



Puri, (GNS): The annual Rath Yatra commenced in Puri, Odisha, with millions of devotees gathering despite heavy rainfall. The procession began at 5:05 p.m. with Lord Balabhadra's Taladhwaaja chariot, followed by Goddess Subhadra's Darpadalana chariot and finally Lord Jagannath's Nandighosha chariot. More than one million



Over One Million Devotees Gather Despite Heavy Downpour

people lined the three-kilometre route from the Jagannath Temple to the Gundicha Temple, undeterred by the downpour. However, a stampede during the celebrations reportedly claimed one life. Earlier in the day, the traditional Pahandi ritual was performed. Owing to the heavy rain, Lord Jagannath was brought out of the temple

without His ceremonial crown. Unlike previous years, the deity was carried slowly instead of the customary swaying movement. Puri's Gajapati Maharaja, Divyasingha Deb, performed the sacred Chhera Pahanra ritual by ceremonially sweeping the path before the three chariots with a golden broom, marking the formal beginning of the Rath Yatra.

Meanwhile, the Jagannath Rath Yatra was also taken out in Ahmedabad. As a precaution, elephants participating in the procession had their legs chained, and spectators were cleared from the road near Khadia Pol. Last year, three elephants had reportedly gone out of control during the procession. The day began with the Mangala Aarti at 4 a.m. at the Jamalpur Jagannath Temple, attended by Union Home

Minister Amit Shah. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi also performed the ceremonial golden broom ritual before flagging off the procession. Balabhadra Leads, Jagannath Follows The three chariots proceed in a fixed traditional order every year. Lord Balabhadra, the elder brother of Lord Jagannath, leads the procession on the Darpada lana chariot.

CBI Claims Latur Coaching Centre Operator Bought NEET Question Paper

132 Handwritten Chemistry Questions Found on His Mobile;

111 Matched the Original Question Paper

Latur, (GNS): The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday made a significant claim before a Special Court in the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak case. According to the investigating agency, Shivraj Raghunath Motegaonkar, who runs a coaching centre in Maharashtra's Latur, paid Rs 5 lakh to a NEET paper setter to obtain Chemistry questions. The CBI stated that handwritten notes recovered from Motegaonkar's mobile phone contained 132 Chemistry questions, of which 111 matched the National Testing Agency's (NTA) master question paper for NEET-UG 2026. The agency also said that Motegaonkar's son attended Kulkarni's Chemistry tutorial classes. The NEET-UG examination was conducted on May 3 across 551 cities in India and 14 centres abroad, with nearly 2.3 million candidates appearing for the test. According to the NTA, reports of irregularities surfaced on the evening of May 7, following which the examination was cancelled on May 12, and a re-examination was ordered.



Telangana High Court Grants Maternity Leave for Second Pregnancy After Twins in First Delivery

Court Rules Women Cannot Be Denied Maternity Leave Solely Because Their First Pregnancy Resulted in Twins

Hyderabad, (GNS): The Telangana High Court has delivered a significant judgment in favour of women employees, ruling that a female government employee cannot be denied maternity leave for her second pregnancy merely because she gave birth to twins during her first pregnancy.

The case pertains to a Government Girls' College in Mancherial district, where the administration rejected her application for maternity leave. The authorities argued that since her first pregnancy resulted in twins, she already had two living children and was therefore ineligible for maternity leave under the state's two-child policy.

Why Was Maternity



Leave Denied? The petitioner gave birth to twins in 2023. When she delivered her third child in April 2026, the college administration rejected her application for maternity leave. The authorities argued that since her first pregnancy resulted in twins, she already had two living children and was therefore ineligible for maternity leave under the state's two-child policy.

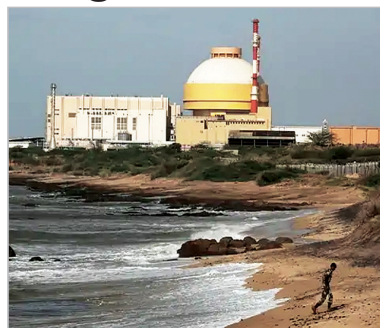
Challenging the decision, the petitioner's counsel, Gattu Vinay Kumar, argued before the court that the birth of twins was a natural biological event beyond the petitioner's control. Denying maternity benefits for a subsequent pregnancy, he contended, amounted to a violation of her fundamental rights.

What Was the Institution's Stand? The society managing the college opposed the petition by citing the 2010 and 2014 Service Rules, arguing that maternity leave was available only to married women employees with fewer than two living children.

Data Leak Reported at India's Largest Nuclear Power Plant

Chennai, (GNS): Thousands of documents related to India's largest nuclear power plant at Kudankulam have reportedly been leaked. According to a Reuters report, the hacker group 'World Leaks' has claimed responsibility for uploading the documents to the dark web.

