



Supreme Court Stays Madras High Court Order Banning Cow Slaughter

Observes Order Needs Reconsideration; High Court Had Directed Tamil Nadu to Prevent Slaughter During Bakrid and on Other Days

New Delhi, (GNS): The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the Madras High Court's order directing the Tamil Nadu government to ensure a complete ban on the slaughter of cows and calves during Bakrid as well as on any other day in the state, observing that the order required reconsideration.

The Tamil Nadu government had challenged the High Court's May 27 order before the Supreme Court, arguing that the directive was contrary to the provisions of the existing law, which permits the slaughter of certain categories of cattle under specified conditions

and at designated locations. The state contended that since the law clearly defines the categories of cattle that may be slaughtered and the places where such slaughter is legally permitted, the High Court's direction could not be sustained.

A bench comprising Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta issued notice in the matter and stayed the operation of the High Court's order.

High Court Had Directed Ban on Bakrid Slaughter

On May 27, a day before Bakrid, the Madras High Court had

directed the Tamil Nadu government to ensure that cows and calves were not slaughtered during the festival or on any other day in the state.

The bench of Justice G.R. Swaminathan and Justice V. Lakshminarayanan observed that cows have long held a revered place in Indian culture and referred to debates in the Constituent Assembly, noting that several Muslim rulers had also imposed restrictions on cow slaughter in the past. The court also cited Mahatma Gandhi's views on the importance of cow protection.

Reference to Article 48 of the Constitution

The High Court had relied on Article 48 of the Constitution,

which directs the State to take steps for preserving and improving breeds of cattle and prohibiting the slaughter of cows, calves and other milch and draught animals.

It also referred to Section 4 of the Tamil Nadu Animal Preservation Act, 1958, which permits the slaughter of only those animals that are over ten years of age and certified as unfit for breeding. The High Court had further observed that even where animal sacrifice is legally permitted, it must take place only at designated locations and not in public places or on roads. The court maintained that the constitutional debates underscored the special cultural and religious significance of cows in Indian civilisation.

Election Commission Makes Parents' SIR Details Mandatory for New Voters

Rule Earlier Applied Only to Existing Electors; EC Says It Will Simplify Identity Verification and Record Matching

New Delhi, (GNS): The Election Commission has extended a new verification requirement to first-time voters applying for inclusion in the electoral roll. Every new applicant submitting Form 6 for voter registration will now have to provide details of their parents' Special Intensive Revision (SIR) records.

According to Election Commission officials, the provision is no longer limited to existing voters and will also apply to all first-time applicants seeking registration in the voters' list.

Why Has the Rule Been Introduced? The Election Commission said the measure has been introduced to:

Facilitate easier verification of new voters' identity and records.

Reduce the number of documents required from applicants.

Help identify duplicate, deceased,

shifted and foreign voters. Ensure that applicants submitting Form 6 online cannot proceed without completing the mandatory declaration.

Declaration Mandatory Along With Form 6

Election Commission officials said the declaration was first introduced during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise launched in Bihar in June 2025, where new applicants were required to submit it along with Form 6.

The Commission, however, clarified that Form 6 has not been formally amended. Instead, administrative instructions have been issued making the declaration compulsory for all new voter registration applications.

EC Responds to UN Concerns

The Election Commission has also rejected concerns raised by United Nations Special Intensive Revision process.

Bomb Threats to Six Mohali Schools Ahead of PM Modi's Punjab-Chandigarh Visit

Threat Email Warns of Explosions at Railway Station and Public Rally; Mentions Diljit Dosanjh and Issues Warning Against Attending PM's Events



Mohali, (GNS): Six schools in Mohali received bomb threats ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposed visit to Punjab and Chandigarh on July 17, prompting authorities to shut the institutions and send students home as a precautionary measure.

One of the threatening emails was received at around 9 a.m. on the official email account of Shivalik Public School in Phase-6. According to the school's coordinator, the message arrived while the second class period was in progress.

The email stated that schools were the target for the day and warned of bomb blasts on July 17 as well. It also threatened attacks on the Jalandhar-Chandigarh railway station, where the Prime Minister is scheduled to inaugurate a development project.

Afghan Agriculture Minister Holds Talks with Shivraj Singh Chouhan to Expand Bilateral Cooperation

New Delhi, (GNS): Afghanistan's Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Maulvi Ataullah Omari, held talks with Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to explore new avenues of bilateral cooperation in the agriculture sector during his visit to India from July 7 to 12.

In a statement issued on Sunday, the Ministry of External Affairs said the Afghan minister was accompanied by a high-level delegation. It noted that this was Afghanistan's fourth ministerial-level visit to India since October 2025, reflecting the continued momentum in bilateral relations.

Monsoon to Regain Strength Within a Week

Red Alert for Heavy Rain in 18 States Including Uttar Pradesh and Bihar; Weak Phase Continues in Rajasthan and Gujarat



New Delhi, (GNS): The southwest monsoon, which has



remained weak over Rajasthan, Gujarat and several parts of northwest India during the past three to four days, is expected to

regain momentum from July 20. Satellite imagery indicates dense cloud cover over eastern, central and northeastern India.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), a cyclonic circulation over Bangladesh and the northeastern region, coupled with a western disturbance, is likely to intensify rainfall activity over the next few days.



