



Modi Says He Came to New Zealand Wearing a 25-Year-Old Scarf; Received It Here as a Gift

For Us, It Is Not a Country's Population but Its Spirit of Public Welfare That Matters

Auckland, (GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Indian community in Auckland, New Zealand, on Saturday, where he shared a nearly three-decade-old memory. He said that 25-30 years ago, when he was not part of any government, he had the opportunity to visit New Zealand.

Recalling the visit, Modi said, "At that time, someone gifted me three things—a scarf, a cap, and a pair of gloves. One of those gifts is still with me, and I have brought it along even to this event."

He added that he had used the scarf many times over the years and had preserved it carefully.

The Prime Minister further said that for India, the size of a country's population is not important; what matters is its commitment to public welfare. "That is why we have learned a great deal from New Zealand and continue to do so," he said.

Earlier in the day, Modi held bilateral talks with New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon. During the meeting, the two sides signed 18 major decisions and 10 agreements. Both leaders also set a target of doubling bilateral trade by 2030 to approximately 35,000 crore.

Four Key Highlights from Modi's Speech

It is the Era of Collaboration:



Modi said that if one were to use the language of content creators, this is the era of "collaboration." He noted that India and New Zealand can

work together extensively in sports, particularly rugby. "India wants to learn rugby from New Zealand. We need coaches and experts, and New

Zealand can help us immensely," he said.

New Zealand Celebrated Chandrayaan's Landing:

The Prime Minister said that the future of India and New Zealand is closely connected, especially in the space sector. "When India's Chandrayaan successfully landed near the Moon's south pole, New Zealand was celebrating too. It made us proud. Several New Zealand space companies have collaborated with us on multiple occasions," he said.

Thousands of Kilometres Away, Yet India Lives in Your Hearts: Addressing the Indian diaspora, Modi said that although they live thousands of

kilometres away, India continues to hold a special place in their hearts. "Your body may be here, but your heart remains in India. That is why you closely follow every achievement of the country," he remarked.

Public Welfare Matters More Than Population:

Reiterating India's approach to international relations, Modi said, "For us, it is not the population of another country that matters, but its spirit of public welfare. That is why we have learned so much from New Zealand and continue to do so. This is the country that was the first in the world to grant women the right to vote."

Section 163 Imposed in Datia Ahead of Assembly Bypoll

Datia, (GNS): The district administration has imposed Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, across the Datia subdivision to maintain law and order during the upcoming Assembly by-election.



The prohibitory orders came into effect from 9 p.m. on July 10 and will remain in force until further notice.

According to an order issued by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), no public meetings, rallies, processions or demonstrations can be organised without prior permission from the administration.

The administration said the restrictions were necessary to ensure peaceful campaigning and free and fair polling during the by-election.

The order also prohibits the carrying of weapons such as sticks, swords, spears, axes, knives and other lethal objects in public places. Gatherings of five or more persons have also been banned. Authorities have further prohibited the circulation of any material through social media, posters, banners, slogans or public speeches that could disturb communal harmony or affect public order. The use of loudspeakers and other sound amplification systems will also require prior permission.

Powerful INS Mahendragiri Commissioned into the Indian Navy

Visakhapatnam, (GNS): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday dedicated the technologically advanced and nearly 75 per cent indigenous warship INS Mahendragiri to the Indian Navy during a ceremony held in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The stealth frigate is capable of being equipped with the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, significantly enhancing India's maritime strike capabilities.

Addressing the launch ceremony, Singh said that nearly 75 per cent of the ship's components have been manufactured indigenously, making it a shining example of India's growing self-reliance in the defence sector. He added that INS Mahendragiri is designed to effectively tackle threats emerging simultaneously from the air, sea and underwater domains.

Navy safeguarding India's economic interests: The Defence Minister said Andhra Pradesh has emerged as a major hub for India's defence and aerospace manufacturing sector. He stressed that a strong and responsive navy is essential for protecting the nation's strategic and economic interests.

Referring to Operation Energy



Security, Singh said that after the conflict in West Asia, the Indian Navy ensured the safe passage of merchant vessels carrying goods worth over Rs 9,000 crore, demonstrating its crucial role in safeguarding the country's economic interests.

He further said that maintaining peace and stability in the Indian Ocean Region remains one of India's foremost responsibilities, adding that over 90 per cent of India's trade is conducted through sea routes, making maritime security a top priority.

Why INS Mahendragiri is special: INS Mahendragiri is the sixth Project 17A stealth frigate built for the Indian Navy.

'Operation Tiger-3' Buzz Intensifies Maharashtra Political Battle

Mumbai, (GNS): Maharashtra's political landscape is once again witnessing intense speculation amid reports that Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena is preparing a fresh political strategy, informally referred to as 'Operation Tiger-3'.

According to political sources, the alleged campaign aims to attract legislators from Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) as well as Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP-SP).

Claim of contact with 10 MLAs
Leaders from the Shinde faction claim that they have been in continuous contact with around 10 MLAs belonging to the Uddhav Thackeray camp and that several rounds of confidential meetings have already taken place.

Although the names of the legislators have not been disclosed, Shinde camp leaders claim that their efforts have yielded positive results.

