



India Launches Its First Hydrogen Train 89-km Route from Jind to Sonipat in Haryana; PM Says It Is the World's Longest and Most Powerful

Sonipat, (GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday flagged off the country's first hydrogen-powered train. The train will operate between Jind and Sonipat. With this, India has become the fifth country in the world to introduce hydrogen fuel-powered trains. Earlier, such trains were operational only in Germany, France, Sweden, and China.

Prime Minister Modi said, "This train running between Jind and Sonipat is the world's most powerful hydrogen train. It has been designed by Indian engineers and manufactured by an Indian company."

The 10-coach train will run between 14 stations on the Jind-Sonipat route at a maximum speed of 75 km per hour. The fare has been fixed between Rs 5 and Rs 25. The



train will cover the 89-km journey in about two hours.

The Prime Minister also inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of eight projects, including an elevated railway track and two medical colleges.

Make Cleanliness a Part of Your Values

The Prime Minister appreciated the people of Jind and Haryana for their

participation in the cleanliness campaign. He said that he had been watching cleanliness drives on social media over the past week.

He urged people not to wait for Modi to visit before maintaining cleanliness. He said that if the people of Jind take a pledge, they can make cleanliness a part of their nature, values, and everyday life.

Major Transformation in Railways; Dependence on Diesel Reduced

The Prime Minister said that from 1925 to 2014, over a period of nearly 90 years, only 30 percent of the country's railway network had been electrified, while 70 percent remained dependent on diesel.

Over the past 12 years, nearly 99 percent of the railway network has been electrified. He said that if a situation like a war in the Strait of Hormuz had arisen before 2014, railway operations could have faced a serious crisis due to disruption in diesel supplies. However, the situation has now changed.

Expresses Confidence in Haryana's Youth in Sports

The Prime Minister said that India will host the Commonwealth Games in

2030 and is also making efforts to host the 2036 Olympic Games. He assured that the Government would provide every possible facility to athletes.

India will work together with New Zealand and Australia in the fields of the sports industry and athlete training, which will benefit the youth of Haryana.

War Affects India as Well

The Prime Minister said that if a war-like situation develops in the Strait of Hormuz, it also impacts India, as petroleum products, diesel, fertilizers, and several essential commodities are supplied to the country through this sea route.

He said that if such a situation had arisen before 2014, the country's railway network would have faced a

severe crisis because a major portion of it depended on diesel locomotives. Any disruption in diesel supplies would have affected train operations.

The Prime Minister said that the situation has now changed.

"This is not the India of before 2014. This is a new India. This is Modi, who thinks far ahead and implements solutions on the ground well before problems arise."

He further said that railway electrification in India began in 1925. From 1925 to 2014, over nearly 90 years, only 30 percent of the railway network had been electrified, while the remaining 70 percent continued to depend on diesel locomotives.

Monsoon Session from July 20 Government to Introduce Seven Bills

Preparation to tighten laws on the insult of Vande Mataram and foreign funding; no mention of the Delimitation Bill



New Delhi, (GNS): The Government has finalized its agenda for the Monsoon Session of Parliament, which will commence on July 20. According to the news agency, seven Bills will be introduced in the Lok Sabha.

These include Bills related to the insult of Vande Mataram and amendments to the Foreign Contribution law. The provisional list of Bills does not include any Constitutional Amendment Bills such as Delimitation or the Women's Reservation Amendment.

During the Monsoon Session, which will continue until August 13, opposition parties, including the Congress, are preparing to corner the Government over issues such as the paper leak, irregularities in other recruitment examinations, the Ayodhya Ram Temple donation controversy, E20 fuel, and foreign policy.

Wangchuk Says, I Want to Stay Alive Till July 20

Cockroach Party's Parliament March Scheduled the Same Day; Doctors Warn of Rising Risk of Organ Failure

New Delhi, (GNS): Friday marked the 20th day of Sonam Wangchuk's hunger strike at Delhi's Jantar Mantar. He said that he wants to stay alive at any cost until July 20.

Wangchuk appealed to supporters to gather in large numbers for the Cockroach Janata Party's Parliament March scheduled for July 20. He said that they would present their concerns in the temple of democracy.

Wangchuk said that although he is physically weak, he remains mentally strong. Jokingly, he added that if the July 20 march was not successful, he would return as a ghost.

Doctors said that the risk of organ failure in Wangchuk has increased.

Clouds Return Over 60 of the Country

Heavy Rain Alert for Seven Days in UP and Bihar; 16 Cloudbursts Reported in Jammu & Kashmir in 15 Days



New Delhi/Bhopal/Jaipur, (GNS): Cloud cover has once again spread over nearly 50-60% of the country. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), rainfall is continuing across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and the Northeastern states due to a low-pressure area formed over the Bay of Bengal. A heavy rainfall alert has been



issued for the next seven days in these regions. Meanwhile, according to All India Weather, another weather system is becoming active near the Equator. With the activation of these two new systems, rainfall is likely in Madhya Pradesh as well as North and Central India between July 20 and July 30.

Since the arrival of the Monsoon in the first week of July, 16

cloudbursts have been reported in Jammu & Kashmir within 15 days. According to the Kashmir Meteorological Centre, such incidents may increase further in the coming days.