The leaked files allegedly include blueprints of certain sections of the power plant, a list of suppliers, the control room layout, and several other records. The server was reportedly hacked in May, while the documents were allegedly leaked in June. The incident has now come to



light. Reliance Group, led by Anil Ambani and associated with the Kudankulam project in Tamil Nadu, has acknowledged that the server of third-party data centre company Yotta was compromised. The company said the matter has been reported to the government.

Delhi High Court Says Every Life is Precious Amid Wangchuk's Hunger Strike

Court Directs Centre and Delhi Government to Insure Daily Medical Check-ups; Wangchuk on 19th Day of Hunger Strike



New Delhi, (GNS): The Delhi High Court expressed concern over the deteriorating health of Sonam Wangchuk, who has been on a hunger strike at Jantar Mantar. The court observed that every citizen's life is

precious and that it is the government's responsibility to protect it. The court directed the Central Government and the Delhi Government to ensure that Wangchuk undergoes daily

medical examinations and receives immediate treatment whenever required. Wednesday marked the 19th day of his hunger strike. The petition had also sought directions for force-feeding him.

Appearing for the Centre, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed the court that government doctors are closely monitoring

Wangchuk's health. He assured the bench that appropriate medical treatment would be provided whenever necessary.

Wangchuk has been on a hunger strike at Delhi's Jantar Mantar for the past 19 days, protesting against the alleged NEET paper leak and irregularities in examinations. His weight has reportedly dropped by 8.9 kg.

PM Modi to Address Rally in Chandigarh Today Under Rs 2-Crore Tent

Prime Minister to Focus on Doaba Belt from Jalandhar; Experts Say BJP Aims to Capitalise on Congress Infighting

Why is the Prime Minister Visiting Punjab Now?

The Prime Minister's visit comes at a time when only seven months remain before the elections. The Congress high command is yet to finalise its leadership and organisational structure in the state. Factional rivalry between former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi and Punjab Congress chief Raja Warring continues to dominate the party. Meanwhile, the AAP government has been under attack from the Opposition over issues such as law and order, drug abuse, industrial migration, and the state's financial condition.

Chandigarh, (GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Punjab on July 17, marking his first visit to the state in five months. He is scheduled to arrive in Chandigarh at around 1:15 pm and address a public rally in a centrally air-conditioned tent built at a cost of Rs 20 crore. The Prime Minister will remain there for about 45 minutes before proceeding to Jalandhar, where he will attend four separate programmes.

While the official agenda includes the inauguration of several development projects, political observers believe the visit carries broader electoral significance. Following his visit to Dera Sachkhand Ballan in February and now the



public rally in Jalandhar, it is evident that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is positioning the Doaba region, known for its significant Dalit population, as a launch pad for the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections.

At a time when the Congress is grappling with internal factionalism, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government is facing criticism from the Opposition, and the BJP is preparing its strategy for the next Assembly polls, the Prime Minister's visit is being viewed as politically significant.

US Launches Fresh Airstrikes on Iran

Tehran Responds with Missile Attacks on Bahrain and Kuwait; Jordan Intercepts Eight Missiles

Tel Aviv/ Washington DC, (GNS): The United States launched another round of airstrikes on Iranian military installations early Thursday. According to the US Central Command (CENTCOM), the strikes targeted missile launch sites,



defence positions, and the barracks of the 388th Brigade in Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan province.

In retaliation, Iran claimed to have carried out missile and drone attacks on US military bases in Bahrain, Kuwait, and Jordan.

Shri Ram Temple offerings case: theft, embezzlement, robbery, or commission-taking

(Rajiv Khandelwal)
The first series of allegations—when our own people started raising questions. For the past month, there has been widespread discussion across the country regarding alleged irregularities in offerings, donations, precious jewelry, construction work, purchase of construction materials, and staff appointments at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple. Allegations, counter-allegations, rebuttals, support, and clarifications are all surfacing simultaneously. This topic has consistently dominated media headlines, raising numerous questions and doubts in the minds of millions of devotees. The purpose here is not to convict or innocence anyone, but to present the key statements made publicly in one place, so that readers can assess the entire incident from their own perspective. Is the letter "C" a coincidence or a sign? Throughout this controversy, several words containing the letter "C" have been in discussion—offering, offering, donation, silver, theft, watchman, worry, warning, slap, Champat Rai, and Chief Minister. This may be a mere linguistic coincidence, but it has fueled the public debate. "Who raised his voice first?"