However, neither the legislators concerned nor the Uddhav Thackeray faction has officially responded to these claims. Political observers, however, point out that these claims remain unverified, as



no independent confirmation or official statement has been issued so far. Consequently, the reports should be treated as political speculation rather than established fact.

What is 'Operation Tiger-3'?

According to political circles, "Operation Tiger-3" is being described as a strategy aimed at strengthening the Shinde-led Shiv Sena by inducting influential opposition leaders into the party. No official announcement regarding the alleged operation has been made by the Shinde camp. The reports have fuelled speculation of fresh political instability within both the Shiv Sena (UBT) and the Sharad Pawar-led NCP.

Monsoon Weakens Across 10 States; Floods and Landslides Continue in North and Northeast

Bhopal/Jaipur/Lucknow/Patna, (GNS): The southwest monsoon is expected to remain weak over nearly 10 states, including Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, for the next five days, resulting in reduced rainfall across large parts of western and central India. According to the latest satellite imagery, rain-bearing clouds have shifted towards the eastern and northeastern regions, including Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura, where heavy rainfall continues to disrupt normal life.



In Hapur, Uttar Pradesh, an underpass was submerged after heavy rain, trapping a Mahindra Thar SUV in the water.

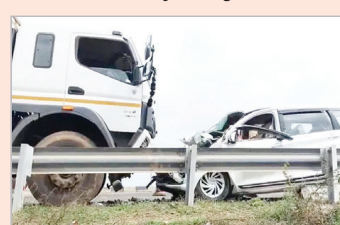
In Bijpur, the Ganga and its tributary, the Malan River, are flowing above the danger mark, submerging several bridges. Officials said at least 15 people have lost their

lives in rain-related incidents across Uttar Pradesh over the past three days. In Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand, a moving pickup vehicle was crushed after a portion of a hillside collapsed during heavy rain late Friday night. The vehicle was buried under debris and boulders.

Four Killed as Car Rams Stationary Truck on Gujarat Highway; Four Critically Injured

Ahmedabad, (GNS): Four members of a family were killed and four others sustained serious injuries after their Ertiga car crashed into a stationary truck on a four-lane highway near Majevadi village in Gujarat's Junagadh district on Saturday. A child travelling in the vehicle miraculously escaped unhurt. According to police, the family from Banaskantha district was travelling to Somnath to perform the immersion of a relative's ashes when the accident occurred. Investigators said the driver apparently lost control of the vehicle, causing it to slam into the rear of a truck that had broken down on the highway. The impact completely crushed the front portion of the car. Four occupants died instantly in the collision, while four others suffered serious injuries. Two of the injured are said to be in critical condition and have been admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

The child travelling in the vehicle escaped without any injuries. Local residents rushed to the scene immediately after hearing the loud crash. Police and emergency medical teams arrived within minutes and launched a rescue operation. After considerable effort, rescuers pulled the trapped passengers out of the mangled vehicle and shifted the injured to a nearby hospital.



Trump Issues Stern Warning to Iran After Death Posters Displayed at Funeral

Washington, (GNS): US President Donald Trump has issued a strong warning to Iran after posters calling for his assassination were reportedly displayed during the funeral procession of Iran's former Supreme Leader. In a sharply worded statement, Trump claimed that the United States had "1,000 missiles locked and loaded" and warned Tehran of devastating consequences if any attempt was made against him.

Posting on his social media platform Truth Social, Trump said the missiles were fully prepared and aimed at Iran. He warned that if Tehran did not change its course, thousands more missiles could be launched immediately.

"I have already given the



necessary orders. The US military is fully capable of destroying every part of Iran for as long as required," Trump wrote. Meanwhile, anti-American sentiment was visible during the funeral of Iran's former Supreme Leader in Tehran, where demonstrators carried posters depicting Trump as well as Vice-President JD Vance, Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in gun sights.

The traditional cycle of weather is changing rapidly

(Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani)

Globally, the true power of any nation in the 21st century will not be measured solely by its military capability, economic growth rate or technological achievements, but also by how effectively it can protect its citizens, resources and development sustainability in the face of global challenges like climate change. Natural disasters are no longer an exception; they are becoming a new global reality due to climate change. Therefore, this is not the time for India to simply face the current situation, but to develop a national strategy with an eye on the future,

one that will provide a safer, more resilient, and environmentally friendly India for future generations. Therefore, I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe that it is time to place climate change at the center of national policy and development strategy, not just a matter of state and central environment ministries. The government should not limit disaster management to relief and rehabilitation, but make it an integral part of national development policy. Climate risk assessment should be made mandatory for every national and state-level

infrastructure project, be it a highway, railway, smart city, industrial corridor, port, or residential project. If development projects are designed with potential natural hazards in mind, future economic losses and loss of life can be significantly reduced. This approach will certainly increase short-term costs, but in the long run, it will make the nation much more secure and economically sound.