A heatwave alert has been issued in Tamil Nadu for today. Due to El Niño, reduced rainfall has kept temperatures above normal even during July.

12 COVID-19 Cases Reported in Andhra Pradesh; Four Deaths

● Samples Sent to Pune for Genome Sequencing; Pre cautionary Measures Being Taken in Neighbouring Karnataka

Amaravati, (GNS): A total of 12 COVID-19 cases have been reported in Andhra Pradesh between June 26 and July 16. During



this period, four patients have died. The State Government has sent five samples to the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, for genome sequencing to identify the virus variant.

Train Collides with School Van in Murshidabad, West Bengal Three Killed; Several Seriously Injured, Treatment Underway

Kolkata, (GNS): A train collided with a school van (pool car) at a railway crossing in Murshidabad district of West Bengal. According to officials, three people, including two schoolchildren, were killed in the accident.

The vehicle was attempting to cross the railway tracks when it was hit by the train.



The impact completely mangled the van. Three seriously injured students and the van driver were rushed to Murshidabad Medical College and Hospital for treatment. The



suspects linked to Jaish-e-Mohammed had been arrested. The latest action was taken following their interrogation, leading to the arrest of these five suspects.

Arrested Terror Suspects Were Attempting to Make Bombs

Government counsel P.R. Dantani informed the court that the ATS had stated one of the accused had attempted to make a time bomb.

Gujarat ATS Arrests Five More Suspects Linked to Jaish-e-Mohammed Module Were Attempting to Make Bombs; Eight Terror Suspects Arrested 14 Days Ago

New Delhi, (GNS): The Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) has arrested five more suspected terrorists linked to a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terror module. All five were apprehended from Khadiyal village in Siddhpur taluka of Patan district.

The arrested suspects have been identified as Bilal Abidbhai Shera, Mohammad Ayub Kadiwala, Mohammad Palanpuri alias Khali Ayub Sunara, Shafiya Rais Mukhti, and Mohammad Hasan Kardia.

They were produced before Judicial Magistrate R.M. Bhatia in Kadi town of Mehsana district, who remanded them to ATS custody until July 24.

Earlier, on July 3, eight

U.S. Strikes Chabahar Port, in Which India Has Invested

Control Tower Targeted; Airstrikes on Iran Continue for the Sixth Consecutive Night

Tel Aviv/Tehran/Washington D.C., (GNS): The United States carried out airstrikes on Iran for the sixth consecutive night on Friday. During the operation, it also targeted Chabahar Port, in which India has invested.



The attack damaged the port's control (monitoring) tower.

U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth also shared a photograph of the damaged control tower. Iranian news agency Mehr confirmed the U.S. strike on Chabahar Port and its

control tower. This was the third attack on the tower within the past week. The U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) said that fighter jets, drones, and warships were used to strike several Iranian military installations.

Save Citizenship Movement on the lines of the Salt March

(Sanat Jain)

Growing Political Conflict Over SIR: Is the Country Heading for a Civil Disobedience Movement?

National politics is heating up over the Special Intensive Review (SIR). Opposition parties have formed a united front against the SIR process, calling it an attack on democratic rights. The opposition states that if immediate relief is not granted by the Supreme Court, a nationwide mass movement modeled on Mahatma Gandhi's Civil Disobedience Movement could be launched. To this end, the opposition parties have jointly submitted a memo-

randum to the Chief Justice of India, demanding immediate intervention in the SIR process. If the Supreme Court does not issue a decision on this matter soon, the opposition is mobilizing to launch a nationwide mass movement starting in August. The opposition alleges that in states where SIR has been implemented, a large number of voters' names have been removed from the electoral rolls. Opposition leaders claim that millions of voters have been affected in several states, including West Bengal. They argue that the removal of names from the electoral rolls is depriving citizens of government serv-

ices and facilities. The Election Commission disagrees with these allegations. The Election Commission states that the sole purpose of the SIR is to purify and correct the voter list. The Election Commission is providing every eligible citizen with the opportunity to present their case and submit the necessary documents. The opposition alleges that a conspiracy is being hatched to ensure the BJP's victory by deleting voters' names. The opposition is planning to launch a movement based on Mahatma Gandhi's Salt Satyagraha movement, which began on March 12, 1930. At that time, the

British government established a monopoly on the production and sale of salt and imposed a tax on it. In protest, Gandhiji launched the Dandi March from Sabarmati Ashram with 78 volunteers, which later evolved into the Civil Disobedience Movement. The opposition believes that just as the Salt Satyagraha was a vital issue for every Indian at the time, the right to vote is a cornerstone of democracy today. Forcibly removing voters' names from the list directly impacts the democratic system and citizens' freedoms. Meanwhile, political activity has intensified in Karnataka over this issue. The state

government is considering measures to strengthen the system related to citizens' documentation and identification. The Karnataka government is seriously considering implementing a new system related to citizen identification or authentication on its own. This could further intensify the debate over the constitutional and administrative relations between the central and state governments. The SIR controversy is no longer limited to the electoral process. Rather, it has become a topic of broader debate on democratic rights, the federal structure, and the role of constitutional institutions. While the opposition is link-

ing it to voting rights and fundamental rights, the Election Commission and the central government are calling it a regular constitutional process to ensure the accuracy of the voter list. The governments of West Bengal and Bihar have even stopped issuing passports, citing the voter list as their basis. The opposition is now eyeing the Supreme Court. If the court issues significant guidance in this matter, this controversy could be averted. If justice is not delivered soon by the judiciary, the coming elections could lead to widespread public movements and political conflict across the country regarding the SIR.