Former Accounts Officer Mahipal Singh, who was associated with the temple's accounting department in 2021-22, emerged as the first major whistleblower in this controversy. In a detailed interview given on June 9, 2026, he claimed that he personally witnessed alleged irregularities in cash offerings and complained about the deletion of some CCTV footage and the inability to maintain transparent digital records of precious jewelry. However, he was removed from his post. On the other hand, Trust General Secretary Champat Rai refuted all these allegations, calling the system completely transparent and auditable. "Did the successor Mahant also raise questions?" Mahant Kamal Nayan Das, successor to Mahant Nriya Gopal Das, also initially reacted sharply. He argued that if the investigators themselves were not honest, how could an impartial investigation be conducted? He also pointed out that those who previously lived ordinary lives now possessed luxurious resources. "Vinay Katiyar's harsh comment." Vinay Katiyar, former MP from Faizabad (Ayodhya), who was a prominent figure in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, used harsh language on several occasions. He stated that if there was theft in the trust, the culprits should be jailed. He also demanded the reconstitution of the trust and a judicially monitored investigation. In subsequent statements, he even stated that there were clear signs of embezzlement and that some prominent individuals could face jail time in the future. "Vishwa Hindu Parishad's stand." Vishwa Hindu Parishad International President Alok Kumar took a relatively balanced stance. He stated that action should be taken against whoever is found guilty, no matter how influential they are. He also expressed confidence that the investigation would reveal the truth. He also clarified that after the Supreme Court's decision, the responsibility for the construction and operation of the temple rests with the trust, not the Vishwa Hindu Parishad. Trustee Nripendra Mishra, chairman of the temple construction committee, initially described it as an internal matter of the trust, but later stated that if there were irregularities in the offerings, it was a betrayal of the trust of millions of devotees. He also suggested that daily details of the temple's income and expenditure should be made available on a public portal, eliminating any remaining doubts.

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.

Corrupt officials have amassed black money for seven generations

(Manoj Kumar Agarwal)
Corruption is becoming an incurable disease in the country, a daily burden for the common man. According to the Corruption Perceptions Index 2025, released by the international organization Transparency International, India ranks 91st. This list included 182 countries, and India scored 39 out of 100. A score of 0 indicates highly corrupt, while a score of 100 indicates complete transparency or honesty. According to this report, India's position has improved by five places compared to its previous ranking. Corrupt officials in the country's system possess vast movable and immovable assets amassed through corruption and misuse of their positions. In India, stringent legal provisions and active investigative agencies are working to apprehend corrupt officials and confiscate their illegally acquired assets. The recent major raids conducted by the Uttar Pradesh Vigilance and Karnataka Lokayukta in July 2026 are a prime example of this, where crores of rupees in cash and kilos of gold were recovered from the secret lockers of corrupt officials. The Uttar Pradesh Vigilance Department (Vigilance Team) took major action in July 2026 against Lalit Kumar, former Assistant Divisional Transport Officer of Agra, in a disproportionate assets case. The Vigilance Team raided his Aliganj residence in Lucknow and uncovered unaccounted wealth worth approximately ₹35 crore, prompting an intensified legal investigation and action against him under the Prevention of Corruption Act. The Uttar Pradesh Vigilance Department's raid uncovered a large amount of ₹1.62 crore in cash hidden in various parts of his house. Approximately 13 kilograms of gold and 9 kilograms of silver (in the form of biscuits, bars, and jewelry) were seized, valued at approximately ₹20 crore. Documents related to several houses, plots, flats, and agricultural land in Lucknow, Noida, Barabanki, and Rae Bareilly, valued at around ₹13 crore, were recovered. Documents related to investments worth over ₹1 crore in bank accounts, mutual funds, fixed deposits, and post office schemes were also recovered. Two luxury cars, an Innova and an i20, and a revolver were also recovered. The unraveling of this vast empire began with a small complaint in 2020. While posted in Kanpur, Lalit Kumar was accused of demanding a bribe of ₹300 for a driving license. With the permission of the then Transport Commissioner, the Anti-Corruption and Vigilance Department initiated a confidential investigation, which led to the unraveling of this massive case of disproportionate assets. Lalit Kumar retired from Agra in October 2025. Six days earlier, on July 4th, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in Akola recently took major action against Kiran Purushottam Chaudhary, Assistant District Registrar and District Magistrate of Stamps. Following a case filed against him for accepting a bribe of 10,000, raids were conducted at his Jalgaon residence, where illegal assets worth over 2.94 crore were recovered. Kiran Purushottam Chaudhary, then Additional District Registrar and Stamp Duty Officer (Class D), Akola, Maharashtra, was caught accepting a bribe of 10,000 on June 26th by the ACB. The seizures at his Jalgaon residence yielded over 1.53 crore in cash, gold biscuits, jewellery, and other precious metals worth ₹60 lakh, and documents of approximately 62 lakh in benami properties, totaling approximately ₹2.94 crore. The seizures were made jointly by ACB teams from Nashik, Akola, and Jalgaon in Maharashtra. This week, the Anti-Corruption Bureau in Hyderabad, Telangana, took a major action and arrested Sankireddy Bheem Reddy, a Deputy Superintendent of Police posted in Police Computer Services, on charges of possessing illegal benami assets worth approximately ₹300 crore. The ACB team conducted simultaneous raids at 16 locations of the officer in Telangana and Karnataka. Initial investigations revealed documents related to benami assets worth approximately ₹300 crore. Two kilograms of gold jewelry and 20 kilograms of silver were recovered from the officer's premises. During the raids, ₹3.60 lakh in cash was recovered from his home and ₹40 lakh in cash from another location. Documents relating to over 50 acres of agricultural land, commercial plots, several luxury flats, and luxurious villas held in the names of relatives and benami individuals were seized. Approximately ₹19.91 lakh was found in his bank accounts. Following his arrest on charges of corrupt practices and amassing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income, the ACB court has remanded accused DSP Bhim Reddy to Chanchalguda Central Jail for 14 days in judicial custody. February 25, 2026 Following the arrest of Mining Department Deputy Director Debabrata Mahanthy, who was caught red-handed accepting a bribe of Rs. 30,000, a vigilance raid by the department revealed shocking revelations. Cash worth over ₹4 crore was recovered from Mahanthy's flat in Bhubaneswar. In addition, ₹1.20 lakh in cash, a lavish two-story house measuring approximately 2,400 square feet in Bhubaneswar's Pahala area, and approximately 130 grams of gold were seized from Mahanthy's office drawers. June 9, 2026 In a major crackdown on corruption, the Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau conducted simultaneous raids on several properties belonging to J. Mohan Naik, Engineer-in-Chief of the Roads and Buildings Department, and his relatives. He is accused of amassing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. The searches were conducted at approximately 15 locations, including in Hyderabad and other parts of the state. According to sources, during the investigation, authorities recovered gold biscuits, jewelry, silver items, cash, and numerous property-related documents. Initial estimates suggest the total market value of the assets under investigation could exceed ₹100 crore. This is just a sample. Around a hundred government officials across the country have been found to possess assets worth billions of rupees, disproportionate to their income. Each official has amassed illegal assets worth between a hundred and three hundred and four hundred crores, highlighting the extent to which corruption has spread. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power at the Centre and in various states, and while the slogan of zero tolerance towards corruption persisted, the situation remained largely unchanged. Efforts were made to digitize everything, be it tenders or other public utility services, but no department, from revenue to government, is free from corruption. Even the double-engine government has failed to eradicate it. India ranks 91st in Transparency International's report on corruption among 182 countries. This organization assesses the extent of corruption in government institutions and the public sector and determines its ranking based on it. Even if this ranking is not accepted, everyone from the common man to the elite is affected by it. The government should seriously consider that corruption, instead of being eradicated, is continuously increasing. In public life, it has now become a practice, taking the form of facilitation fees and bribes instead of bribes. Corruption cannot be eradicated simply by raising the slogan of zero tolerance.

