



Hyderabad,(GMS): Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace successfully launched Vikram-1, India's first private orbital rocket, on

Saturday, July 18. The test mission succeeded on its very first attempt. Following the achievement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with

India's First Private Orbital Rocket Launch a Success Reaches 450-km Orbit: PM Modi Congratulates Skyroot Founder Over Phone

Skyroot founder Pawan Kumar Chandana over the phone and congratulated him on the milestone.

The rocket was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, in Andhra Pradesh at 12:05 p.m. The launch was originally scheduled for 11:30 a.m., but the countdown was halted five minutes before liftoff. It resumed shortly afterward, and the rocket was successfully launched. The Vikram-1 rocket has been entirely built in India.

In 2022, the company launched the Vikram-S suborbital rocket, which reached an altitude of 89.5 km. This time, Vikram-1 successfully reached a 450-km circular low-Earth orbit. The successful mission is being regarded as a major milestone for India's space sector.

Gold Miniatures of Kalam, Sarabhai and C.V. Raman Also Sent Into Space

The mission was named "Mission Agaman." Along with technology payloads, the rocket

also carried artistic and commemorative payloads into space.

Commercial and Technology Payloads:

- Technology payload from Graha Space.

- Payload from Cosmoserv Space.

- Space research payload from Dcubed.

- Skyroot Aerospace's own in-house Scope payload.

A work of art made from 18-carat gold was also sent into space. Cosmos Diamonds'

artwork titled "Cosmic Bloom", along with a special micro-art piece, was carried aboard the rocket.

The micro-art piece is a miniature rocket crafted from 18-carat gold, featuring finely engraved images of Sir C. V. Raman, Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, and Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.

The rocket also carried a handwritten postcard by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, inscribed with the words "Vande Mataram."

Sonam Wangchuk Shifted to Hospital on 21st Day of Hunger Strike

Police Move Activist to Safdarjung Hospital; Woman Throws Ink at Cockroach Janata Party Founder Abhijeet Deepke



New Delhi,(GMS): Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, who had been on a 21-day hunger strike at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, was shifted to Safdarjung Hospital by police on Saturday morning. Following his removal, Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Deepke began his own hunger strike. During the protest, a woman threw ink at Deepke after he stepped down from the stage.



Earlier in the morning, at around 7 a.m., police personnel in plain clothes arrived at Jantar Mantar and carried Wangchuk, wrapped in a white sheet, into an ambulance before taking him to the hospital. The move triggered protests from demonstrators, leading to commotion at the site.

Wangchuk has been on an

indefinite hunger strike demanding a probe into the paper leak case and the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. His health had been deteriorating steadily, and he is reported to have lost around 9.5 kg during the protest. On Thursday, the Delhi High Court directed the Centre and the Delhi Government to ensure that Wangchuk undergoes daily medical check-ups and receives treatment whenever necessary. Three Students Continue Hunger Strike Along with Wangchuk, Neha, Ameen, and Manish of the All India Students Association (AISA) have also been on a hunger strike at Jantar Mantar for the past 21 days.

9 killed, seven injured in blast at illegal firecracker factory in Gujarat's Ahmedabad; PM condoles deaths

Ahmedabad(GNS): Nine people were killed and seven others were injured after a major fire broke out at around 3:30 pm at New Fire Works on Saturday, a firecracker manufacturing unit on Ramol-Gatrad Road near Vastral on the outskirts of Ahmedabad. Police said the factory was suspected to have been operating illegally.

The casualty figures were provided by Ahmedabad Police Commissioner Anupam Singh Gehlot later in the evening. Initial reports had said 15 people were affected, with five fatalities confirmed at the time. The injured are undergoing treatment at nearby hospitals. The factory was allegedly being operated by Mehul Dodiya, said Jaipal Singh Rathore, Additional Commissioner of Police, Sector-2, Ahmedabad City. "We have registered an FIR naming three accused — Mehul Dodiya, his mother, who owns the establishment, and Sadiq Saiyed, a partner in



the business. Multiple police teams have been formed and we expect to arrest them soon," Rathore said.

What caused the blast?

The ACP said a preliminary investigation suggested that a spark generated while the accused were handling explosive materials may have triggered the blast. However, he added that the exact cause would be established only after the investigation was completed.

Sources said the unit's licence had been cancelled earlier and that it had allegedly continued operating despite the cancellation. Rathore said the police were verifying the claims regarding the licence and the legality of the unit's operations.

Meets Family, Announces 5 Lakh Assistance and Housing; Also Visits His Sister's Residence in Ghaziabad



Ghaziabad,(GMS): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath met the family of Lalita Gautam in Ghaziabad on Saturday. He spent nearly half an hour with the family at the PAC Guest House and assured them that those responsible for the murder would not be spared and would receive the strictest possible punishment. The Chief Minister announced financial assistance of 5 lakh for the family and also declared that one Chief Minister's housing unit each would be allotted to Lalita's father and uncle.