Friends, the current monsoon, as of July 7, 2026, 6 pm, has affected many states across the country. Heavy rainfall, waterlogging, landslides, and overflowing river systems have disrupted nor-

mal life in Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, and many areas of the Northeast. Especially in metropolitan areas, even a few hours of rainfall disrupts transportation, health services, power supply, and economic activities. Landslides in mountainous regions demonstrate that unplanned construction, deforestation, and changing rainfall patterns have exponentially increased the risk. This is not just a result of weather fluctuations, but also a result of the imbalance between development and the environment. Where normal rainfall once lasted

for several days, excessive rainfall now occurs within a few hours. This puts a sudden strain on urban drainage systems, river systems, and mountain slopes. This is why events like flash floods, cloudbursts, hurricanes, and extreme heatwaves are becoming more frequent and intense in many countries around the world. India is no exception to this global change.

Friends, climate change has the greatest impact on those segments of society whose livelihoods depend directly on nature. A large portion of India's population is involved in agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and the

rural economy. Untimely rains, prolonged droughts, hailstorms, and floods destroy farmers' hard work in a matter of hours. This impacts food security, rural incomes, employment, and inflation. On the other hand, industries, transportation, tourism, education, and healthcare in urban areas are also affected by natural disasters, increasing economic losses. Therefore, climate change has become not only an environmental issue but also a question of economic development, social justice, and national security.

Friends, the role of local administration is crucial in this transformation.

Editorial

On the All India Survey on Higher Education data

With more Indian women entering university campuses, the gender gap in college classrooms has narrowed. The latest All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) data for 2023-24 reveal that absolute female enrolment rose by 42% over the past decade, climbing from 1.57 crore in 2014-15 to 2.24 crore. In comparison, male enrolment grew from 1.85 crore to 2.26 crore during the same period. Women have comfortably surpassed the male growth rate of 22.16%, pushing total higher education enrolment to a record 4.5 crore. They now account for nearly half (49.7%) of all students in Indian universities and colleges. With a Gender Parity Index of 1.08, 108 young women now enter higher education for every 100 men. This marks a hard-won victory, especially for marginalised communities, where female enrolment among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes rose by 51.4% and 75.7%, respectively. Yet, a deeper look at the data demands caution. High enrolment numbers are a superficial veneer if the pipeline of employment opportunities beyond the college gate remains broken. While women make up 44% of STEM students, this number is heavily skewed toward the "S" (general sciences such as biology and chemistry), where they hold a 54.6% majority. In contrast, engineering and technology remain male-dominated, with women making up just 31.1% of enrolment. By clustering in traditional sciences, women are isolated from the future-proof economic drivers of artificial intelligence and software engineering.

Educational institutions remain largely patriarchal. While the student body reflects a 50-50 split, there are only 82 female teachers for every 100 male teachers. Women remain absent from top-tier leadership roles. Further, the influx of students has coincided with an explosion of private and low-tier colleges, which face acute faculty shortages and poor infrastructure. India also faces a disconnect between higher education and the formal job market. The Female Labor Force Participation Rate remains low due to societal expectations, domestic responsibilities, and safety barriers.

Life is at stake in the game of profit

(Kumar Krishnan)

Medicine is not just a product; it is the hope that stands between life and death. When a person arrives at a medical store with a doctor's prescription, they are confident that the medicine they are purchasing will cure their illness. But if the same medicine lacks its medicinal properties or turns out to be completely fake, it is not only a fraud on the consumer but also a direct attack on their right to life. Unfortunately, the growing trade in counterfeit and substandard medicines in India now points to this dire situation.

India is called the pharmacy of the world. Approximately 60 percent of the world's vaccines and about 20 percent of generic medicines are produced in India. The health systems of many countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America depend on the Indian pharmaceutical industry. India's commitment to providing vaccines to the world during the COVID-19 pandemic further strengthened its credibility. However, the increasing cases of counterfeit, adulterated, and substandard medicines in recent years have seriously questioned this reputation.

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization's (CDSCO) quality monitoring report for May 2026 revealed that 159 drug samples across the country failed quality standards. Of these, 46 samples were declared non-standard by central laboratories, while 113 failed in state laboratories. The report also documented a case of counterfeit medication that misused the brand name of a reputable company. This is not merely statistical information, but a sign of the danger that is gradually engulfing the entire pharmaceutical market.

Two recent cases in Bihar further illustrate the severity of this crisis. The Drugs Department collected a sample of the popular antibiotic Emox-625 from a pharmacy in Rosera, Samastipur district. Investigations by the Bihar Drugs Control Laboratory, Patna, revealed the shocking fact that the drug contained zero of both key active ingredients—amoxicillin and clavulanic acid—that fight infection. This means that the patient was taking the medication,

believing it to be a cure, was actually an ineffective pill. Such cases are not just a regulatory failure but a serious threat to public health.

The second incident occurred in Gaya city, where a joint raid by the drug department and police resulted in the seizure of a large quantity of counterfeit medicines, narcotic cough syrups, and sleeping pills. Preliminary investigations indicated that this network was not limited to Bihar but extended to several states, including Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. If this is confirmed, it will become clear that the counterfeit drug trade has now become an organized crime, involving the entire chain of production, storage, packaging, transportation, and distribution.

It is also a matter of concern that criminals are not only manufacturing counterfeit medicines but are also marketing them by imitating the wrappers, packaging, and brand names of well-known companies. Let alone ordinary consumers, even drug dealers often fail to recognize these. The biggest harm is borne by the patient who consumes the medicine believing they are receiving genuine medicine from a certified company.