Amarnath Yatra Set to Become India's First Zero-Landfill Pilgrimage

Over Four Lakh Pilgrims Expected; Entire Waste to Be Scientifically Processed Instead of Sent to Landfills

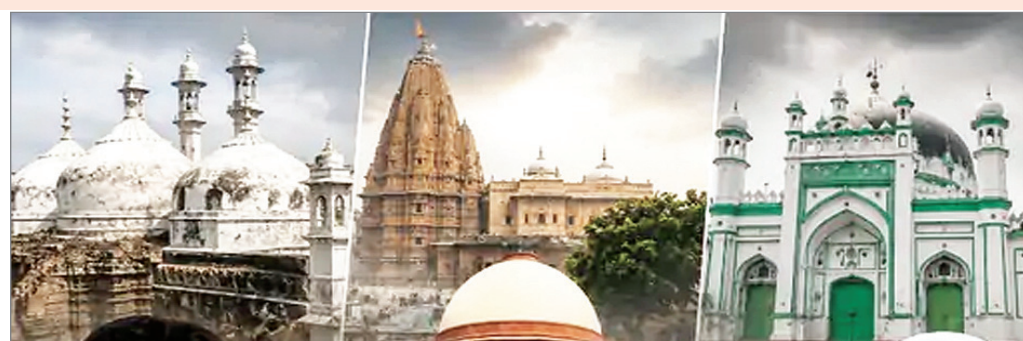
Jammu, (GNS): The annual Amarnath Yatra is set to become India's first "Zero-Landfill Pilgrimage," with the Jammu and Kashmir administration implementing an extensive waste management plan to ensure that no garbage generated during the pilgrimage is sent to landfills.

The 57-day pilgrimage, which began on July 3 and will conclude on August 28, is expected to attract more than four lakh devotees. Despite the massive influx of pilgrims, authorities aim to process and recycle all waste generated along the route.

The administration has launched the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026 Zero Landfill Pilgrimage initiative, under which waste generated during the yatra is sent to useful resources.

Both Hindu and Muslim Parties Reject Supreme Court's Mediation Proposal in Kashi, Mathura and Sambhal Disputes

Say They Want a Judicial Verdict Through Court Proceedings; Special 'Samadhan Samaroh 2026' Lok Adalat Scheduled in August



Varanasi/Mathura/Sambhal, (GNS): The Hindu and Muslim parties involved in three major temple-mosque disputes in Uttar Pradesh have rejected the Supreme Court's proposal for mediation, stating that they prefer the matters to be decided through judicial proceedings.

The disputes relate to the Gyanvapi Mosque in Varanasi, the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah complex in Mathura, and the Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal.

According to Bar and Bench, the

Supreme Court had written to both parties under its 'Samadhan Samaroh 2026' initiative, seeking their consent for mediation as a means of achieving an amicable settlement. However, neither side agreed to the proposal. The date on which the court issued the communication has not been disclosed.

Representatives of both sides have maintained that they want the disputes to be resolved through a court verdict rather than negotiations.

As part of the 'Samadhan Samaroh', a special Lok Adalat is scheduled to be held on the Supreme Court premises from August 21 to 23, with the objective of resolving long-pending legal disputes through dialogue instead of prolonged litigation.

Demands of the Hindu Side

Declaration of the Gyanvapi complex as the ancient Vishweshwar Temple. Permission for regular Hindu worship within the mosque premises. Recognition of the religious remains found at the site as part of the temple.

Demands of the Muslim Side

Retention of the Gyanvapi complex as a mosque. Rejection of fresh claims under the Places of Worship Act, 1991. Protection of Muslims' right to offer prayers at the mosque.



Chamoli, (GNS): The Chamoli Police's Special Investigation Team (SIT) has arrested suspended Personal Assistant Pramod

Badrinath Temple Committee Employee Arrested in Donation Theft Case

Police Say Suspended Staffer Hid 500 Notes, Gold and Silver Offerings Beneath Mobile Phone; Arrested from Dehradun

Nautiyal of the Badrinath Temple Committee (BKTC) in connection with the alleged theft of offerings made at the Badrinath Temple.

The accused was arrested from his residence in Nehru Colony, Dehradun, at around 10 p.m. on July

12. He was subsequently brought to Chamoli, where he is being interrogated at the Badrinath police station along with four other temple committee employees.

According to police sources, the SIT reached Dehradun in plain clothes to carry out the

arrest. During questioning, Nautiyal was asked whether BKTC Chairman Hemant Dwivedi was involved in the alleged theft. He denied any such involvement by shaking his head.

The case was registered on July 8 at Badrinath police station

following a complaint lodged by Officer-in-Charge Yudhveer Pushpwan. Acting on the directions of Chamoli Superintendent of Police Surjeet Singh Panwar, the SIT examined CCTV footage, recorded witness statements and collected other evidence.