Supreme Court Says Calling Travelers Second-Class Passengers' Is Incorrect

Term Should Refer to Railway Coach, Not the Passenger; Family of Train Accident Victim Awarded 8 Lakh Compensation After 10 Years

New Delhi/Bhopal,(GMS): The Supreme Court on Friday observed that a passenger's status should not be determined by the amount spent on travel. Objecting to the use of the term "second-class passenger" in railway rules, the Court said that the expression "second class" should refer to the railway coach and not to the passenger.

Setting aside the judgments of the Madhya Pradesh High Court and the Railway Claims Tribunal, the apex court directed that 8 lakh be paid as compensation to the family of a man who died in a train accident. The Court held that the victim's family could not be denied compensation merely because the deceased's ticket was not recovered.

A Bench comprising Justices Sanjay Karol and Justice N.

Kotiaswar Singh directed the Central Government to release the compensation within four weeks. It further ordered that if there is any delay, 8% annual interest will be payable from the date the claim petition was filed.



The case dates back to November 2015. Chandrakant Thakkar, a resident of Madhya Pradesh, was travelling from Raipur to Ahmedabad when he fell from the Ahmedabad-Howrah Mail and died. His bag, which was reportedly carrying his train ticket, also went missing after the accident.

Since the ticket could not be recovered, both the Railway Claims Tribunal and later the Madhya Pradesh High Court ruled that he was not a bona fide passenger and denied compensation.

Wife Allegedly Gets School Owner Husband Killed by Snakebite

Husband Sedated With Sleeping Pills, Cobra Released on Bed at Midnight; Police Say Wife and Lover Planned Murder in Meerut

Meerut,(GMS):

In a sensational murder case in Meerut, a woman allegedly had her school-owner husband killed by a snakebite with the help of her married van driver lover. According to police, Damini first mixed sleeping pills in milk and served it to her husband, Atul Kumar (32). At around 2 a.m., she allegedly called her lover and two snake charmers, who released a krait—one of India's four most venomous snakes—onto the bed.

After the incident, Damini allegedly asked her lover, Tushar Payla, to leave the house and went to sleep in another room. At around 6 a.m. on Friday, she entered the room screaming and informed family



members that Atul had been bitten by a snake. The snake was still inside the room, and bite marks were found on Atul's leg, leading the family to initially believe he had died from a snakebite.

The case took a dramatic turn during questioning when Damini (30) told investigators that she had slept outside the room with her son because she was feeling hot.

Her statement

aroused suspicion among family members, who alerted the police.

During interrogation, police examined her call records and found that she had been in constant contact with van driver Tushar Payla. After his arrest, Tushar allegedly confessed to the entire conspiracy. He told investigators that Atul had become an obstacle in their relationship.

Indian Navy Receives Another MH-60R Seahawk Helicopter



● Two More Choppers to Arrive Soon, Strengthening India-US Defence Partnership

New Delhi,(GMS):

The US Embassy on Friday announced that the Indian Navy has received another MH-60R Seahawk helicopter, which arrived in Kochi last week. The embassy added that two more helicopters are expected to reach India this week, reflecting the continued strengthening of the India-US defence partnership.

In a post on social media, the US Embassy said the advanced naval helicopter, developed

by Lockheed Martin, will further enhance the Indian Navy's capabilities in maritime surveillance and a wide range of other naval operations. India had signed an agreement with the United States in February.

2020 to procure 24 MH-60R Seahawk helicopters. The MH-60R Seahawk is the naval variant of the Black Hawk helicopter and is designed to operate in all weather conditions. Equipped with advanced avionics and state-of-the-art sensors, it is capable of carrying out a variety of naval missions.

Shyama Prasad Mukherjee gave life and sacrifice to the country

(Hemendra Kshirsagar)
Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee was a great patriot who sacrificed his life for the nation's progress, unity, and integrity. He was simultaneously an academic, writer, parliamentarian, politician, and humanitarian, a staunch patriot. He made remarkable progress in the field of education and quickly established himself as a renowned academic and administrator. This achievement was recognized when, in 1934, he became the youngest Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University. Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee was one of the architects of independent India. A strong advocate of national unity and integrity, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee

was born on July 6, 1901. He was one of those leaders who took the risk personally. For him, India came first, and India's integrity and glory were his primary goals. He gave his life, but did not let Kashmir go. He rejected the cabinet, but did not compromise on his principles. Yes, I am a Hindu, and the nationhood of this country is Hindu. This is an undeniable truth, but it does not mean that Hindus are against any other religion or method of worship. Had that been the case, history would have been different. Kashmir belongs to every Indian. Every heart should feel the pain for Kashmir, as it did in the hearts of Hanifuddin and Ajay Ahuja. Dr. Mukherjee gave his life