The game of clipping the wings of powerful leaders: Datia exposes the BJP

(Dilip Kumar Pathak)
The entire political landscape of the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) rests on a strong foundation called discipline. The RSS and BJP's functioning has never tolerated rebellion or open revolt. Here, the principle that the party is bigger than the leader, and the country is bigger than the party, is considered a stone-cold principle. However, the unprecedented scenes witnessed on the streets of Datia, Madhya Pradesh, over the past few days have completely shaken this traditional political thinking and cadre discipline. The cancellation of former Home Minister Dr. Narottam Mishra's ticket and the nomination of Ashutosh Tiwari for the by-election brought to the fore the simmering internal strife within the party, which had been tried to be kept suppressed within the closed rooms of Delhi and Bhopal. What happened in Datia was not merely a superficial protest against the denial of a ticket; it was a blatant display of the ground-level influence and power of a powerful regional leader. The 12-hour blockade of National Highway 44 by supporters, the stone pelting on the police administration, and the mass resignation of the entire district executive, including BJP District President Raghuveer Singh Kushwaha, are enough to shake the foundations of any disciplined political party. The most surprising aspect of this entire incident is that despite such widespread indiscipline, violent protests, and openly anti-party actions, no major punitive action was taken by the central or state leadership against any

leader or worker. This is the same BJP that immediately resorts to suspension and expulsion for even the smallest internal protests, yet the leadership maintained a mysterious silence in the Datia case. This silence clearly indicates that even the top leadership is unable to ignore this satrap's grassroots influence. However, the next episode of this entire political drama took an even more interesting turn. After a serious closed-door meeting with Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and the State President in Bhopal, Dr. Narottam Mishra's tone suddenly changed. The supporters who had been burning tires on the streets yesterday, their universally accepted leader, suddenly released a video message urging them to accept the party's decision. Narottam Mishra not only made an emotional appeal to his workers for peace, but also made the grand announcement of personally participating in the nomination of the BJP candidate. Those familiar with politics and the corridors of power know well that this ideological change of heart was not voluntary. Behind it is the immense internal pressure of the organization, which in BJP parlance is called the bitter pill of discipline. This entire development points to a long-simmering and deep internal conflict within the BJP. In today's new BJP, the monopoly and influence of the central leadership, the Delhi court, has grown unprecedentedly. From the appointment of Chief Ministers to the allocation of tickets for even the smallest by-elections, everything is now decided entirely based on Delhi's criteria and survey reports. This

new centralized system has dealt the biggest and most profound blow to regional satraps, who once held distinct, strong, and influential political empires in their respective states. Since the end of the Shivraj Singh Chouhan era in Madhya Pradesh, a silent process of gradually sidelining or politically eliminating the state's prominent leaders from mainstream politics has been ongoing. However, this diplomacy by the top leadership now carries with it a significant and serious political risk. This overly ambitious strategy of sidelining established leaders and forcibly promoting new, inexperienced, yet compliant figures is causing internal unrest within the party's cadre. The internal strife and discontent that were once expressed only in hushed tones in core incidents like the one in Datia.