(Brainstorming) Preparations for a mass movement regarding E-20, average and vehicles destroyed

(Sanat Jain)

The government has mandated E-20 petrol at all petrol pumps in India. Over the past month, complaints of reduced vehicle mileage and various vehicle malfunctions due to this petrol have been pouring in from states across the country. This is fueling growing public anger. Millions of two-wheelers and four-wheelers are not even ready for E-10 petrol. Minor adulteration used to have little impact, but E-20 has

begun to have a significant impact. This has now led to public anger being clearly visible at petrol pumps and on the roads. The government is unwilling to accept that E-20 petrol reduces vehicle mileage. Consumers are constantly complaining that their vehicle mileage has dropped by 5 to 8 kilometers. The poor and middle class are suffering a double blow due to the reduced mileage of two-wheelers. They are forced to buy adulterated

petrol at a higher price. Despite the 20% ethanol added, the government has not reduced the price of petrol. Consumers are not given the option to choose between pure and adulterated petrol at petrol pumps. The anger of petrol consumers is growing day by day due to the high prices they pay, but low fuel economy, and vehicle breakdowns.

The government is completely ignoring consumer complaints. Government

ministers are adding insult to injury. The government's claims are contrary to reality. Yet, the Petroleum Minister is openly stating that E-20 petrol will be available at the government-determined rate. Even after the ethanol is added, the price of that petrol will not be reduced. To add to the chaos, while adulterated petrol is being sold at petrol pumps, petrol pump owners have also begun adulterating the petrol pumps themselves. It is now

impossible to even check for adulteration. Due to this government stance, petrol pump operators have also resorted to arbitrary actions. A large number of vehicles are arriving at car showrooms and mechanics for repairs. Fuel systems are failing, vehicle tanks are deteriorating, and vehicles are running jerkily. Consumers are constantly complaining, but instead of addressing these complaints, the government is engaged in a form of intimidation

against drivers and petrol consumers. This is now leading to public anger.

Aam Aadmi Party convenor and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and the Congress Party have also begun preparing for a public movement on this issue. Despite such widespread anger, the government is not taking any appropriate action. This suggests that this government is unconcerned about public anger and votes.

Editorial

On ethanol-blended fuel and the Indian consumer

The Indian government's policy to continue producing E20 petrol at a cost higher than that of pure petrol when oil prices dip under \$70 a barrel to "compensate farmers adequately" is a deceptively well-formulated proposition. Most feedstock for the fuel-blending programme is from sugarcane, one of India's most water- and fertilizer-intensive crops, mainly grown in water-stressed Maharashtra and Karnataka. Whether the policy's net economic benefit remains positive will depend on the gains from lower crude imports, environmental improvements, and higher rural incomes outweighing these additional costs. Efficiency also remains a concern. Consumers — including people who are poorer than sugarcane farmers — pay more at the pump, oil marketing companies procure ethanol at the administered price, distilleries buy feedstock, and only then do farmers receive higher prices. Higher feedstock prices also do not address most reasons farmers have lower incomes, such as post-harvest losses and limited market access. Crucially, if the government rewards every unit of ethanol irrespective of feedstock, the policy will favour whichever feedstock has the largest installed base: sugarcane. Instead, the objectives should include resource efficiency and food security. The state could invest in irrigation and logistics and institute revenue-sharing arrangements with ethanol producers and cooperatives.

India has encouraged maize and grain-based distillation capacity has expanded rapidly, periodically allowed ethanol to be produced from the Food Corporation's surplus or damaged rice holdings, and has supported commercial plants using agricultural residues such as rice straw under Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas schemes. Maize and millets are less thirsty but maize still demands significant fertilizer inputs while millets produce less fermentable starch per hectare. Sweet sorghum is less water-intensive and has a shorter growing season than sugarcane. Lignocellulosic biomass such as rice and wheat straw, maize stover and groundnut shells can also support second-generation (2G) ethanol.

The growing discontent against the judiciary is fatal for a healthy democracy

(Saurabh Varshney)

The success of Indian democracy is based on its four main pillars—the legislature, the executive, the judiciary, and an independent media. Among these, the judiciary is considered the guardian of the Constitution and the ultimate protector of citizens' fundamental rights. The judiciary is not merely a dispute-solving institution, but a system that protects the supremacy of the Constitution, the rule of law, and democratic values. When citizens fail to receive justice from the government, administration, or other institutions, the judiciary is their last hope. However, in recent years, dissatisfaction, criticism, and debate regarding the judiciary have increased among various sections of society. Political reactions to judicial decisions, the growing number of pending cases, the judge appointment process, questions of transparency, and incomplete information circulating on social media have further fueled this dissatisfaction. Therefore, the question becomes crucial: is the growing dissatisfaction with the judiciary affecting its dignity and credibility, or is it part of the natural process of reform in a democratic system? Such discontent was recently evident when Supreme Court petitioner Prabal Pratap called judges "judicial servants" and then used abusive language against CJI Surya Kant, throwing papers in the courtroom. Security personnel subsequently escorted the lawyer out of the courtroom, but the court declined to take any action against him. The judge concerned deserves praise for making it his mission to uphold the dignity of the Supreme Court and forgiving him for this act. This needs to be understood in detail.

Major Causes of Discontent

1. **Inordinate Delay in Justice:** The biggest challenge facing the Indian judicial system is the delay in justice. Millions of cases remain pending in various courts

across the country for years. Many civil and criminal cases drag on for decades. As the famous saying goes, "Justice delayed is justice denied." When a person does not receive timely justice, their faith in the judiciary begins to weaken.

2. **Vacant Judge Posts and Lack of Resources:** Thousands of judge posts remain vacant for long periods in many courts across the country. Additionally, courts lack modern technology, adequate judicial staff, infrastructure, and digital facilities. The growing number of cases and limited resources slow down the judicial process.