Editorial

On making cancer a notifiable disease in India

What's good for the goose is surely good for the geese. What the States will benefit from, the country could too. In India, cancer is not a notifiable disease at the national level, keeping with the Health Ministry's position that such notification is only for communicable diseases. Population-based cancer registries and hospital-based cancer registries are currently the only national tool at the disposal of the Centre to count cancer cases. Unfortunately, these registries cover about 10%-16 % of the population, and have an urban, government health care set-up skew. However, several States have taken the lead on this front, making cancer a notifiable disease within their boundaries. Telangana is the latest to join the list of States that have made cancer a notifiable disease, bringing the total number of States doing so to 17.

With the Global Cancer Observatory (affiliated to the World Health Organization) projecting an estimated increase of 1.05 million cases between 2022 (1.41 million) and 2045 (2.46 million), the rise is expected to be a staggering over 74%. Given these projections, thanks to an increasing life span and ageing demographics, changes in lifestyle and diet, it becomes all the more important to be armed with data and get ready for vanguard action from a public health point of view. While State action can, to an extent, solve the data question, any benefit thus derived from notifying health authorities of every single case of cancer, it cannot become a rubric by which the nation can contour its cancer control programme. Apart from existing registries covering mostly urban and semi-urban posts, care in India is also delivered in good measure through the private sector and that data set is not uniformly captured. The Indian government must pay heed to its own counsel — the Indian Council of Medical Research, National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research (now ICMR-NINE) had recommended that cancer be made a notifiable disease years ago. It is a fact that establishing cancer as a notifiable disease will mean a sudden increase in the number of cases being recorded, but it must not be considered a liability.

Kailash Vijayvargiya is being overshadowed by the 'M factor' in MP politics

(Harshvardhan Pandey)

The BJP government's strong hold under Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, his direct control over development projects, and his increasing organizational influence have posed challenges for many senior BJP leaders. The name of the state's Urban Administration and Development Minister, Kailash Vijayvargiya, has once again been linked to this trend, publicly embarrassing the party leadership on numerous public platforms. Recently, Kailash Vijayvargiya wrote a letter to Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, directly accusing him of neglecting his home district, Indore. In the letter, he claimed that he has received only non-cooperation and neglect for the past two and a half years under the Mohan Yadav government. The alleged letter raises several issues, including delays in the master plan, Indore's exclusion from the Metropolitan City Plan, the lack of land available for airport expansion, Indore's neglect in the division of the Rajiv Gandhi Technical University, the lack of facilities in the Pithampur industrial area, and Indore's exclusion from the Simhashta celebrations, which has sparked political turmoil across the state. Kailash Vijayvargiya reportedly wrote in the letter that he has received only non-cooperation, neglect, and opposition for the past two and a half years, and that he is hurt by this neglect. If these issues are not resolved, he will be forced to raise the voices of the people of Indore on a public platform. This letter bomb has created a stir within both the ruling party and the opposition.

Kailash Vijayvargiya is one of the senior BJP leaders who is unabashed in expressing his views on any public platform. Known for his outrage against his own government and sharp statements in the House, he has now become the most prominent face of the Mohan government in Madhya

Pradesh. Whenever he speaks, he speaks candidly. Responding to media questions about deaths due to contaminated water in Indore's Bhagirathpura area, Kailash lost his temper and asked a journalist to "bear his limits," sparking a political uproar in the state. He later apologized, but the opposition surrounded the Mohan government over the incident and demanded his resignation. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav was forced to apologize in the House. During a debate with Leader of the Opposition Umang Singh, he used unparliamentary language, forcing Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav to apologize in the House. Furthermore, Kailash Vijayvargiya is also known for skipping important cabinet meetings. Recently, at a inauguration ceremony in Indore attended by Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav was seated on the stage, while Kailash Vijayvargiya was seated on a chair at a distance. Seeing him sitting alone, Minister Tulsi Silavat took his hand and helped him up from his chair. Even then, Vijayvargiya's behavior attracted everyone's attention. Recently, while sharing a public platform with Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, he said that after the BJP government came to power, many officials have openly claimed to be affiliated with the RSS. He also mentioned the lack of good workers in the organization, which has created discomfort among RSS supporters and within the party's inner circle. All these incidents show that Vijayvargiya's outspokenness is causing problems for the government. On the one hand, it increases the ruling party's problems, while on the other, it gives the opposition an opportunity to attack the government.

For some time now, there has been a lot of discussion in Madhya Pradesh politics about a new "M factor," the "Mohan factor." Since becoming Chief Minister in

December 2023, Dr. Mohan Yadav has dominated Madhya Pradesh politics. He is establishing his image as a Chief Minister for the common people, one who fosters excellent coordination between the government and the organization, provides transparent administration, and makes quick decisions. He has played a pivotal role during election campaigns in various states across the country. Under his visionary leadership and the guidance of PM Modi, development projects are being implemented rapidly in Madhya Pradesh. The BJP's victory in all three seats in the recent Raja Sabha elections has rapidly enhanced his stature across the country. With his increasingly strong hold in the Malwa-Nimar region, including Indore, the "Mohan Factor" in Madhya Pradesh is now not only synonymous with development but also a symbol of centralization in the distribution of power and decision-making processes, leading to the weakening of the hold of many veteran BJP leaders, both in the government and the organization. The letter bomb from Kailash Vijayvargiya, the state's Urban Administration and Development Minister, also testifies to this.