Delhi Govt invokes force majeure clause for West Asia-hit contracts

New Delhi, (GNS): The Delhi Government has adopted the Centre's guidelines allowing government departments and agencies to invoke the Force Majeure clause (FMC) in procurement and works contracts disrupted by the ongoing conflict in West Asia. The move offers relief to contractors, suppliers and service providers facing delays beyond their control.

In an order issued on July 14, the Finance Department of the Government of NCT of Delhi circulated an office memorandum issued by the Ministry of Finance's Department of Expenditure to all departments, autonomous bodies, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi



(MCD), the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), the Delhi Cantonment Board and other agencies for compliance.

The office memorandum clarifies that the ongoing conflict in West Asia will be treated as a "war" for the purpose of

invoking the Force Majeure Clause in government contracts where the situation has directly or indirectly disrupted contractual obligations.

Under the guidelines, procuring entities may extend deadlines for contractual obligations due on or after February 28,

2026, by at least two months and up to four months. The extension may be granted without imposing liquidated damages, penalties or other punitive measures, subject to examination on a case-by-case basis.

The Centre has, however, prescribed conditions for invoking force majeure. Contractors, suppliers, consultants and service providers must not have already been in default as of February 27, 2026, and the delay must be directly attributable to disruptions caused by the prevailing situation in West Asia. The authorities have also clarified that force majeure does not excuse all contractual non-performance, but only those obligations affected by the conflict.

Govt probing into building plans cleared without IFC payment

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi govt has launched an investigation into residential, commercial and group housing projects where building plans were allegedly approved in the past five years without the payment of the mandatory infrastructure development charge (IFC).

Govt estimates this has caused a revenue loss running into thousands of crores of rupees.

According to Delhi Jal Board (DJB) minister Parvesh Verma, who has ordered the scrutiny amid allegations of irregularities, it has been found out prima facie that several applicants obtained building plan and layout approvals from Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) using official DJB letterheads instead of valid no-objection certificates (NOCs) confirming payment of the infrastructure charges.

He suspects the role of DJB engineers, on the verge of

retirement, and MCD staff behind this evasion.

The govt move could result in notices being issued to property owners who carried out construction over the past five years without depositing the mandatory IFC. Dues will be recovered from them. Verma said govt suspects that in many cases, people did not pay anything at all to DJB, yet got the approval.

DJB levies IFC on new construction and property redevelopment to fund water and sewer networks in the city.

Verma said govt has sought data from officials on the number of building plans approved by MCD over the past 10 years, five years and one year, and how many of these applicants deposited the mandatory charge.

A preliminary scrutiny covered around 300 properties measuring more than 3,000 square metres.

ED raids 13 locations in 4 states in terror funding illegal infiltration case

New Delhi, (GNS): The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) on Thursday conducted searches at around 13 locations across Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and West Bengal in connection with an alleged terror funding and illegal infiltration network.

The case stems from an FIR registered by the Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) regarding an organised syndicate allegedly involved in facilitating illegal infiltration of Rohingya and Bangladeshi nationals into India, arranging forged Indian identity documents and helping them settle in different parts of the country.

The investigation has uncovered a deep-rooted



financial network involving certain charitable trusts and entities that allegedly received substantial foreign contributions and diverted the same through multiple bank accounts, mule accounts and layered transactions to facilitate illegal activities, sources said.

The probe has also indicated the use of cash withdrawals and small-value transfers to suspected beneficiaries, the sources added.

Government employees are in for a treat with major benefits for metro and bus travel camps set up at 28 locations in Delhi

New Delhi, (GNS): The Delhi government has taken a major decision for its employees. Government employees in Delhi will now receive a 10 percent additional incentive on their transport allowance. However, the government has also imposed a condition for this.

It should be noted that Delhi government employees will receive special benefits for using the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC). The condition is that employees who use at least 25% of their monthly transportation allowance to purchase or



recharge the Common Mobility Card will be eligible for this benefit.

Cards will be distributed in Delhi from today. Starting today, Thursday, special camps will be held in 28 offices

in Delhi to distribute cards to employees. These camps will be held from July 16th to July 29th.

Delhi government took decision on PM Modi's appeal

In fact, the Delhi gov-

ernment took this decision in response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal in light of the West Asian crisis. In response, an order was issued to provide additional transportation allowances to officers and employees who use the Metro, DTC buses, and other public transportation. As per the order of the Finance Department, if a worker utilizes at least 25 per cent of his monthly transport allowance for purchase or recharge of Common Mobility Card, he will be eligible for an incentive amount of 10 per cent of the admissible transport allowance.