3. **Controversy over the appointment process of judges:** The collegium system has long been a topic of debate. Its supporters believe that it protects the independence of the judiciary, while critics argue that it lacks sufficient transparency and accountability. Delays in appointments and occasional disagreements between the executive and the judiciary also create confusion and dissatisfaction among the public.

4. **Controversy over sensitive cases** Judicial decisions in cases of political, social, or religious significance often evoke varying reactions from different sections of society. Court decisions are often evaluated not on legal grounds, but from a political or ideological perspective. This can create unnecessary pressure and distrust in the judiciary.

5. **Social Media and Disinformation:** In the digital age, social media has become the fastest medium of information. However, incomplete information, false claims, misleading videos, and misinterpretations of judicial decisions create confusion among the public. Conclusions are often drawn based on excerpts from court decisions without reading the entire judgment. This impacts the image of the judiciary.

Does dissent affect the dignity of the judiciary?

Criticism of any institution is not unusual in a democracy. The judiciary is also part of the democratic system, and citizens have the right to question its decisions and functioning. However, this criticism must be based on facts, constitutional values, and legal understanding. When criticism is constructive, it paves the way for reform. Conversely, if criticism comes in the form of personal accusations, political propaganda, false information, or unfounded questions about the integrity of judges, it undermines both the dignity of the judiciary and public trust. The judiciary's power rests on public trust. If citizens' trust is weakened, the concept of the rule of law is also affected. Therefore, protecting dignity is a necessity not only for the judiciary but for the entire democracy.

Achievements of the Judiciary

Amidst criticism of the Indian judiciary, it would be inappropriate to forget its historical contributions.

The Supreme Court and High Courts have time and again upheld the spirit of the Constitution. Numerous important decisions related to the protection of fundamental rights, environmental protection, women's rights, children's rights, freedom of expression, the right to information, and social justice have strengthened Indian democracy. The system of public interest litigation has provided an effective means of access to justice for the poor, the deprived, and the vulnerable. On numerous occasions, the judiciary has maintained the democratic balance by establishing constitutional checks on the arbitrariness of the executive and the legislature.

Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, many courts played an active role in matters related to healthcare, oxygen availability, migrant workers, and civil rights. This demonstrates that the judiciary is not merely an interpreter of the law but also a protector of civil rights.

The need to maintain the dignity of the judiciary

In a democracy, the dignity of the judiciary is not merely a question of the respect for judges, but also of the supremacy of the Constitution. If public trust in the courts is eroded, people will seek resolution to disputes through means other than the law, which could lead to anarchy. Therefore, maintaining the dignity of the judiciary is the collective responsibility of every citizen, political party, media, and state. Criticism of the courts is certainly possible, but it must be based on facts, constitutional decorum, and legal reasoning. Growing dissatisfaction with the Indian judiciary is a serious issue, but it should not be seen solely as a failure of the judiciary. It also indicates the process of continuous review and reform of democratic institutions. The independence of the judiciary and its accountability are equally essential. On the one hand, the courts must be made more transparent, quick, and accessible, while on the other hand, society, the media, and political leadership must adopt a restrained, fact-based, and responsible approach towards the judiciary.

The strength of democracy is ensured not only by strong laws, but also by the public's unwavering faith in the institutions that uphold those laws. The dignity, impartiality, and independence of the Indian judiciary are the soul of democracy.

Therefore, advancing necessary reforms in the judiciary while maintaining a balance between criticism and respect is the most pressing need of the hour.

To address growing discontent, some key reforms are necessary:

Filling vacant judge positions expeditiously.

Modernizing the judicial infrastructure.

The dignity of the Supreme Court and its sense of justice

(Kantilal Mandot)

In the country's highest court, decorum is paramount, and understanding the suffering of the victim is equally essential.

The Supreme Court is not merely a judicial institution, but the soul of the Constitution and the last hope of democracy. When a citizen, having failed to seek justice at all levels, approaches the Supreme Court, they have the confidence that their case will be heard with fairness and sensitivity. For this reason, the dignity, decorum, and prestige of the Supreme Court are considered the cornerstone of the entire judicial system. Maintaining the dignity of the court is as much a responsibility of the judges and judicial staff as it is of every advocate, petitioner, and citizen present there. It

is a deeply unfortunate incident that during a recent hearing in the Supreme Court, a petitioner's lawyer used abusive language towards the judges, threw papers, and hurled abuse at the Chief Justice. Under no circumstances can such behavior be considered acceptable within the court. The court understands the language of logic and law, not anger and insults. If those fighting for justice themselves begin to cross the boundaries of law and decorum, public faith in the justice system risks being undermined.

A lawyer is not only a representative of their client, but also considered an officer of the court. Their speech, conduct, and behavior are linked to the dignity of the judiciary. Therefore, lawyers are expected to

maintain restraint even in the most difficult situations. Everyone has the right to express dissent, but there is a clear line between dissent and indecency. Respecting that line is a hallmark of democratic culture and judicial tradition. The other side of this entire incident is equally important. The court dismissed the lawyer's petition, but did not take harsh contempt action against him. The judges also noted that the person was likely under extreme stress and mental pressure, and his frustration was clearly visible. This approach also highlights the judiciary's human sensitivity. The law is not merely a means of punishment, but also a system for understanding circumstances and keeping in mind the broader objective of justice.