and sacrifice to this country. For him, being Indian did not mean getting caught in the deceitful web of politics, but rather breaking that web. Very few people know that Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee's fighting spirit and movements were the main reasons behind the parts of Punjab and Bengal that are visible in India today. Dr. Mukherjee's words are famous in history when he said, "Congress divided India, and I divided Pakistan." It was the misfortune of this country that the reins of independent, yet fragmented India were handed over to a man who loathed Indianness, or Hinduism, and took pride in being the country's last British ruler. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee

saw that Pandit Nehru was adopting a highly neglectful and, to a large extent, ruthless policy toward the Hindus who were escaping India after suffering the horrific tragedy of Partition, and toward those who remained in Pakistan. Serious differences arose between Sardar Patel and Pandit Nehru on this point. Sardar Patel even wanted to seize some land from East Pakistan, even if it required armed police action. Pandit Nehru, by compromising with Liaquat Ali, left the future of Hindus completely in the hands of Pakistani barbarians. Seeing this, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee became furious and resigned as Minister of Industry and Supply. While submitting his resignation, he mentioned the reasons behind it in detail, which is still considered as a historical and inspiring document. Determined, after resigning from the cabinet, Dr. Mukherjee decided to play the role of the opposition in Parliament. However, he soon realized that an effective opposition role required the formation of an organized party. To this end, he began exploring the possibility of forming an opposition political platform. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) also felt the need to launch a political party under the leadership of a strong personality. Both Dr. Mukherjee and the RSS felt a similar need, and from this emerged the Bharatiya Jana Sangh in October 1951, with Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee as its founding president. Dr. Mukherjee faced the greatest challenge of his life two years later, in 1953. By 1952, separatist tendencies, sparked by Sheikh Abdullah's separatist political activities in Jammu and Kashmir, had begun to gain strength, disturbing the national psyche. Dr. Mukherjee supported the Praja Parishad's Satyagraha, whose objective was to make Jammu and Kashmir a full and integral part of India. At that time, Jammu and Kashmir had a separate flag and a separate constitution, and its Chief Minister was called the Prime Minister.

Editorial

On the top court, AI use observations

But for its serious implications, a judge relying on Artificial Intelligence (AI) hallucinations to arrive at a judicial determination would have been comical. Given the serious miscarriage of justice that such hallucinations can lead to, if used in the judicial processes, the Supreme Court of India has likened it to methyl isocyanate, the poisonous gas that led to the Bhopal gas tragedy in 1984 — “invisible, insidious, and catastrophic by the time anyone notices”. The Court made these observations while setting aside the orders of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) in an insolvency case after finding that the NCLT had relied on fictitious AI-generated legal citations, a lapse overlooked by the appellate tribunal. This is the latest in a series of interventions by the Court this year, cautioning against the use of AI-generated fictitious judicial precedents in court proceedings. Through its rulings and oral observations, the Court has consistently adopted a strict and cautionary approach to the deployment of AI in the justice delivery system. On February 27, the same Bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Alok Aradhe took cognisance of a trial court relying on AI-generated fictitious case laws and underlined that it was not merely “an error in decision-making” but amounted to judicial “misconduct”.

The Court has made clear that AI may serve as an assistive tool to improve efficiency, but it can never replace independent human reasoning, judicial discretion or professional accountability. In AI, humanity is encountering what many experts fear might well be an existential question. AI disruption is a known unknown — everyone knows that it is happening but nobody quite knows its extent or implications. There is, however, enough evidence of a combination of human stupidity and deliberate design leading to dangerous social outcomes being derived from AI. Human oversight is the essential counter to these dangers. The Court has said that presenting fabricated, machine-generated judgments to a court constitutes professional misconduct for advocates and a serious lapse of duty for judges; and any judgment influenced by an iota of fake or hallucinated AI material is “no decision in the eyes of law”.

13% increase in government procurement price of onion

(Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani)

Farmer's smile or the sound of inflation? - A comprehensive in-depth analysis of the government's historic decision on onion. From the farm to the global market: Is the new government price of onion a decisive step towards making India an agricultural superpower?