AIIMS Delhi doctors perform rare lung-sparing surgery on four-month-old infant

New Delhi, (GNS): Doctors at AIIMS New Delhi have successfully performed a rare lung-sparing surgery on a four-month-old infant born with a congenital lung malformation affecting both lungs, making the child one of the youngest reported patients to undergo such a technically complex procedure.

The infant, diagnosed before birth with Congenital Pulmonary Airway Malformation (CPAM), underwent a segment-level lung resection instead of the more common procedure of removing an entire lung lobe. Doctors said the child recovered well after surgery and was discharged just two



days later, an unusually quick recovery for an operation of this complexity.

CPAM is a condition in which part of the lung develops abnormally during pregnancy, forming cyst-like tissue that cannot function as healthy lung. While the condition usually affects only one lung, doctors said this child had abnormalities in both lungs, making treat-

ment significantly more challenging.

Since both lungs were affected, removing a full lobe from the right lung could have reduced the amount of healthy lung tissue available for the child's future growth. The surgical team therefore opted for a more precise approach, removing only the diseased segments while preserving as much healthy lung tissue as possible.

The operation involved removing segments 9 and 10 of the lower lobe of the right lung. Doctors explained that each lung is divided into smaller functional units called segments, each with its own blood supply and airway.

IRCTC unveils beta version of its redesigned website

Here's what's new and what it means for travellers

New Delhi, (GNS): The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has launched the beta version of its redesigned ticket booking website, giving users an early look at a faster, cleaner, and more user-friendly platform.

The beta version was launched on Wednesday at 2100 hours and can be accessed at Users can also find the beta website link on the homepage of the existing IRCTC portal.

Why is IRCTC redesigning its website

IRCTC's existing website, first launched in 2002, handles an average of around 14.5 lakh ticket bookings every day. Over the years, passengers have frequently com-



plained about issues such as unnecessary captchas, multiple booking steps, cluttered pages, and an outdated interface. The redesign aims to address these problems by offering a simpler booking experience.

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What happens next
Alongside the website redesign, the IRCTC website will also be integrated with the upcoming new Passenger Reservation Engine. Since the Passenger Reservation Engine is also being revamped in parallel, the fully functional new IRCTC portal will be available in a few weeks. Upgrading the reservation engine has been a complex exercise because the existing system has had to remain operational throughout the process.

Nearly 10,000 more MBBS seats up for grabs this year

New Delhi, (GNS): National Medical Commission has approved 9,911 additional undergraduate seats, taking the country's total MBBS capacity to a record 1,36,939 for the 2026-27 academic session.

The seat matrix released by the regulator also shows 1,27,028 renewed seats apart from the additional ones, approved through new medical colleges and increased intake in existing institutions. The expansion comes at a time when over 22 lakh candidates appear for NEET-UG every year, with the demand for MBBS seats continuing to far

exceed availability.

Explaining the sharp rise in the number of MBBS seats, Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB) president M K Ramesh said the increase was driven by changes introduced under Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2023.

Earlier, a medical college could apply for an increase in MBBS seats only after its first batch had completed four-and-a-half to five years. Under the 2023 regulations, that restriction has been removed. Colleges can now seek an increase in intake from the second year itself, provided they meet the pre-



scribed norms," Ramesh told Media.

The approved seat matrix, which excludes

Institutes of National Importance such as AIIMS and JIPMER, covers 823 medical colleges across the

country, including 441 govt and 382 private institutions, and will form the basis for this year's counselling. NMC said the matrix could be revised if required following decisions of the Appeal Committee or any other competent authority.

With MBBS seats touching a record high, India is expected to expand its medical workforce. The Centre estimates the country's doctor-population ratio at 1:811, compared with the widely cited benchmark of one doctor per 1,000 population.

But NMC also warned medical colleges against admitting students beyond

the sanctioned intake, saying any violation would attract regulatory and penal action under NMC Act, 2019. Colleges have been asked to verify their approved seat matrix before counselling begins and report any discrepancies to MARB.

Of the 9,911 additional MBBS seats, 2,400 are in 25 newly established medical colleges (seven govt and 18 private), while the remaining 7,511 have come from enhanced intake in existing colleges. Private institutions accounted for nearly 79% of the additional seats approved this year.

BLO abused obstructed during SIR survey in Delhi s Chandni Mahal 4 arrested

New Delhi,(GNS): Delhi Police has arrested four men for allegedly obstructing a booth-level officer (BLO) and misbehaving with her while she was carrying out duties related to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the Chandni Mahal area earlier this month.

According to police, a case was registered at Chandni Mahal police station on the complaint of a postgraduate teacher (special education), who was deployed as a BLO during the SIR exercise at Fatak Telian on July 5.

The complainant alleged that while she was performing her official duties, one of the accused placed the BLO



register on her lap and signed it despite her objection. She further alleged that several other persons present at the spot abused her, refused to accept SIR forms, and behaved in a manner that humiliated her and prevented her from discharging her official responsibilities.