The reality is that every person

who approaches the court seeking justice brings with them some form of pain, struggle, or injustice. After years of fighting cases, bearing financial burdens, and repeatedly visiting the courts, when the desired results are not achieved, many suffer a mental breakdown. This breakdown sometimes manifests as frustration and unbalanced behavior. This does not justify such behavior, but rather, it is essential to understand that behind it may be a long history of pain and disappointment.

The judiciary's greatest strength lies not only in its impartiality but also in its sensitivity. If a person appears extremely stressed in court, their mental state must be understood while being treated in accordance with the law. Justice is not merely accomplished by delivering

an order; it also instills confidence that the court has listened to and understood the person's case seriously. This confidence is the greatest asset of democracy.

It is also true that delays in justice, lengthy legal processes, and the growing backlog of cases create frustration in many people. In such a situation, continuous efforts are necessary to make the justice system more accessible, simple, and timely. When people receive timely justice, frustration and dissatisfaction will also be reduced. The purpose of the justice system is not only to resolve disputes, but also to maintain trust and balance in society. This incident has sent another message that everyone has an equal responsibility in maintaining the dignity of the court.

India wins 5 gold medals at International Physics Olympiad in Colombia

New Delhi, (GNS) : India scripted history at the 56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026 in Bucaramanga, Colombia, with all five members of the national team winning gold medals in one of the world's most prestigious competitions for school students.

The exceptional performance has drawn praise from across the country, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Delhi Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh congratulating the young achievers and hailing the accomplishment as a proud moment for India.

The Indian contingent delivered a remarkable performance at the 56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026, as Kanishk Jain, Riddhesh Anant Bendale, Rishit



Garg, Shresth Suraiya and Svarit Joshi each secured a gold medal at the global competition held in Bucaramanga, Colombia.

The clean sweep marks one of India's finest performances at the prestigious international science Olympiad, reinforcing the country's growing strength in science education and the

talent of its young students on the global stage.

Congratulating the team, Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised the students for their achievement and highlighted the consistent success of Indian participants at international Olympiads over the past decade.

In a post on X, the Prime Minister said, "An outstanding

performance by our youngsters! Congratulations to the Indian contingent of Kanishk Jain, Riddhesh Anant Bendale, Rishit Garg, Shresth Suraiya and Svarit Joshi for winning Gold Medals at the 56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026 held in Bucaramanga, Colombia.

Their feat reflects yet another example of the limitless potential of our Yuva Shakti and their passion towards science and research. Equally commendable is the fact that in the last decade, our students have performed exceptionally well in the various editions of this platform."

Delhi Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh also congratulated Delhi student Rishit Garg, whose gold medal added another feather to the capital's cap.

Delhi government seeks Rs 100 crore to execute revised PM-UDAY

New Delhi, (GNS) : The Delhi government has sought Rs 100 crore from Centre as first-phase financial aid for the effective implementation of the revised PM-UDAY, which aims to grant property rights to residents of unauthorised colonies in the national capital.

In a letter to Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal, CM Rekha Gupta requested financial support for developing the DRISHTI-based land survey and mapping system, setting up of PM-UDAY cells at the district level and undertaking a comprehensive awareness campaign.

Gupta said the revised PM-UDAY regulations, notified on April 6, have created a new legal framework for granting property rights to residents of unauthorised colonies. She said the provision to regularise these colonies on an "as-is-where-is" basis would simplify the process of providing ownership rights to lakhs of residents.

The CM said the Revenue Department has been designated as the nodal agency for implementing the



scheme. PM-UDAY cells will be established in all 13 districts, each headed by an Additional District Magistrate (ADM). The department will also undertake physical verification of properties, digital mapping and updation of land records across Delhi's 1,511 unauthorised colonies.

According to the proposal, `65 crore has been earmarked for the DRISHTI-based land survey and mapping system, Rs 25 crore for establishing PM-UDAY cells at the district and headquarters levels, and Rs 10 crore for public awareness and outreach activities.

10,000 slums have re-located to the Yamuna Khadar area in Delhi after the DDA bulldozed them last year



New Delhi, (GNS) : Around ten thousand people are illegally settled in the Yamuna Khadar areas of Delhi. Last year, the DDA bulldozed the illegal slums near Mayur Vihar and the Old Iron Bridge. Despite this action, people continue to live there illegally.

It is alleged that people have established their settlements in collusion with DDA officials. The Yamuna's water level is expected to rise in the coming

days. As every year, the government will have to set up camps for those living illegally here, costing lakhs of rupees.

People are living in the Yamuna Khadar area around Mayur Vihar, Old Iron Bridge, Kashmiri Gate, Usmanpur, near the Signature Bridge, and Badarpur Khadar village. The DDA claims to take action against illegal settlers. But the question is, if action is being taken, why is its impact not visible

Delhi's air quality slips to poor worst in over 85 days

New Delhi, (GNS) :Delhi's air quality deteriorated sharply to the "poor" category on Sunday, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) climbing to 261, the highest recorded in more than 85 days, as dust-laden winds from West Asia pushed up pollution levels across the National Capital Region.