After Uma Bharti's ouster from power in the BJP, Kailash Vijayvargiya wanted to become the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, but Shivraj Singh Chouhan's coronation from Delhi spoiled his chances. He was once considered the number two in the Shivraj government, but he spared no effort to destabilize Chouhan's position. Seeing the rapid lobbying of MLAs in his favor, the party high command shifted him from state politics to central politics, after which he created a favorable atmosphere for the BJP in Haryana, forming the BJP government there for the first time. He was then sent to West Bengal, but failed to form a BJP government there. Following his failure to form a government

there, the party high command sent him back home and nominated him as the candidate from the Indore-1 constituency in the 2023 assembly elections.

After being nominated for the Indore-1 seat, Kailash Vijayvargiya made statements that generated considerable discussion. Addressing party workers, he claimed that if he won the election, he would no longer be just an MLA, but the party would entrust him with a major responsibility. When the BJP, after securing a landslide majority, did not appoint Shivraj Singh Chouhan as Chief Minister, Kailash Vijayvargiya began to see himself as a potential CM candidate. When the high command finalized Dr. Mohan Yadav's name, Kailash Vijayvargiya suffered the most emotional trauma, and his hopes of becoming Chief Minister were shattered.

Currently, as Madhya Pradesh's strongest face, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav is gaining popularity among the people through his development work. Transparent government, prompt decisions, good governance, and corruption-free administration are rapidly increasing his stature not only in the state but also nationally. Under his visionary leadership, not only is Madhya Pradesh experiencing all-round development, but his government is also working for every section of the state. Dr. Mohan Yadav has become a powerful center in Madhya Pradesh politics, effectively coordinating with the government and the organization. Dr. Mohan Yadav's growing popularity is not resonating with the veteran leaders of Madhya Pradesh. Mohan's growing stature is not being tolerated by many older generation BJP leaders, such as Kailash Vijayvargiya, and attempts are being made to destabilize his position through "letter bombs."

(The author is a senior journalist and political analyst.)

Alleged 'embezzlement of offerings' at Lord Shri Ram Temple

(Rajeev Khandelwal)

Finally, the SIT, the FIR, arrests, and resignations—how much impact How substantial? Ultimately, based on the written complaint of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, an FIR was registered regarding alleged irregularities in temple offerings. Eight small-time "minor figures" were arrested, the SIT was formed, and later, the Trust's General Secretary, Champat Rai, and Trustee, Dr. Anil Mishra, resigned on moral grounds. This development, albeit belatedly, has progressed. The biggest question now is whether this action is sufficient, or is the direction and scope of the investigation still incomplete?

Many questions remain about the specific investigation and actions taken.

Numerous written complaints (tahrirs) were already available at the local police station. So why the delay in filing the FIR? If the SIT was merely gathering facts, based on which an FIR was later filed for mere counting irregularities, the question naturally arises: was this process necessary or did it simply delay action? Whether it was better late than never or something fishy—the findings of the investigation will ultimately determine this.

The SIT's tenure was extended, but its interim report has not yet been made public. For the sake of transparency, it's natural to expect the public to be informed of the direction of the investigation and the proposed action points. On the other hand, no separate FIR has been filed yet on the alleged land

transaction allegations, nor has the SIT investigated the matter.

Comparison with other cases. The fairness of the law is often assessed comparatively.

In the Lucknow fire tragedy, an FIR was filed immediately after the incident, followed by the formation of an SIT for a detailed investigation. In the Kejriwal case, too, an FIR was filed based on the statement of an accused, without any preliminary investigation. Ultimately, the court discharged Kejriwal from the charges due to the lack of prima facie evidence of guilt. Similarly, in many high-profile cases, an FIR was filed based on preliminary available material, and the investigation proceeded later.

In contrast, in the Shri Ram Temple case, despite discussions of

alleged irregularities, complaints, investigations, and alleged seizures, the FIR took time to be filed. Even in the case of "unusual assets" of individuals associated with the trust and temple, the ED and Income Tax Department have not yet begun their investigation into whether embezzled funds have been misused. If this is the fact, then the natural question is why the process was different in this case? The law gains credibility only when justice is not only impartial but also appears to be impartial.

The allegations are not new. Financial questions surrounding the Ram Temple construction aren't the first to arise. In 2015-2017, the Nirmohi Akhara and the All India Hindu Mahasabha accused the Vishwa Hindu Parishad of misap-

propriating 1,400 crore collected in the name of the Ram Temple's construction.

The current debate began when Akhilesh Yadav seized the issue following a complaint by former minister Pawan Pandey. Has India become a country of scams? From the Jeep scam (1948) to the Bofors scam (1987) to the current "offering scam"

The current controversy gained further traction when Akhilesh Yadav raised the issue politically, based on a complaint filed by former minister Pawan Pandey a day earlier, and only after that, administrative action was initiated. The issue is not just about a temple or a trust, but about the trust of millions of devotees who have donated out of their faith, devotion, and belief.