The most alarming situation arises when counterfeit drugs are life-saving. Cases of counterfeit oxytocin injections, adenosine injections, and other medicines used for serious diseases have been reported in various parts of the country. The deaths of pregnant women in Rajasthan have proven that counterfeit drugs are not just an economic crime but can also directly cause death. This is why even the World Health Organization has requested a report from the Indian government on such cases.

Ironically, in a country where the pharmaceutical industry is worth thousands of crores of rupees, a parallel illegal trade in counterfeit drugs is also rapidly expanding. Sometimes, drugs are manufactured in small, illegal units without any quality control. In some places, expired medicines are repackaged, and in others, counterfeit products are manufactured under the name of branded companies. The only thing behind this entire trade is greed, and the

common patient pays the price with their health, and sometimes their lives.

The most worrying aspect of the growing counterfeit drug trade is that it is no longer just a matter of law and order, but has become a question of public health, economy, and national prestige. India exports a large quantity of medicines every year. If doubts arise about the quality of Indian medicines in the international market, it will impact not just a few companies, but the entire pharmaceutical industry and the country's economy. Years of hard-earned credibility could be at stake due to a few criminal gangs.

It must also be understood that the counterfeit drug trade is not run by a single individual or a single shop. It involves an organized network, which may include illegal manufacturers, packagers, wholesalers, transporters, and a chain extending to the retail level. To dismantle such a network, mere sporadic raids are not sufficient. Coordinated action between agencies such as the Economic Offences Wing, Drug Control Administration, police, GST, and Income Tax Department is essential.

Large counterfeit drug rackets have been caught from time to time in Bihar. Incidents in Patna, Gaya, and now Samastipur indicate that the problem is not limited to individual districts. There is also a serious suspicion that drugs are being supplied to other states using state borders. If so, this represents a case of interstate organized crime, which should be investigated in collaboration with central agencies.

Another concern relates to antibiotics. If a patient is given a drug that lacks the active ingredient, not only will the treatment fail, but the infection may become more severe. This also contributes to the global problem of antibiotic resistance (antimicrobial resistance). World health experts have already warned that if antibiotic misuse and the spread of counterfeit drugs remain unchecked, even common infections could become difficult to treat in the future.

The government has decided to make QR codes and barcodes

mandatory on certain life-saving medicines. This is a welcome step, but its scope is too narrow. What is needed today is to ensure digital traceability of every medicine. Electronic records should be available at every stage, from manufacturing to wholesalers, retailers, and finally to the patient. This will facilitate the identification of counterfeit products and the tracing of their supply chain.

Additionally, drug control departments must be strengthened with resources. In many states, the number of drug inspectors far falls short of the sanctioned positions. Laboratory capacity is limited, and the scope of regular sample testing is inadequate. Unless the inspection system is strengthened, even the strictness of the law will not yield the desired results.

Serious reconsideration is also needed at the legal level. If a person dies due to a counterfeit drug, such an offense cannot be considered a simple economic crime. It should be classified as a non-bailable offense with stringent penalties, ensuring speedy justice. Provisions such as confiscating the assets of erring companies and gangs and permanently banning their economic activities should also be effectively utilized.

The role of ordinary citizens is also crucial. Purchasing medicines only from authorized stores, always obtaining a bill, checking the batch number, manufacturing date, and expiry date on the package, and immediately reporting any suspicious medicine to the Drug Department should be part of civic responsibility. However, it should not be forgotten that the ultimate responsibility lies with the government and regulatory bodies. Ensuring drug quality is the state's responsibility, not the patient's.

The respect India has earned in the global pharmaceutical industry is based on quality, scientific research, and reliable production. To maintain this reputation, a decisive battle must be waged against the counterfeit drug trade. This is not just a question of law enforcement, but a responsibility to protect the lives, health, and trust of millions of people.

(Brainstorming) India is the first country to make citizens and government documents controversial

(Sanat Jain)

India has become the first country in the world to question the citizenship of its own citizens. Every citizen is required to prove their citizenship through SIR. The way three generations are being made controversial is now having an impact on Indian citizens not only in India but also in other countries around the world. Questions are also being raised about Indian citizens living abroad. The recent statement by the Ministry of External Affairs regarding passports has further worsened the situation. A major crisis has arisen in the US, Europe, and other countries where large numbers of Indians live illegally. Demonetization was the first government measure in the last decade, and this demonetization has led to a new level of skepticism about the

Indian currency worldwide. Neighboring countries and European countries no longer view the Indian currency as a reliable currency. Following the recent statement by the Ministry of External Affairs regarding passports, the international questioning of Indian documents is creating significant difficulties for Indian expatriates living abroad. Families of Indians living abroad reside in various states of India, and they depend on India for marriages, travel, and transactions. When the Election Commission and the Indian government are not validating their own documents, why would other countries accept Indian documents? This is easily understandable.