The AQI jumped from 140 on Saturday, crossing the 260 mark for the first time since April 17. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) attributed the sudden deterioration to long-range transnational winds carrying mineral dust generated by storm activity in Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan. The dust plume moved towards



northwestern India, including Delhi, leading to a sharp rise in PM10 concentrations

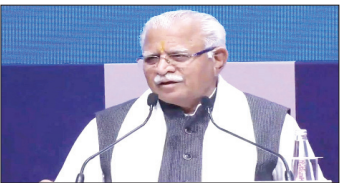
The city also witnessed hot and humid weather conditions on Sunday. According to the

India Meteorological Department (IMD), Safdarjung, Delhi's base weather station, recorded a maximum temperature of 36.8 degrees Celsius, 1.3 degrees above normal, while the minimum settled at 28.3 degrees Celsius, one degree above normal. The 'feel-like' temperature touched 45.7 degrees Celsius at 5.30 pm due to high humidity.

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Khattar proposes housing above Delhi Metro stations

New Delhi, (GNS) : Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Sunday proposed developing residential buildings above Delhi Metro stations and transport corridors, saying the move could help tackle land scarcity in the Capital while improving connectivity and promoting sustainable urban development.



Addressing the 172nd foundation day celebrations of the Central Public Works Department (CPWD), the minister said he had discussed the proposal with the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and asked it to explore the feasibility of utilising airspace above Metro infrastructure for housing projects.

"I have had a discussion with DDA in this regard. The plan is to develop residential construction on the space available over Metro stations. This will enable easy transit while simultaneously promoting greener development," he said.

The minister also urged the CPWD to embrace advanced construction technologies to meet the demands of rapid urbanisation, advocating wider adoption of 3D construction techniques, energy-efficient building designs and modern engineering practices to reduce construction time, lower costs and improve sustainability. He said India's infrastructure landscape was evolving rapidly with multi-level roads, double-decker transport corridors and increasingly complex urban projects, requiring continuous upgrade of the CPWD's technical capabilities while ensuring durability and structural safety. Khattar gave the CPWD a "SANKALP" mantra - Speed, Accessibility, Nekneeyat (integrity), Kartavyanishtha (sense of duty), Adoption of Technology, Lokhit (public welfare) and Pardarshita (transparency).

During the event, the minister virtually laid the foundation stone for the proposed office complex of the National Council for Public Works to be set up in Ghaziabad.

Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Srinivas Katikithala said the council would serve as a national platform for promoting excellence, innovation, knowledge sharing, capacity-building and standardisation in the public works sector.

Director General's medals, commendation

Nuh gang-rape Woman returning after filling SIR form targeted in moving auto 4 booked

New Delhi, (GNS) : A 43-year-old widow was allegedly abducted and gang-raped by an auto-rickshaw driver and three others in the Tauru area of Haryana's Nuh district.

According to the FIR available with The Tribune, the incident took place on June 26, 2026, when the victim was returning home after filling out her Special Intensive Revision (SIR) form. The local police have registered a case against four identified suspects under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

According to police, the complainant, a resident of Satlaka in Gurugram's Sohna, had travelled to Tauru to submit the voter-related SIR form. While waiting near the Tauru police post to catch a ride back to Sohna, she boarded an auto-rickshaw after the driver solicited passengers for her destination. Three other young men were already sitting inside the vehicle.

Instead of heading toward Sohna, the driver diverted the vehicle toward Nuh. When the woman objected, the driver claimed he was picking up another passenger from the bypass. However, before she could protest further, the men took her hostage inside the moving vehicle.

According to the FIR, one of the three men placed his hand over the



victim's mouth to prevent her from raising an alarm. The driver then accelerated and parked the vehicle behind a railway line under the shade of some trees.

The three passengers stepped outside to keep watch while the auto driver pulled down the vehicle's curtains and assaulted her. The suspects threatened to kill the victim if she screamed.

The survivor managed to break free and escape when the suspects were distracted by the sound of an approaching motorcycle. Before she fled, the suspects taunted the victim, bragging about their identities and village locations to intimidate her into silence. Despite the threats, the woman reached the Tauru City Police Station and narrated her ordeal. Following a medical examination, a FIR was registered and accused were identified.

Explainer What is Form 6, why does it require declaration

New Delhi, (GNS) : Amid the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, the significance of filling up Form 6 has grown by manifolds as it is the official application form used to enrol new voters as per the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

However, Form 6 does not require documentary proof of citizenship. Instead, it includes a self-declaration, and furnishing false claims can attract penalty or imprisonment of up to one year.

The Election Commission (EC) has clarified that the declaration is not a new requirement introduced with the nationwide SIR. It was incorporated through EC instructions in the Bihar SIR rolled out in June last year. New voters were made to file the declaration along with Form 6.

According to the EC, no amendment has been made in Form 6.

The poll body said the declaration helps in mapping electors and reduces the number of documents that new are required to submit along with their applications. If a person fills Form 6 online, he or she cannot proceed unless



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The poll body said the declaration helps in mapping electors and reduces the number of documents that new are required to submit along with their applications. If a person fills Form 6 online, he or she cannot proceed unless they complete the declaration.

One festival, 400 mango varieties to savour & celebrate

New Delhi, (GNS) : The aroma of ripe, golden yellow mangoes filled the air as the 35th edition of Delhi Tourism's Aam Mahotsav kicked off on July 3 at Dilli Haat, Janakpuri. Inaugurating the three-day festival, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta described mangoes as an inseparable part of childhood memories and summer traditions. She said, "Har woh cheez jisse aapke jeevan mein rang bharta hai woh aaj yahan hai."