Delhi records July's highest max & min temperatures in 2 yrs

New Delhi, (GNS): The city saw the warmest July day and night in two years. The maximum temperature rose to 39.2 degrees celsius, four degrees above normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 30.2 degrees, three notches above normal Thursday. The heat index or the 'feels-like' temperature stood at 48 degrees celsius at 2.30 pm. Higher maximum and minimum temperatures in July were last recorded in 2024 at 39.3 degrees celsius and 30.4 degrees celsius, respectively, according to IMD. Hot and humid conditions are likely to continue till Saturday. There are chances of rain from Saturday evening to July 22. IMD explains that hot and humid conditions are when the maximum temperature remains three degrees above normal along with above-normal relative humidity.

Respite is expected from Saturday evening as a spell of very light to light rain is expected. No major change in maximum temperatures is expected during the next two days, thereafter, fall by 3-5 degrees is likely," said a Met official. The maximum temperature is likely to stay between 38 and 40 degrees celsius Friday, but it may dip to around 35-37 degrees Saturday and further to around 32-34 degrees by July 22. However, the minimum temperature is predicted to remain around 28-30 degrees Saturday and may drop to about 22-25 degrees by July 22. In July so far, Safdarjung, Delhi's base station, logged 132.2 mm rainfall against the month's

Delhi IRS officer's daughter's murder case

How forensics and DNA profiling nailed house help



New Delhi, (GNS): The clock started ticking for Delhi Police the moment the call came in from Fortis Hospital at 8.50 am on April 22.

Inside the emergency room lay the body of a 22-year-old woman, a bright UPSC aspirant and the daughter of a bureaucrat, whose life had been brutally snuffed out.

For the cops from Amar Colony police station in southeast Delhi, it wasn't just another homicide; it was a brutal sexual assault, a savage murder and a robbery in an upscale, supposedly secure south Delhi enclave. The perpetrator was at large, and with every passing minute, the trail was growing colder. It was a race against time.

Joint commissioner Vijay Kumar held a quick review meeting with DCP Hemant Tiwari near the hospital, after which 14 teams were formed to crack the case. The best among the district police were put on the job. They threw a massive dragnet across the city and beyond. Knowing that the suspect had a critical head start, the cops plunged into a frantic digital and physical manhunt. They analysed footage from more than 100 CCTV cameras, piecing together the arrival and departure routes of a phantom. Soon, the streets of the enclave were swarming with plainclothes officers and uniformed cops. They questioned everyone - neighbours, cabbies, auto-rickshaw drivers, ambulance drivers, security guards, sweepers, house helps and local labourers. No stone was left unturned, no alibi unchecked. As intelligence started trickling in, specialised teams were rapidly dispatched across Delhi, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh. The first lead came from a footage in which a man, who was the former help in the victim's house, was spotted outside the building. The footage was shared across a dozen WhatsApp groups and raids intensified. The legwork paid off in record time, and within just 12 hours, the joint team tracked the suspect - a 23-year-old resident of Alwar - to a hotel in Dwarka and found the entire booty in his possession. Though he switched off his phone and was lying low, watching TV in his hotel room, the swift arrest was the result of the cops being alerted to a phone call he made to a relative using another SIM card.

The great Indian flip: People on roads, bikes on footpaths

New Delhi, (GNS): How forensics and DNA profiling nailed house help Walking, once the safest way to get around a city, has quietly become a risk for millions of Indians. The danger is no longer from speeding



cars or reckless drivers alone, but from the very

Mum bai, Hyderabad,

footpaths that are meant to keep pedestrians away from traffic. Scooters, motorcycles and delivery riders are taking over pavements across Delhi, Bengaluru,

Pune and Chennai as informal traffic lanes, displacing the elderly, children and the disabled from spaces that were initially constructed for their protection.

Footpaths had a simple purpose - to separate slow-moving pedestrians from fast, heavier traffic.

That divide has already disappeared in Indian cities. Delivery riders zip along pavements, two-wheelers dart through pedestrian crossings to beat the red lights and electric scooters glide up from behind almost soundlessly, leaving walkers no time to react.

2020 Delhi riots: HC seeks police response on Sharjeel Imam's bail plea in UAPA case

New Delhi, (GNS): The Delhi high court on Friday sought the city police's response on student activist Sharjeel Imam's bail plea in a case registered under the anti-terror UAPA law related to the alleged "larger conspiracy" behind the February 2020 riots.

A bench of Justices Prathiba M Singh and Vikas Mahajan issued notice on Imam's appeal challenging the trial court's July 4 order rejecting his second regular bail plea.

The bench granted two weeks' time to Delhi Police to file its response and posted the matter for further hearing on August 27.

Imam was arrested on



August 25, 2020, and booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for allegedly being one of the "masterminds" behind the February 2020 northeast Delhi riots, which claimed 53 lives and left more than 700 people injured.

The violence broke out during protests against the

Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

The trial court rejected Imam's bail plea, stating that it had "no option but to follow" the Supreme Court's January 5 order. The court said it could neither entertain the application nor grant him relief in view of the apex court's directions.