Police said the incident was reported on July 15 after the complainant approached the additional district magistrate (ADM), who informed the police authorities. The complainant told investigators that the delay in reporting the matter was due to consultations with

her senior officers regarding the appropriate course of action.

Following verification of the complaint and examination of the available material, police said a prima facie case was established.

An FIR was subsequently registered under Sections 221 (voluntarily obstructing any public servant), 79 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman), 132 (assault or criminal force to deter a public servant from discharging his duty), 74 (assault or criminal force to a woman with intent to outrage her modesty), and 3(5) (common intention) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

DJB hires IIT Delhi for Rs 17.7 lakh audit of STPs after NGT scrutiny

New Delhi,(GNS): Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has awarded a Rs17.7 lakh contract to IIT Delhi to independently evaluate the performance of all 29 sewage treatment plants (STPs) in the capital, including testing whether their disinfection systems are effective in eliminating faecal coliform bacteria before treated sewage is discharged and reaches Yamuna.

In an affidavit dated June 30, filed before the tribunal, DJB informed that IIT Delhi has been engaged for a comprehensive "Performance Evaluation and Adequacy Assessment" of all its STPs on June 5. The work order was issued on April 29 following a review meeting chaired by union home minister in Dec 2025.

The development follows proceedings before National Green Tribunal (NGT), which took suo motu cognisance of a Media report highlighting poor performance of Delhi's STPs.

The Media report titled "Why 75% of Delhi's STPs aren't ready



to tackle Yamuna stink", published on Feb 19, 2024, flagged that a majority of the city's sewage treatment plants were failing to meet prescribed standards, raising concerns over untreated or inadequately treated sewage. It also highlighted lack of provisions to disinfect the sewage.

Acting on the report, the tribunal had directed DJB to enrol IIT Delhi to independently examine whether the UV disinfection systems installed across Delhi's STPs were capable of achieving the prescribed faecal coliform standards. In Dec 2025, IIT Delhi informed that the study was delayed because it did not receive timely access to STPs and operational data.

Over 225 years while Delhi grew, Yamuna kept shrinking, lost 68% width, 89% flow

New Delhi,(GNS): A significant new study has shown that for more than two centuries, the Yamuna has been steadily declining both in width and flow even as Delhi kept growing and expanding.

The findings emerge from a research by scientists from Delhi University's Department of Geography and the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Bhopal, who pieced together the river's transformation using a map dating back to 1799, historical records and satellite imagery spanning over two centuries.

Their reconstruction paints a stark picture. The Yamuna flowing through Delhi has lost nearly 68 per cent of its average width, while the volume of water reaching the city has declined by 89 per cent over the past 225 years.

The researchers argue that a succession of human interventions progressively altered the



river's character. The construction of barrages at Tajewala, Okhla, Wazirabad and ITO diverted substantial volumes of water before it entered Delhi, reduced the river's natural flow.

The study also places Delhi's rapid urban growth at the centre of the story. As the city's population expanded from about two lakh in the early nineteenth century to nearly 2.15 crore today, demand for land and water intensified. Floodplains were cut off by embankments and development projects, with around 45 square kilometres of these natural buffers disappearing between 1912 and 2024.

Delhi pilots Heat Smart School to protect students from rising temp

New Delhi,(GNS): As Delhi faces increasingly intense summers, the Government on Wednesday showcased a pilot "Heat Smart School" at a school in Shalimar Bagh, signalling plans to develop climate-resilient learning spaces that protect children from extreme heat and heatwaves.

The pilot project at Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya in BT Block was reviewed during a high-level inspection jointly conducted by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the Delhi Government's district administration and GIZ India. The initiative aims to reduce heat stress among students through practical, low-cost measures that can be replicated in schools across the Capital.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta praised the pilot, saying the safety and well-being of children remained the Government's top



priority. She said climate-adaptation measures such as Heat Smart Schools were essential amid changing weather patterns and expressed confidence that the model would be expanded to more government schools.

The delegation inspected several climate-responsive measures, including cool roofs, shaded corridors and waiting areas, improved drinking water facilities, heat safety information boards and student-led awareness activities. These interventions are designed to create a safer learning environment during periods of extreme heat.

SIR duties: After teachers, principals sound alarm over disruption in schools

New Delhi,(GNS): After various teachers' organisations repeatedly raised concerns over large-scale deployment of teaching staff for election-related duties, a Delhi principals' association has now joined the chorus, warning that the prolonged deputation is disrupting the functioning of schools.

While no official govt figure has been released, teachers' associations estimate that around 8,000 govt school teachers have been deployed for booth-level officer (BLO/eBLO) and Special Intensive Revision (SIR) duties in the city. Officials admit that of the total 13,000 BLOs, a majority are teachers from govt schools, including those under Delhi govt, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and other agencies.