The king of fruits is also important for maintaining diplomatic ties'

The Chief Minister described mangoes as an inseparable part of her childhood memories. Talking about mango diplomacy, she said, "Mango is not just a gift item anymore. India has sent mangoes to diplomats and envoys, signalling that the king of fruits is also important for maintaining diplomatic ties. It is making a name for itself not just in India but internationally." pan-India mango showcaseSunil Anchipaka, MD & CEO of Delhi Tourism, noted that the festival featured over 400 varieties of mangoes from across the country. He said, "This festival has become a legacy of Delhi Tourism, and Delhiites have been looking forward to it for over three decades." Families celebrated the mango season with mango softies, jams, pickles, mango iced tea and seasonal snacks.

WESTERN RAILWAY				
VARIOUS WORKS				
Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6th floor, Engg. Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai -400 008. Invites E-Tender				
Sr. No.	Tender Notice No. & Date	Work and Location	Approx. cost of work in ₹	EMD
1.	BCT/26-27/91 dt.09/07/2026	Churchgate to Virar Section - Repairs & construction of Boundary wall as per Joint survey conducted with MRVC, RPF & Open line to Prevent Trespassing and encroachments	₹ 9,99,99,681.17	₹ 20,00,000.00
2.	BCT/26-27/92 dt.09/07/2026	Borivali to Virar - Supply of potable water through tanker on railway station for a period of 730 days (24 month)	₹ 90,72,000.00	₹ 1,81,400.00
3.	BCT/26-27/93 dt.09/07/2026	Mumbai Central Div- Painting structure element on PF and Providing PF zoning to comply Divyangjan provisions at 16 stations from Santacruz to Virar	₹ 1,15,64,293.52	₹ 2,31,300.00
For all above tenders, Date & Time of submission: Till 04.08.2026, 15:00 hrs. Date & Time of opening: On 04.08.2026 at 15:30 hrs. Note: -For further details please visit our website www.treps.gov.in .				
0354				
Like us on: f facebook.com/WesternRly • Follow us on: X X.com/WesternRly				

Four children were swept away by strong currents while bathing in the Yamuna River

New Delhi, (GNS): Outer Delhi. Four of the five children who went to bathe in the Yamuna River in the Alipur police station area were swept away by deep waters. All four are said to be from Ibrahimpur. None of their bodies have been found yet, and divers from the Boat Club are present at the scene.

Police said that at 7:45 p.m. on Sunday, a report of children drowning in the Yamuna River was received at Police Station Alipur under DD No. 65A. The DD entry was handed over to SI Priyanka, who immediately arrived at the scene.

Accident while bathing
Upon arrival at the scene, it was discovered that five minor boys had gone to bathe in the Yamuna River at Thokar No. 24. While bathing, four of the boys, Rahul, Anshu, Saurabh, and



Amandeep, reportedly drowned in the river. A fifth boy, Lucky, son of Santosh, aged about 14, who remained outside, raised an alarm.

Hearing her cries, locals working in nearby fields rushed to the scene and attempted to rescue the children. However, by the time they arrived, all four boys had disappeared, swept away by

the river's strong current.

Rescue operation underway

According to police, the drowned boys have been identified as Rahul, Anshu, Saurav, and Amandeep. All four are residents of Ibrahimpur. An official said the NDRF, DDMA, fire department, and the concerned SDM have been informed, and a rescue opera-

tion has been launched at the scene. Legal action will be taken after the body is found.

Local police officials are coordinating with rescue agencies and every effort is being made to locate the missing children. Upon recovery of the bodies, further legal action will be initiated, including investigation proceedings under the relevant provisions of the BNSS.

Bharat Tex 2026 To Begin In New Delhi

New Delhi, (GNS): India's largest global textile event, Bharat Tex 2026, will begin tomorrow at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The four-day event will showcase India's growing global leadership in textiles, fashion, sustainability, technology, innovation, investment and international trade.

The event will bring together manufacturers, exporters, global buyers, investors, policymakers, international delegations, artisans, start-ups and technology providers.

Addressing a press conference in New Delhi, Chairman of the Bharat Tex Trade Federation, Naren Goenka, said the third edition of Bharat Tex is expected to witness the participation of more than 7,000 buyers, over 1.3 lakh trade visitors and exhibitors showcasing more than 20,000 textile products.

He said international exhibitors from 14 countries, including the United States, the United



Kingdom, Japan, Portugal, Spain, New Zealand, South Korea, South Africa and Nepal, will participate in the event.

Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 5F vision - Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign - Bharat Tex has evolved into a premier global platform for business, investment, innovation, policy dialogue and strategic partnerships across the textile value chain.

Delhi HC issues major ruling, co-accused can question approver witness only during trial petition dismissed

New Delhi, (GNS): In a criminal case, a co-accused does not have the right to oppose the mercy petition of another accused.

The Delhi High Court clarified that the credibility of the testimony of a co-accused who became a government witness after being pardoned can be challenged through cross-examination during the trial.

Court's observation on Section 306 of CrPC

Justice Jasmeet Singh said that Section 306 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) does not give every co-accused the right to be heard in the pardon proceedings.

