local products and traditional artisans. This mall is among the 100 Unity Malls announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Union Budget

2023-24 to promote and sell ODOP products and handicrafts from across India.

The project is being constructed by the Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) at an estimated cost of Rs 162.88 crore under a Central Government initiative. Construction work began in July 2025, with a completion timeline of 24 months, said an official of the HSIIDC.

Around 15 percent of the work has already been completed, and the executing agency is confident of completing the project before the stipulated deadline in July 2027, he added.

2 brothers held after evading life imprisonment for a decade in Delhi

New Delhi, (GNS): Two brothers, both convicted to life imprisonment in a 1996 Delhi murder case and absconding for nearly a decade, have been arrested by the Delhi Police, officials said on Tuesday. One of them is also wanted in a Mumbai contract killing case in which the police alleged he murdered a man for Rs 2 lakh, dismembered the body and dumped the torso to conceal the victim's identity.

The accused, Firasat Ali (56) and Shah Nawaz Ali (51), were arrested in coordinated raids conducted at Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh and Godda in Jharkhand,

respectively.

According to investigators, the brothers were convicted in a 1996 murder case in Delhi. However, after the Delhi High Court upheld their life sentence and dismissed their appeal in 2016, they failed to surrender and remained on the run. The police said Firasat Ali was also a proclaimed offender in a 2006 Mumbai contract killing case.

According to investigators, an unidentified human torso wrapped in a plastic bag was recovered near Bhindi Bazar in Mumbai in May 2006. The head and limbs were missing. During



investigation, the Mumbai Police identified the deceased as Kisan Kharva and alleged that his wife had hired Firasat Ali and another accused to kill him for Rs 2 lakh.

The investigators alleged that Firasat Ali murdered

Kharva, severed the head and limbs and disposed of the body parts at different locations to conceal the victim's identity. He was arrested by the Mumbai Police in 2018 and was granted bail by the Bombay High Court in 2021. However, he later

absconded during the trial and was declared a proclaimed offender. The brothers were originally convicted in connection with a 1996 murder in Delhi's Rajouri Garden. According to police, the case stemmed from an altercation over the purchase of an old saree at a clothes market in Raghuraj Nagar.

Later that day, Shah Nawaz, along with Firasat Ali, Arshad Ali and an associate, allegedly entered the complainant's house armed with knives and attacked the occupants. Ishtiaq Ahmed, alias Pappu, succumbed to multiple stab injuries, while two others

were injured.

The accused were convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment by a Delhi sessions court in 2000. They were granted bail during the pendency of their appeal. However, they failed to surrender after the Delhi High Court upheld their conviction in 2016.

During interrogation, the brothers admitted to frequently changing hideouts across Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Jharkhand while working as clothes merchants to evade arrest, the Crime Branch said.

Delhi government likely to launch monthly aid scheme for women on Rakshabandhan

New Delhi, (GNS) : The BJP government's scheme to provide a monthly aid to women in Delhi with a household income under Rs 2.5 lakh is expected to be launched this year on Rakshabandhan, officials said on Tuesday. The monthly aid was of the key poll promises of BJP in the run-up to the 2025 Assembly polls.

The name of the scheme, which has so far been called 'Mahila Samridhhi Yojana', is likely to be changed.

Officials said that the Department of Women and Child Development is considering renaming the scheme to 'Laxmi Yojana'. "It has not been



finalised yet but has been discussed in meetings and is being considered. Final decision and approval will come from the government," said an official.

Meanwhile, officials said the portal for the registration of the monthly financial assistance is ready. "The discussions on the final eligibility criteria and modalities are under discussion...Once it is done,

it will be forwarded further for final approval from the higher authority," the official added.

The government last year constituted a high-level committee - headed by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and ministers Parvesh Sahib Singh, Kapil Mishra, and Ashish Sood as members - to finalise the eligibility criteria, norms, and implementation of this scheme.

There are around 17 lakh ration card holders in the Capital, said officials, adding that the scheme is likely to benefit 20-22 lakh women in Delhi. "Once the eligibility criteria is finalised, it will be shared with the IT department to be incor-

porated in the portal, which is not a time taking process and will be done in a day," another official said.

The monthly financial assistance is likely to be given to women aged between 21 and 60 years. "The beneficiary should be a ration card holder, and from the economically weaker section. Another important criterion is the annual family income, which is still under discussion. Recently, the government raised the annual family income limit for ration card holders, so it might be revised and may be between Rs 2.5 to Rs 3 Lakh... a final decision is yet to be taken," said officials.