The principals' association has sought rationalisation of the deployment, saying staff shortages are affecting regular classes, academic activities, sports and cultural competitions, as well as implementation of child-safety protocols. The teachers' associations had earlier warned that such large-scale deployment, particularly after schools reopen following the summer vacation, could deepen staff shortages and hit classes X and XII students. Reports have also highlighted the extent of the disruption, with some Delhi govt schools claiming that all or a majority of their regular teachers were deployed.

In its representation to the director of education, Vice & Principals' Association of Delhi has expressed "deep concern and dissent" over the large-scale deputation of teachers as BLOs and for SIR duties, saying the prolonged deployment "severely affected the normal functioning of schools". The association said the impact was being felt beyond classroom teaching. "Heads of schools are finding it increasingly difficult to maintain and effectively implement the prescribed Child Safety SOPs, as adequate staff presence and supervision are essential for ensuring the safety and security of students," it said. The shortage, it added, was also making it extremely challenging to conduct regular classes and academic activities and facilitate students' participation in zonal sports, cultural competitions and other co-curricular activities.

Biogas plants in Delhi

New Delhi,(GNS): MCD and National Dairy Development Board signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plants in Delhi for the proper utilisation of cow dung. Union home minister Amit Shah said that the agreement signed today will serve as a model for making all major cities of the country clean. He added that this initiative will not only increase the income of livestock farmers but also improve cleanliness, generate CBG, and give a boost to organic farming. All citizens of the country want the water of Yamuna to be clean, but this dream cannot be realised without stopping the discharge of sewage into the river. This agreement is an important step towards fulfilling the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve to purify Yamuna. He said that work has already started on around 80 treatment plants in the city for the purification of sewer water and industrial waste.

School bus challans up 45% in Delhi in first half of 2026 Police

New Delhi,(GNS): A day after a school bus ran over a 12-year-old girl in Majlis Park, Delhi Police said on Wednesday that on-the-spot challans issued to school buses for traffic violations rose by nearly 45% in the first six months of this year compared with the corresponding period last year.

According to Delhi Traffic Police's data, 1,644 on-the-spot challans were issued to school buses between Jan 1 and June 30, 2026, up from 1,138 during the same period in 2025 - an increase of 506 challans.

Improper or obstructive



parking accounted for the bulk of the violations, with 1,379 challans in 2026, almost double the 699 recorded during the corresponding period last year.

Joint CP (traffic) Sanjay Tyagi said the primary reason behind illegal and obstructive parking was the lack of adequate parking and holding areas on many school premises. As a result, buses queue or

park on public roads during pick-up and drop-off hours, leading to congestion and traffic disruptions around schools. Police said they took action regularly.

The violation of Supreme Court guidelines governing the operation of school buses emerged as the second most common offence. They include failure to drive in the designated lane, stopping at unauthorised locations instead of designated bus stops, and dangerous overtaking. Such violations more than doubled, increasing from 16 cases in the first half of 2025 to 37 this year.

Capital Of Contrasts: While Delhi Moves On Kirari Remains Under Water

New Delhi,(GNS): Nearly a week after the season's heaviest rain lashed the city, many houses in northwest Delhi's Kirari remain surrounded by sewage-laden water, public parks resemble filthy lakes, and children cannot attend flooded schools.

"We are living in hell," said 70-year-old Sushila, whose son, a three-year-old granddaughter and a five-year-old grandson have fallen ill. She has placed bricks across the floor of her house to create a walkway as water has inundated it. Snakes have been entering the

house, forcing the family to be on its toes.

Media visited the area on Tuesday and found Sushila's words echoing the despair that shrouds Sharma Enclave and neighbouring colonies, where black stagnant water - the result of rain and overflowing drains - continues to inundate lanes, public spaces and school campuses since monsoon arrived in the city.

Built alongside landfill mounds that have buried the area's original ground, the plight of the colony is a stark reminder of Delhi's two realities - one the world sees,



and another where residents face chronic civic neglect.

Although the water has receded marginally in some stretches, pools of contaminated water, floating garbage and swarms of mos-

quitoes remain. For thousands living here, daily life has been reduced to navigating sewage-filled streets using makeshift brick pathways.

The crisis has severely

disrupted the schedule of local students. Two govt secondary schools catering to students of classes VI to XI have been shut since last Friday. The school grounds remain submerged, signboards have been put up to restrict movement through unsafe areas, and access to classrooms has been cut off by stagnant water. On the campuses, benches remain partially submerged, while playgrounds resemble ponds.

When Media visited the Govt Girls Secondary School No. 1 and Govt Boys Secondary School No. 2, it

found the entrances inundated and entire courtyards under water. Knee-deep water surrounded the classrooms and the electricity supply was disconnected as a precaution. The principal, who was inside the boy's school, declined to speak to Media. Parents said they have not been told when the schools would reopen.

A set of parents was spotted outside the school. They came from Meer Vihar to seek admission for their son, who recently passed Class X. However, they decided to leave after witnessing the flooded campus.