The trial court stated that the bail plea was not even maintainable before it. In his appeal in the high court, Imam said the trial court has erred in declining to independently examine his plea for regular bail.

The plea stated that despite the passage of nearly six years, the trial proceedings had not

moved beyond the stage of arguments on charges before the court.

On January 5, the Supreme Court denied bail to Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam in the larger conspiracy case, while granting relief to co-accused Gulfisha Fatima, Meeran Haider, Shifa Ur Rehman, Mohammad Saleem Khan and Shadab Ahmad.

A bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and N V Anjaria then observed that there was a prima facie case against Khalid and Imam under the UAPA and held that all accused could not be treated equally in view of the "hierarchy of participation".

Cabinet clears startup policy, 400 crore for innovation ecosystem

New Delhi, (GNS): The state Cabinet has approved the Delhi Startup and Incubation Policy, committing more than ₹400 crore over the next five years to promote innovation, entrepreneurship and research in the capital, CM Rekha Gupta said Thursday. The policy seeks to create a structured support system for

aspiring entrepreneurs by providing incubation facilities, mentorship and milestone-based funding through educational institutions.

CM Gupta said the policy aims to transform Delhi's youth from job seekers into job creators by ensuring that promising ideas do not fail due to lack of financial support, mentoring or infra-

structure. The govt seeks to strengthen the capital's position as a leading innovation hub while generating new employment opportunities.

In its first phase, the policy will be rolled out across 11 state universities, 13 govt-aided colleges, polytechnic institutes, industrial training institutes (ITIs) and govt schools. Eligible institu-

tions will receive a one-time financial assistance to establish or strengthen incubation centres, along with annual operational support for mentoring programmes, networking events and innovation activities.

For students, researchers, faculty members, alumni and aspiring entrepreneurs associated with these

institutions, the policy offers a structured pathway from idea to enterprise.

Startups incubated at these centres will receive financial assistance linked to specific milestones, including proof of concept, prototype development, product development, market validation and commercialisation.

DDA earns more than double from flat sales in first 3 months of current financial year

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has claimed a 120% increase in housing sales revenue between April 1 and June 30 in the current financial year compared with the same period in 2025-26, earning Rs 1,020 crore against Rs 462 crore in the first quarter of 2025-26. The earnings came from the sale of 1,284 flats, while 1,175 units were sold in the same quarter in the previous financial year. According to DDA officials, the sub-city of Narela emerged as the biggest contributor to the sales performance in 2026-27, with 1,153 flats accounting for nearly 90% of the total revenue. "In Narela, mostly middle-income group (MIG) flats are being sold, unlike the previous trend when low-income group (LIG) flats were preferred," an official said.

During the quarter, DDA sold 336 economically weaker section (EWS), 322 LIG, 435 MIG and 191 high-

income group flats, MIG units accounting for the highest share at 34%. "The EWS category in Narela witnessed an almost complete sell-out, underscoring the demand for affordable housing in the area," an official said. DDA is currently offering flats under various housing schemes, including DDA Karmayogi Awaas Yojana, which provides a 25% discount to govt employees, DDA Nagrik Awaas Yojana and DDA Towering Heights Scheme in east Delhi's Karkardooma. The flats are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For the convenience of buyers, the benefits offered under these schemes have been extended till July 31. The entire process is online, allowing buyers to purchase flats from their home. These are freehold, ready-to-move-in flats, and sample units are also available," the official said. The authority attributed the improved sales to its infrastructure development efforts,

including Urban Extension Road-II and the upcoming Rithala-Narela-Kundli metro corridor, which are expected to significantly improve connectivity to Narela. Lieutenant governor TS Sandhu has been continuously focusing on reimagining the sub-cities developed by DDA, resulting in the authority recording strong housing sales in the first quarter of FY 2026-27," said an official. DDA recorded its highest-ever housing sales in FY 2025-26,

with 11,764 flats. More than 90%, over 9,000, were in the affordable housing segment in Narela. "To attract buyers, the schemes have been driven by a series of institutional and people-centric reforms.

We introduced multiple schemes simultaneously to cater to the housing needs of different sections of society, expanded access to affordable housing finance through multiple lending options, strengthened public support through dedicated helpdesks and digital platforms, including a WhatsApp chatbot, and intensified awareness and outreach initiatives," the official said. DDA has worked in close coordination with other agencies to improve safety and commuting facilities in areas such as Narela, he added. DDA is also planning bulk allotment of flats to private builders, who can undertake minor refurbishment and market the flats in Narela.

Joint Drive Removes Illegal Vendors from Dehradun Expressway Near Akshardham



New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Traffic Police, in coordination with MCD, NHAI, and DMRC, carried out a special encroachment removal drive along the 800 metre stretch of Dehradun Expressway to clear illegal roadside vendors that had been disrupting traffic and compromising road safety. One of the key stretches covered during the drive was opposite Akshardham, where Media had recently reported that illegal encroachments were prompting commuters and cab drivers to stop on the carriageway, blocking a traffic lane and worsening congestion.

Videos released by Delhi Traffic Police showed cranes lifting rehriis and roadside stalls and loading them onto trucks during the operation. According to officials, the Public Health Department of the MCD seized nine rehri-patris, while 10 other rehriis were removed from the site. The operation cleared the encroached stretch and restored the full carriageway for unhindered vehicular movement. A joint team comprising the Traffic Inspector of Mayur Vihar Circle, officials from the MCD's Public Health Department, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) was concerned agencies.