In the last 30 years, following the Global Trade Agreement, the entire world has become one. Different cul-

tures, food habits, different languages, and various occupations lead to migration from one country to another, settling there for business, and acquiring citizenship. This is happening on a large scale. Given the campaign against immigration in the US, Europe, and other countries over the past few years, the current government has likely not imagined the plight of Indian immigrants in other countries or what could happen to them in the future. Given the way minority community votes are being cut through SIRs by the Central Election Commission to win elections, and voters of opposition political parties are being excluded from the electoral rolls, how wise is it to reject all Indian documents issued by the central and state governments based on citizenship? People are now demanding that the

government disclose which documents are considered authentic to prove citizenship. India gained independence in 1947, and the first elections were held in 1952. The voter list was compiled by visiting the homes of Indian voters. The Election Commission has periodically revised the voter list before elections, but there has never been any controversy. A law was enacted for birth and death certificates, and birth and death certificates began to be issued. Domicile certificates were issued in various states, certifying that a person had been residing in that state for a certain number of years.

The government introduced Aadhaar. It was claimed that it would be the most comprehensive basis for citizen authentication. Everything from iris scans to fingerprints was taken. It was made

mandatory for every document, from driving licenses to the like. Aadhaar was required to open a bank account. Aadhaar is mandatory for obtaining an Ayushman card for medical treatment. Despite this, the decisions being made by the courts regarding the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, the rules being made by the government, and the way the names of families who had lived in India for generations were removed from the voter list, reflect the low level of education in the country until a few decades ago, when more than 60 percent of the population had not even attended school. There were no government hospitals. There was no birth or death certification. In such a situation, the government is not even recognizing the existence of three generations as documents.

The rain left behind more than water it exposed Delhi's years of apathy

New Delhi, (GNS) : Want to go inside. Sit on my bike. That's the only way," Krishna, who came for some work at Khajuri Khas police station, told Media reporters who were wondering how to enter the premises Friday.

On Thursday, the entire stretch outside the building and the one connecting to the main road had disappeared under water following heavy downpour. Roads turned into filthy waterways, cars were stranded in waist-deep water, and people had nowhere to put a foot.

By Friday, the rain stopped, and much of the water elsewhere receded. But the road outside the police station was still flooded with black, sewage-laced water emitting an



overpowering stench. Cattle lounged beside the stagnant pool and vehicles crawled through it. Anyone headed to the police station first had to figure out one thing: how to get inside.]

Tilak Singh discovered that firsthand. Summoned to the police station with his daughter, he stopped at the edge of the flooded stretch. There was no way across. He called up the officer inside. "How am I supposed

to come in? I don't have a vehicle. My daughter can't walk through this," he said. Minutes later, another visitor rolled up his trousers and waded through the filthy water.

For the cops sitting inside, every monsoon brings the same pain. "Yesterday, my uniform was drenched. It's difficult for us and for the public. We have dedicated one of our vehicles to help people

negotiate the stretch and enter the station. It's sheer apathy. Please ask someone to solve this problem," said a police officer.

Media found a water pump operating at the site, but it appeared inadequate to clear the accumulated water into a seemingly overflowing drain. Even without fresh rain, the stagnant water showed little sign of receding.

Khajuri Khas was not an isolated case. At the other end of the capital, in south-east Delhi's Badarpur area, students were grappling with a familiar ordeal. At Govt Girls/ Boys Senior Secondary School No. 3 in Molarband Friday, the playground remained inundated, full of stagnant water and rendered inaccessible to students.

Delhi's Red Fort receives bomb threat turns out to be hoax

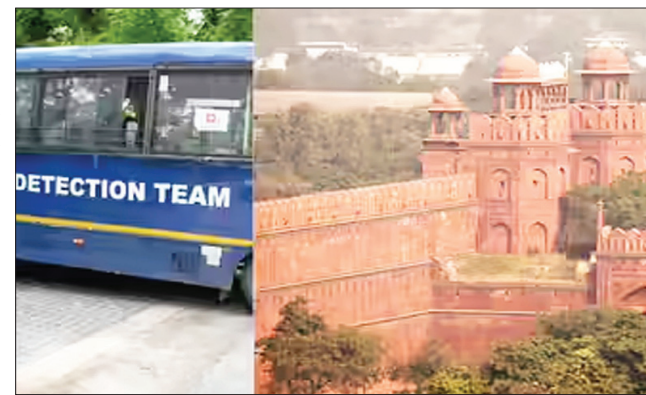
New Delhi, (GNS) : A bomb threat targeting Delhi's Red Fort was received on Friday after an unidentified caller contacted the Mumbai Police Control Room, claiming that the iconic monument would be blown up.

The Mumbai Police Control Room immediately passed the information to the Delhi Police Control Room, which then alerted the North District Police for swift action.

Security personnel carried out a thorough search of the Red Fort. After the operation, the North District Police declared the threat to be a hoax.

An investigation has been launched to identify the caller and trace the origin of the threat. Authorities said appropriate legal action would be taken in accordance with the law.

The latest incident comes



amid a series of hoax bomb threats reported across the National Capital Region.

Earlier this month, two schools in Delhi received bomb threat emails, prompting evacuations and extensive security checks. In June, panic spread after the office of the Mayor of Delhi received a bomb threat. According to officials, the threatening message warned of attacks at multiple locations across Delhi and Haryana. Subsequent searches found no explosives, and the threat was later found to be false.