Delhi Govt clears final hurdle for Sarojini Nagar redevelopment

New Delhi, (GNS) : The redevelopment of Delhi's Sarojini Nagar General Pool Residential Accommodation (GPRA) Colony has crossed a key regulatory milestone after the Delhi Government's Department of Forests and Wildlife approved the felling or transplantation of 1,091 trees, clearing the way for construction to proceed in the remaining undeveloped parts of the project.

The approval follows months of site inspections and a multi-stage review aimed at minimising the environmental impact of one of the Capital's biggest government housing redevelopment projects.

Officials said the final number of affected trees was significantly reduced before permission was granted.

According to officials, the process began with an assessment identifying 1,218 trees. A detailed site inspection by the tree officer revised the list,



reducing the number to 1,170 and saving 48 trees.

The proposal was then examined by the Union Central Empowered Committee (CEC), which, through its order dated May 11, 2026, directed that another 79 trees be retained. This brought the final figure to 1,091 trees that will either be felled or transplanted. Sources said the final approval was issued on June 19.

Officials associated with the clearance process said the exercise involved extensive field verification before any decision was taken.

Delhi Jal Board slashes infra charges for commercial, institutional buildings

New Delhi, (GNS) : The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has substantially reduced infrastructure charges (IFC) for several categories of commercial and institutional buildings, slashing the fees by up to 90 per cent in some cases. The move is aimed at promoting "ease of living" and simplifying the existing charging mechanism.

The revised charges apply across property categories A to H and cover a wide range of developments, including banquet halls, mercantile buildings, hotels, guest houses, factories, petrol pumps and institutional projects.

Among the biggest beneficiar-



ies are warehouses and storage houses. For a 1,000 sq m institutional warehouse with a floor area ratio (FAR) of 200 in category A/B, the infrastructure charge has been reduced from Rs 54.93 lakh to Rs 3.94 lakh - a reduction of nearly 93 per cent. Similar reductions have been notified across other property categories.

CM directs for complete preparations before Kanwar Yatra begins

New Delhi, (GNS) : With a focus on basic civic amenities for devotees and coordination among organisers, chief minister Rekha Gupta has directed all district magistrates to complete preparations for the Kanwar Yatra before it begins. Directions include making adequate arrangements for drinking water, sanitation, medical facilities, electricity and smooth traffic movement. She also reviewed the capital's monsoon preparedness. In addition, while chairing a meeting of the DDC Apex Committee at the Secretariat, Gupta directed officials to organise special camps under the PM UDAY scheme across unauthorised colonies so that residents can complete their registration before the Oct 31 dead-



line. The review meeting also covered the establishment of mini secretariats in every district, progress of rainwater harvesting projects, weekly public grievance hearings at district magistrate offices, cleanliness drives around public places and govt office complexes, and the development of cooling zones.

Who is Dr Om Prakash Vyas Meet the new chairperson of Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights

New Delhi, (GNS) : The Delhi government has appointed Dr Om Prakash Vyas as the new chairperson of the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR), reviving the statutory child rights body after nearly three years.

A legal expert and former police officer, Dr Vyas brings decades of experience in law, human rights and child welfare to the role.

He previously served as chairperson of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Delhi, and as Joint Registrar (Law) at the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), where he worked for more than 27 years in both the investigation and legal divisions.



Chief Guest

Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Gujarat

Guest of Honour

Shri Harsh Sanghavi

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Gujarat

Esteemed Presence

Shri Arjunbhai Modhwadia

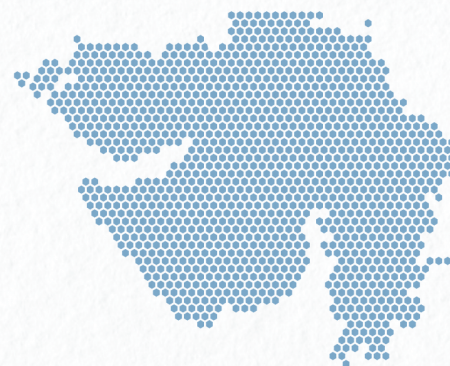
Hon'ble Minister, Forests and Environment, Climate Change, Science and Technology, Government of Gujarat

Date: 9th July, 2026 | Time: 10:00 AM | Venue: Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar



Directorate of ICT & e-Governance
Department of Science & Technology
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