WESTERN RAILWAY TELECOM WORK

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer (CO), 2nd Floor, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008, invites E-Tender No: MMCT-SnT-STTD-24-2026 Dtd. 14/07/2026. Name of Work: Mumbai Division:- Telecom work in connection with 1.Replacement of Routers and Switches over T2 and T3 UTS Locations, 2. Replacement of Routers and Switches over T2 and T3 FOIS Locations, 3. UTM connectivity to 126 ATMs & 4. Provision of booking office at Mumbai Central North Foot Over Bridge. Cost of Work: ₹ 1,89,95,056.77. Bid Security: ₹ 3,79,900/- Date & Time for closure for submission of E-Tender Documents: Till 05.08.2026, 15:00 hrs. Date & Time for Opening of E-Tender: At 15:30 hrs. on 05.08.2026. The tender can be viewed at website www.ireps.gov.in. 0370

Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

1994-batch IPS officer Anurag Kumar replaces Satish Golcha as new Delhi Police commissioner

New Delhi, (GNS): The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has appointed 1994-batch IPS officer Anurag Kumar as the new Commissioner of Police for Delhi. Kumar was currently posted as special director (intelligence bureau).

According to an official order issued on Friday, Kumar will assume the top post in the capital's police force with effect from the date he assumes charge. He is slated to hold the position until further orders are issued.

He succeeds the outgoing Commissioner, Satish Golcha, a 1992-batch IPS officer from the AGMUT cadre, who has been directed to report to the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi for a subsequent posting.

This transition will take full effect upon the assumption of charge by the new incumbent, Kumar.



Delhi Govt Designates Three NIA Courts At Rouse Avenue Complex

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi govt has designated three courts in the Rouse Avenue District Courts Complex as special courts under the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, 2008, for trial of offences that are investigated under the central anti-terror law.

A notification by the department of law, justice and legislative affairs on July 7 said lieutenant governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu had designated special exclusive court numbers 4, 5 and 6 at Rouse Avenue as the special courts, acting on the recommendation of the chief justice of Delhi High Court.

The notification said the courts will try offences under any or all of the enactments specified in the Schedule to the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.

The directive marks an institutional shift as the notification specifies the court of the additional sessions judge-2 at Patiala House Courts, which is now the special court under Section 22 of the NIA Act, will cease to function under the act once the newly notified courts are operational. This will happen from the day Delhi High Court issues posting or transfer orders making the three special courts functional.



Delhi adopts Centre-backed scheme to phase out ageing trucks, buses

New Delhi, (GNS): The Delhi Government has adopted a Centre-backed scheme to accelerate the replacement of old trucks and buses with cleaner vehicles, offering substantial tax concessions, fee exemptions and waiver of pending dues to encourage fleet owners to transition to less-polluting alternatives. According to a notification issued by the Transport Department, the scheme will remain in force for two years and aims to facilitate the replacement of ageing commercial vehicles with BS-VI or stricter emission norm-compliant and electric trucks, as well as BS-VI CNG and electric buses. The scheme, formulated by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways through the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB), has now been formally adopted by the Delhi Government for implementation in the national capital. Under the notification, buyers of eligible new electric light goods vehicles (LGVs), BS-VI or stricter norm-compliant or electric medium and heavy goods vehicles (MGVs and HGVs), and BS-VI CNG or electric buses will receive a 100 per cent concession on motor vehicle tax payable under the Delhi Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1962. Those purchasing eligible used vehicles under the scheme will be entitled to a 50 per cent concession on motor vehicle tax. The tax concessions will remain valid for 10 years from the date of registration of the eligible vehicle, unless modified or

DUSU polls 2026: Delhi University warns of nomination cancellation for campaign code violations

New Delhi, (GNS): With the Delhi University Students Union (DUSU) elections approaching, Delhi University (DU) has warned aspiring candidates that violations of the election code, such as using printed posters, flex banners, campaign gifts or unauthorised vehicles, could lead to cancellation of their nominations.



The directions were reiterated during a meeting at the University's

Proctor Office on Friday, where University Proctor Prof Manoj Kumar Singh and his team briefed DUSU office-bearers and representatives of various student organisations on the election code. The University said the election would be conducted strictly in accordance with the guidelines of the Delhi High Court and the Lyngdoh Committee.

One of the biggest takeaways from the meeting was the

University's renewed emphasis on keeping the campus free from visual pollution. Candidates have been barred from using printed posters, digital billboards, banners on electric poles and any other printed campaign material. Only handmade posters will be permitted, and those too can be displayed only on the designated 'Wall of Democracy'.

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta announces Atal Canteen 50 new U-Special bus routes at Delhi varsity

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday announced that an Atal Canteen serving nutritious meals for Rs 5 will be launched on the Delhi University (DU) campus on August 16, while 50 new U-Special bus routes will soon be introduced to improve connectivity for students.

The announcements were made during the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Shaheed Bhagat Singh College.

The event marked the college's 60-year journey and was attended by Delhi University Vice-Chancellor Prof Yogesh Singh, College Principal Prof Arun Kumar Atri, faculty members, students, alumni and



other members of the academic community. The Chief Minister also unveiled the year-long Diamond Jubilee events calendar and the QR code for the college's digital archives.