Delhi CM seeks national highway status for 8.8-km Mandi Road

New Delhi, (GNS) : Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has urged Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari to declare the 8.8-km Mandi Road in South Delhi a national highway and entrust its development to National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

In a letter to Gadkari, Gupta said Mandi Road is a strategically important transport corridor connecting Mehrauli-Gurugram Road (NH-148A) near the Chhatarpur Metro station with the Gurugram-Faridabad Road at the Delhi-Haryana border. The road serves as a crucial link between Delhi and the neighbouring economic hubs of Gurugram and Faridabad while facilitating inter-state traffic movement.



The Chief Minister noted that the governing body of the Unified Traffic and Transportation Infrastructure (Planning and Engineering) Centre, in its 68th meeting held on September 27, 2023, had recognised the strategic importance of Mandi Road and supported its widening and comprehensive redevelopment. She said its existing traffic load, future demand and direct connectivity with NH-148A made it a strong candidate for inclusion under the NHAI's jurisdiction.

LG pitches Dwarka as major investment hub calls for clean employment-oriented growth



New Delhi, (GNS) : Lieutenant governor TS Sandhu Friday chaired a session with leading industry representatives about strengthening Dwarka's emergence as a major economic and commercial hub. It focused on policy and infrastructure interventions to improve ease of doing business, facilitate investments and make it a preferred destination for investors.

Addressing those from real estate, infrastructure, hospitality and healthcare sectors, the LG said, "Dwarka's industrial development should remain clean, sustainable and non-polluting while creating large-scale employment opportunities for the local workforce. Focus should be on promoting labour-intensive industries so that the sub-city's economic growth directly benefits the people of Delhi. Describing Dwarka as one of Asia's largest planned sub-cities, Sandhu said its proximity to the Indira Gandhi International Airport, strong connectivity and evolving urban infrastructure make it well-positioned to attract investments from commerce, hospitality, healthcare, education and technology sectors. Industry representatives suggested creating a more investor-friendly ecosystem through better infrastructure, research and innovation facilities, a streamlined single-window clearance mechanism and simplified approval processes. For this, planning and development norms, including the floor area ratio, need to be reviewed and rationalised in line with emerging urban requirements. Besides, there is a need for sector-specific policy measures to enhance Delhi's competitiveness as an investment destination," he said. DDA vice chairman N Saravana Kumar said the authority has made land available to support future investments and is working with stakeholder agencies to streamline approval processes. He added that the recently approved transit-oriented development policy has established a committee that brings together all agencies concerned to provide seamless, single-point and time-bound approvals for eligible projects.

Half-yearly report: Traffic challans up by a lakh 30 congestion hotspots fixed

New Delhi, (GNS) : From issuing over 48 lakh challans and expanding technology-driven enforcement to developing signal-free corridors and easing congestion at key bottlenecks, Delhi Traffic Police has stepped up traffic management efforts across the city this year. The force has issued 48.4 lakh challans till June, up from 47.5 lakh during the corresponding period in 2025. Of them, 17.2 lakh were generated through the automated red light violation detection and speed violation detection systems, while 2,187 FIRs were registered for dangerous driving.

Outlining the department's initiatives to improve mobility, road safety and enforcement, special commissioner of police (traffic) Manish Kumar Agrawal said



Friday, "We have developed eight signal-free stretches across Delhi by closing redundant traffic signals, providing U-turn facilities, removing unauthorised median cuts and rationalising intersections." Another 25 stretches have been identified to assess the feasibility for similar interventions. Traffic flow has improved on stretches such as Netaji Subhash Place to Rithala metro station and Laxmi Nagar-Karkari Mor on Vikas Marg. Police said congestion-relief measures were taken in coordination with

multiple agencies, including additional bus bays and pedestrian infrastructure at ISBT Kashmere Gate, diversion of DTC buses through the Khajuri flyover, relocation of bus stands at Adhchini village and Ashram Chowk, and designated pick-up and drop-off zones at Anand Vihar ISBT. A flyover has been proposed at Kalindi Kunj. Referring to Thursday's heavy rain, Agrawal said traffic congestion between 12.30pm and 8pm remained lower than the average recorded over the previous three months. With the monsoon underway, Delhi Traffic Police has shared a list of 169 waterlogging-prone locations with road-owning agencies and strengthened coordination to minimise traffic disruptions.

1.9 lakh aspirants vie for 71600 DU UG seats as preference window nears close

New Delhi, (GNS) : Competition for undergraduate admissions at Delhi University remains intense this year, with 1.90 lakh applicants vying for around 71,600 undergraduate seats across its colleges.

According to the university's latest admission update issued on Friday, 1,90,645 candidates have registered for undergraduate admissions, while 1,64,098 have completed Phase II of the Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS) by filling their programme and college preferences. Candidates have until 11.59 pm on July 11 to lock their preferences, following which the university will release simulated ranks before opening a brief window for candidates to revise their choices ahead of the first allocation list on July 16. The



simulated ranks, scheduled to be announced on July 12, are intended to give applicants an indicative idea of where they stand based on their programme-specific merit and preferences. After viewing their ranks, candidates will get one final opportunity to reorder or modify their programme-college preferences before they are frozen for the first round of seat allocation. The first CSAS allocation

list will be announced on July 16, after which candidates allotted seats can either accept them or wait for subsequent rounds if they wish to seek an upgrade. Meanwhile, the university has released the third allocation list for two-year postgraduate programmes, making 1,765 fresh allocations, including 214 seats in performance-based programmes.