Granting pardon to an accused is not in itself against the interests of other co-accused nor does it lead to



their conviction.

Questions may be raised during the trial

The court said that the statement of an approver is recorded during the trial and the co-accused have ample opportunity to cross-examine him. It is at this stage that questions can be raised about his credibility and the veracity of his testimony.

Ticketless train travelers are in trouble Hefty fines imposed at stations across the Delhi division

New Delhi, (GNS): To prevent ticketless travel and unauthorized entry into trains, a special ticket checking campaign has been underway in the Delhi division for the past few days. In this campaign, fines are being imposed on passengers caught without tickets by checking at various railway stations and routes.

A fine of Rs 1,11,700 was collected from 111 passengers.

During checking drives at Anand Vihar Terminal and New Delhi railway stations, 111 passengers were caught travelling without tickets. A fine of Rs 1,11,700 was collected from them.



Railway officials say the drive is aimed at ensuring passengers travel with valid tickets and preventing unauthor-

ized entry into trains. Ticketless travel not only causes revenue loss to the Railways, but also violates the

rights of passengers travelling with valid tickets. This is also a serious matter for passenger safety.

100 crore rupees in spending, yet Delhi's roads remain green questions raised about the new PWD system

New Delhi, (GNS): The Public Works Department (PWD) has spent over Rs 100 crore on increasing and maintaining greenery along roads, but the desired impact is not visible on the capital's roads.

Greenery still depends on rain

The department has canceled the contracts of 68 companies that were assigned the task of developing and maintaining roadside greenery for three years in October 2024 and has given the responsibility to four companies under the new system. Under the new system, the project cost has increased from Rs 174 crore to Rs 275 crore.

Financial burden of more than 100 crores on the government

The contract change has



resulted in an additional financial burden of over 100 crore rupees for the government, but the green cover on most of the

capital's major roads shows no significant improvement. Plant growth in many locations is slower than expected.

Bhagwat-led RSS meet voices deep pain' over Ram Temple

New Delhi, (GNS): Amid the Ram Mandir donation row, an RSS gathering led by Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat today expressed "deep pain" over the alleged theft and urged the Ram Mandir Trust to ensure such incidents are not repeated.

At the end of a two-day meeting of RSS regional 'pracharaks' (outreach and communication leaders) in Karnataka's Belagavi, a Sangh statement said everyone expressed pain at the donation row and expressed confidence that the ongoing special investigation team (SIT) probe reaches a decisive conclusion.

"The Sangh expects Ram Mandir Trust to ensure that



such incidents that hurt the faith of devotees towards the Ram Temple in Ayodhya are never repeated," RSS communications chief Sunil Ambekar said.

The meeting was led by Bhagwat and attended by RSS second-in-command Dattatreya Hosabale. Apart from them, 226 other RSS leaders were present.

They also took stock of the demographic imbalance on account of rising population.

Importantly, this is the first RSS meeting chaired by Bhagwat to express hurt and anguish over the theft issue.

Earlier, Hosabale had issued a video statement condemning the incident and calling for all culprits to be brought to book.

Ram Mandir Trust general secretary Champat Rai's resignation in the matter has already been accepted and the Trust is meeting again on July 20 to find Rai's permanent replacement.

In the interim, Krishna Mohan has been made general secretary of the Trust.

DU admissions cross 2.18 lakh mark B.Com (Hons.) emerges as top choice

New Delhi, (GNS): The University of Delhi (DU) has recorded its biggest undergraduate (UG) admission cycle since the launch of the Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS) in 2022, with 2,18,284 candidates completing their registrations for the 2026-27 academic session.

The latest admission figures show that 2,73,751 aspirants signed up on the CSAS portal, while 2,18,284 completed the registration process and are now in the race for admission to DU's undergraduate programmes.

Candidates have also submitted their pro-



gramme and college preferences under Phase II of the admission process.

Women continue to outnumber men in this year's applicant pool. Of the total registered candidates, 1,20,509 are female, while 97,775 are male.

The university will

release simulated ranks on July 16, giving candidates an opportunity to assess their probable standing before the first round of seat allocation.

Based on these ranks, applicants can revise, reorder or edit their programme and college preferences until 4.59 pm on July 17, after which the preference-edit window will close for the first round of allocations.

Admission data also reveals the programmes attracting the highest demand this year.

B.Com (Hons.) has emerged as the most preferred course, followed by B.Com, B.A. (Hons.)

English, B.A. (Hons.) Political Science, B.A. Programme (History + Political Science), B.A. (Hons.) History, B.Sc. (Hons.) Zoology, B.Sc. (Hons.) Mathematics, B.Sc. (Programme) Life Science and B.A. (Hons.) Economics.

With more than 2.18 lakh students now in the admission process, competition for seats in Delhi University's most sought-after colleges and courses is expected to remain intense.

The simulated rank feature is designed to help candidates make informed decisions before the university prepares its first allocation list.

A new dispensary will be built in Sangam Vihar Delhi at a cost of Rs 1.20 crore improving health services



New Delhi, (GNS): The approximately 50,000 residents of A-Block in Sangam Vihar have been deprived of healthcare services until now. They

had to travel to other areas when they fell ill or for other healthcare needs. But now the Delhi government is about to address this problem.