Congratulating the institution, Gupta said, "Shaheed Bhagat Singh College has been nurturing generations of stu-

dents with quality education, discipline and the spirit of 'Nation First'." She said institutions like the college play a vital role in shaping the country's future by preparing young people for nation building.

Highlighting the Centre's education reforms, she said, "India is setting new benchmarks in innovation and modernisation in education." She added that the Delhi Government is strengthening schools and higher educational institutions with better infrastructure, smart classrooms, modern laboratories and advanced technological facilities. Gupta said the government is also working to improve edu-

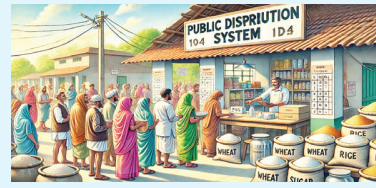
cational infrastructure and hostel facilities as part of its vision to develop Delhi into a global education hub. She said a proposal is under consideration to develop hostel facilities for Delhi University students at the proposed new campus of Indira Gandhi University.

Prof Yogesh Singh congratulated the college on completing 60 years and highlighted its academic achievements. He said Shaheed Bhagat Singh College had made a significant jump in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), moving from the 101st to the 39th position, reflecting the collective efforts of the college community.

Govt plans Smart-PDS for ration management

New Delhi, Agency: For end-to-end digitisation and real-time monitoring of public distribution systems operations, Delhi govt is going to start Smart-PDS (Scheme for Modernization and Reforms through Technology in Public Distribution System). It will also improve griev-

ance redressal, ensure interoperability across states under one nation one ration card initiative and provide a hassle-free experience to beneficiaries. An official said the new platform is expected to replace several manual processes with integrated digital workflows, reducing processing time for serv-



ices such as issuance of new ration cards, modifications in beneficiary details, transfers, surrender and other citizen-centric services. The system will also strengthen

data accuracy. Delhi has around 15 lakh ration card holders who receive subsidised foodgrains through the public distribution system.

As part of the rollout, the food supplies department has constituted a departmental user acceptance testing committee to evaluate the ration card manage-

ment system application onboarded on the Smart-PDS platform. "The committee will test all modules and functions of the application, validate workflows, identify discrepancies, and recommend improvements or modifications before it is rolled out for public use," said an official.

Delhi doubles priority household ration card income limit to Rs 2.5L

New Delhi, (GNS): In a major expansion of food security coverage, the Delhi Government has more than doubled the annual income limit for households seeking inclusion in the Priority Household category under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), making families earning up to Rs 2.5 lakh a year eligible for subsidised foodgrains.

The Department of Food, Supplies and Consumer Affairs has notified the Delhi Food Security (Amendment) Rules, 2026, increasing the annual family income ceiling from Rs 1.20 lakh to Rs 2.50 lakh. The amendment came into force on July 13, the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

The notification amends Rule 3(1) of the Delhi Food Security Rules, 2026, replacing the existing income threshold with the revised ceiling. Issued under Section 40 read with Section 10 of the National Food Security Act, 2013, the amendment allows households with an annual family income of up to Rs 2.5 lakh to be considered for inclusion in the



Priority Household category, subject to other eligibility conditions prescribed under the Act and the rules. Beneficiaries covered under the Priority Household category are entitled to receive rice, wheat and coarse grains at highly subsidised rates through the Public Distribution System (PDS). The decision is expected to significantly widen the reach of the food security programme by bringing a larger number of economically weaker and lower-income households within its ambit. Officials said the earlier annual income limit of Rs 1.20 lakh no longer reflected Delhi's current socio-economic realities, particularly in view of rising expenditure on housing, transport, education and healthcare.

They also pointed out that the minimum wage for an unskilled worker in Delhi now exceeds Rs 18,000 per month, translating to nearly Rs 2.16 lakh annually for a single-earner household, making the earlier income ceiling outdated. According to government data, Delhi currently has 64.93 lakh beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) through around 15,46 lakh ration cards. Of these, 62.46 lakh beneficiaries are covered under the Priority Household category, while 2.46 lakh beneficiaries fall under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY). The amendment partially modifies the Delhi Food Security Rules, 2026, which were notified in February this year. With the revised eligibility criteria now in force, more households across the national capital will be able to apply for inclusion in the Priority Household category and avail themselves of subsidised foodgrains under the NFSA.

Delhi steps up rain-water harvesting



New Delhi, (GNS): The Delhi Government has intensified its rainwater harvesting campaign in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Catch the Rain-Where It Falls, When It Falls" initiative, with more than 750 new and restored rainwater harvesting projects across government institutions either completed or under execution.

Public Works and Water Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh on Thursday inspected the restored rainwater harvesting system at Tyagraj Stadium and reviewed the progress of the citywide campaign, which aims to turn water conservation into a mass movement.

The minister said the government has set a target of restoring 1,000 existing rainwater harvesting systems and constructing 500 new structures across government offices, schools, hospitals, stadiums and other public institutions.

According to the government, around 400 existing systems have already been restored, while work is underway on more than 400 others. Against the target of 500 new structures, nearly 100 have been completed and work is ongoing on more than 250.