BJP strengthens grip on MCD as Mukesh Goyal-led IVP merges with party

New Delhi, (GNS) : In a major political development that further strengthens the Bharatiya Janata Party's position in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), the Mukesh Goyal-led Indraprastha Vikas Party (IVP) on Friday merged with the BJP, with all its 16 councillors joining the saffron party.

The merger takes the BJP's tally in the 250-member civic House to 139 councillors, giving it a stronger numerical advantage ahead of key decisions in the corporation.

The merger was

announced at a joint press conference by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Delhi BJP president Harsh Malhotra in the presence of six-time councillor and IVP chief Mukesh Goyal, along with all 16 councillors.

Senior BJP leaders, including Delhi Mayor Pravesh Wahi, Leader of the House Jaibhagwan Yadav and BJP general secretary Vishnu Mittal, were also present on the occasion.

The Indraprastha Vikas Party was formed on May 17, 2025, after Goyal and 15 other councillors broke away from the Aam Aadmi Party



(AAP). On Thursday evening, Goyal formally requested the BJP leadership to merge the outfit with the party, a proposal that was accepted by the central leadership.

Welcoming the council-

lors, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said they would receive "full respect" within the BJP and opportunities to serve the people. She said the merger reflected growing confidence in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

leadership and would help extend the benefits of the BJP's "triple-engine government" to more areas of the Capital.

Delhi BJP president Harsh Malhotra said the decision was driven by the councillors' desire to connect their wards with the development initiatives being undertaken by the Rekha Gupta government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He claimed that around 11-12 lakh residents across the 16 wards would benefit from the merger and added that the BJP govern-

ment had, for the first time, provided a development fund of Rs 1 crore to every MCD councillor, irrespective of party affiliation.

Explaining the decision to switch sides, Mukesh Goyal launched a sharp attack on his former party, alleging that no meaningful development work was carried out during the AAP's tenure in the MCD that despite his serving as the Leader of the House in 2023. He claimed councillors were deprived of development funds and civic administration remained confined to political rhetoric.

RAF outside Delhi gurdwara screens Satluj to packed hall

New Delhi, (GNS) : The basement hall of Govindpuri Gurdwara in South East Delhi was packed to capacity on Friday evening as the management screened "Satluj", the controversial Diljit Dosanjh-starrer, based on the life of activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa. Men, women, elderly and children all sat together, with more than 300 people gathered to watch the film that captures alleged human rights violations by security forces at the height of terrorism in Punjab. As people watched, a heavy Rapid Action Force (RAF) contingent kept a watch outside the gurdwara, with many gurdwaras across the Capital also showing the film, blocked online this



Sunday. The film had streamed on ZEE5 on Friday and blocked on Sunday on grounds of national security concerns.

The security presence, organisers said, was purely precautionary to ensure the gathering remained peaceful, and the screening concluded without any untoward incident.

ward incident.

The contrast was, however, hard to miss - a heavily guarded gurdwara on the outside and a community quietly watching the film inside.

Organisers said they had consciously kept politics away from the event. No political leaders were

invited or allowed to attend, they said, adding that they had also received calls from the crime branch enquiring whether the film was going to be screened.

"We wanted this to remain a community event, not a political one," they said.

For Ravneet Singh, the gurdwara's general secretary, the decision to organise the screening was driven by what he described as a desire to familiarise younger generations with a difficult chapter of Punjab's history.

"We only wanted people, and especially current generation to know what happened with Punjab in 1995 and what ordinary families went through," Singh told The Tribune.

Power discoms roll out monsoon readiness plan

New Delhi, (GNS) : As the monsoon advances across the Capital, power distribution companies BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL) and BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) have activated a comprehensive preparedness plan. The discoms said they were fully prepared to maintain power supply for more than 54 lakh consumers and over 2.25 crore residents while responding to risks posed by heavy rain, waterlogging, strong winds and falling branches. The plan focuses on preventive maintenance, faster response to complaints and consumer awareness. A BSES official said, "We are fully prepared to ensure power supply to our 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 ensuring 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 discoms said they may temporarily switch off electricity supply in vulnerable or waterlogged areas whenever required to prevent accidents and protect electrical infrastructure. Such shutdowns, they said, are precautionary measures taken in the interest of public safety. As part of the action plan, preventive measures have been taken to minimise moisture-related breakdowns in grids, panels and other critical equipment.

57,000 MT silt removed from storm water drains DDA



New Delhi, (GNS) : The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Thursday said it has removed more than 57,000 metric tonnes (MT) of silt from storm water drains across the Capital as part of its pre-monsoon de-silting exercise.

The exercise has been carried out under the supervision of L-G Taranjit Singh Sandhu, who has been reviewing the preparedness of various agencies and the progress of the work.

The DDA said the de-silting had been completed in the East, South and North zones, while the work is in its final stages in the Narela, Rohini and Dwarka zones. To speed up the execution, Delhi was divided into six operational zones.

According to the DDA, around 33,380 metric tonnes of silt was removed during last year's pre-monsoon exercise. However, this year, the figure has crossed 57,000 metric tonnes.

Delhi to install modern rainwater harvesting systems in 75 CM Shri Schools

New Delhi, (GNS) : In a major push towards sustainable water management, the Delhi Government on Friday signed a tripartite memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) and Ehsaas NGO to install modern rainwater harvesting systems in 75 CM Shri Schools across the Capital. The agreement, signed at the Delhi Secretariat in the presence of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, will be implemented under the IGL's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

The project will include technical audits and restoration of exist-



ing rainwater harvesting systems, installation of new rooftop rainwater harvesting units, recharge pits, filtration systems, pipelines, tanks and borewells. Water conservation awareness programmes will also be organised for students and teachers, while maintenance and technical

support will be provided for a year.

Addressing the event, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said, "Water conservation is not merely an environmental necessity, but the foundation of a secure future for coming generations."

She added that the Delhi Government was

promoting education and environmental conservation together and that this initiative would strengthen sustainable water management in government schools.

The Chief Minister said the government's goal was to make government schools so well equipped that parents would prefer these over private institutions. She also described the initiative as an important step towards implementing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Catch the Rain" vision in Delhi. Highlighting the project's future expansion, Rekha Gupta said, "The initiative will not remain limited to just 75 schools."

IIT-Delhi showcases green technologies at conclave

New Delhi, (GNS) : From converting waste into valuable resources through algae and microbial biotechnology to showcasing clean energy innovations, IIT-Delhi turned its campus into a hub of sustainability-focused technologies during the CSR Conclave 2026 on Friday.

Organised by the institute's Corporate Relations Office, the conclave brought together more than 245 representatives from industry, CSR foundations, public sector enterprises, government organisations, NGOs and academia. A technology exhibition was the highlight of the event.

Researchers showcased innovations addressing key environmental challenges, with exhibits aligned to the Government of India's priori-



ty areas, including agriculture and rural development, clean energy, sustainable materials, the circular economy and waste-to-resource solutions. A key attraction was From Waste to Wealth: Circular Bioeconomy through Algal and Microbial Biotechnology, which demonstrated how biological processes can convert waste into valuable products.

The exhibition aimed to connect researchers with corporate leaders and CSR decision-makers, encouraging

investment in technologies with the potential for large-scale deployment.

IIT-Delhi also launched two publications - the CSR Project Compendium, featuring research and community projects seeking CSR support, and CSR Impact Stories, documenting successful CSR-funded initiatives. Director Prof Rangan Banerjee unveiled the publications in the presence of senior institute officials. Addressing the conclave, Banerjee stressed the importance of partnerships in translating research into real-world impact.

India's journey towards sustainable and inclusive development requires strong partnerships between academia, industry, government and civil society.

Delhi power discoms roll out monsoon preparedness plan

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The discoms said they may

temporarily switch off electricity supply in vulnerable or waterlogged areas whenever required to prevent accidents and protect electrical infrastructure. Such shutdowns, they said, are precautionary measures taken in the interest of public safety. As part of the action plan, preventive measures have been taken to minimise moisture-related breakdowns in grids, panels and other critical equipment. Transformer foundations in low-lying areas have been raised, steps have been taken to prevent waterlogging, seepage and moisture ingress in switchgear and fencing around plinth and pole mounted transformers has been strengthened.

DTU unveils global tie-ups with new courses, research hubs

New Delhi, (GNS) : Delhi Technological University (DTU) on Friday announced new academic programmes, international collaborations, research initiatives and innovation projects as it marked 85 years since its journey began as Delhi Polytechnic.

At its annual press conference, the university unveiled integrated degree programmes, industry-focused courses, advanced research facilities and startup achievements, while outlining its expansion plans in line with emerging technologies and



the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Prateek Sharma said the initiatives support the vision of NEP 2020 and India's goal of becoming a global knowledge economy through interdisciplinary education, research, indus-

try partnerships and entrepreneurship. He said they also align with the objectives of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat. SouthAsians & Diaspora

Among the key academic announcements, DTU will launch integrated BSc-MSc programmes in Data

Science and Applied Statistics from the 2026-27 academic session. It has also introduced a 4+1 accelerated BTech-MS programme with the University of Houston, enabling students to complete their undergraduate degree at DTU before pursuing a master's degree in the United States. A Double Major in Economics for BTech students will also begin in 2026-27. The programme will combine engineering with subjects such as Economics of AI, Game Theory and Machine Learning for Economics.

Student's union holds march seeks Pradhan's resignation

New Delhi, (GNS) : Hundreds of students joined the National Students' Union of India's (NSUI) "Mashaal March - Chhatron Ki Goonj" in Mukherjee Nagar on Friday, demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and a ban on the National Testing Agency (NTA) over alleged examination irregularities.

The march began from Batra Cinema, with students carrying flaming torches and raising slogans against what they described as repeated failures in the examination system. Protesters alleged that paper leaks and administra-



tive lapses had affected lakhs of students and demanded greater accountability from the Centre. Students also raised concerns over examination transparency, accountability and equal opportunities in higher education. They called for reforms to ensure a fair and transparent system for national-level entrance examinations.