Farmers being forced to sell onions at prices lower than the cost versus onions being out of reach of the common consumer and making them cry, a step towards tackling the biggest challenge of this imbalance in years

Globally, onion in India is not just a vegetable, but a very sensitive subject related to economy, politics, agriculture and the kitchen of the common citizen. Onion prices have often influenced government policies in the country and even played a significant role in electoral politics. Therefore, when the central government decided to increase the government procurement price of onion for buffer stock by approximately 13.3 percent, from ₹1,875 per quintal to ₹2,125 per quintal, effective July 4, 2026, it was seen not simply as a price increase but as an important economic decision that establishes a balance between farmers, consumers, and the agricultural market. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe that this decision clearly indicates that the government is taking proactive steps to increase production, ensure minimum remunerative prices for farmers, and ensure price stability in the future. India is among the world's largest onion producers. States like Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, and Rajasthan contribute the majority of the country's onion production. The Nashik region of Maharashtra is considered one of Asia's largest onion producing areas. Ironically,

despite abundant production, farmers are often forced to sell onions at prices lower than the cost of production. On the other hand, when production is low or supply is disrupted, these same onions become unaffordable for the average consumer, leading to the phrase "onions make us cry." This imbalance has been the biggest challenge facing the Indian agricultural market for years.

Friends, the biggest benefit of the government's ₹250 per quintal increase in procurement prices will accrue to farmers who sell their produce under the government's buffer stock scheme. If a farmer sells 500 quintals of onions, he or she will receive an additional income of approximately ₹1.25 lakh compared to the previous level. For small and medium-sized farmers, this additional income can play a crucial role in covering farming costs, preparing for the next crop, and strengthening their families' financial security. This will also increase farmers' confidence in the government procurement system. However, simply increasing the procurement price is not the solution to all farmers' problems. The biggest challenge for Indian farmers is the continuous increase in production costs. The cost of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, irrigation, electricity, diesel, labor, and transportation is constantly rising. If production costs continue to rise at the same rate and the marketing system remains weak, a mere 13 percent price increase will provide only limited relief. Therefore, it is essential that the government give equal priority to cost-reducing technologies, modern agricultural machinery, and scientific farming.

Friends, another important aspect of this decision is the government buffer stock. When the government purchases onions from farmers at a good price, it

stores them safely. In the future, if there is a shortage of onions in the market or prices suddenly rise, this buffer stock can be released into the market to control prices. In this way, the government provides fair prices to farmers and protects consumers from excessive inflation. This is the key feature of any successful agricultural price policy.

Friends, from the consumer's perspective, this decision does not mean that onions will become 13 percent more expensive in the market from July 4th. Government procurement prices and retail market prices depend on different factors. If production remains adequate and the government continues to release buffer stocks in a timely manner, the likelihood of unnecessary increases in retail prices will be reduced. This decision reflects an attempt to simultaneously achieve both objectives: relief for farmers in the short term and stable prices for consumers in the long term. We see that the biggest problem with onions in India is not production, but storage and the supply chain. It is estimated that a large quantity of onions gets spoiled every year due to lack of proper scientific storage. If modern cold storage, ventilated warehouses, and scientific storage systems are widely developed, farmers will not be forced to sell at low prices, and consumers will also be able to access onions at a balanced price throughout the year. Therefore, investment in storage infrastructure is essential, along with price increases.

Friends, agricultural economists believe that the most effective way to double or sustainably increase farmers' income is not just support prices, but value addition and modernization of the supply chain. Farmers can benefit significantly by producing dehydrated onions, onion powder, onion paste, and exportable

processed products from onions. If India invests more in agricultural processing, a significant increase in farmers' income is possible.

Friends, the international market is also crucial to this decision. India is among the world's leading onion exporters. The food security of many countries depends on Indian onions. However, when domestic prices rise, India often imposes export bans or tariffs, impacting the global market. If the country maintains adequate buffer stocks and balanced production, future export policies can be more stable. This will increase foreign exchange earnings and allow Indian farmers to better benefit from the international market.

Friends, climate change has also become a serious challenge for onion production. Events like irregular rainfall, hailstorms, extreme temperatures, and drought impact production. In such times, if farmers are guaranteed a minimum remunerative price, their risk is reduced. Therefore, this decision can be considered not only an economic but also a positive step towards climate risk management. The social impact of this policy is also significant. When farmers receive fair prices, the rural economy is strengthened. Their purchasing power increases, trade in local markets grows, employment opportunities expand, and rural development is accelerated. On the other hand, if farmers continue to incur losses, the tendency to leave agriculture will increase, which will impact the country's food security. Therefore, providing farmers with remunerative prices is not just a matter of agriculture but also of national economic stability.

Friends, experts also say that the government must ensure a transparent procurement system along with price increases.

The sinking roads of development and the deep foundations of corruption

(Lalit Garg)

The Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor, touted as a symbol of modern India's fast, safe, and world-class infrastructure, caved in during the first rains, just two and a half months after its inauguration. The road caved in so badly that several vehicles were crushed. Fortunately, there were no casualties, but this incident once again exposed the harsh reality hidden behind the rosy picture of development. The question is: why did the road, built at a cost of crores of rupees, fail to withstand the first rain? Was quality compromised in construction? Was there a lack of proper drainage? Or is it the result of corruption, negligence, and a lack of accountability? This is not an isolated incident. In the past few years, incidents of collapse of new roads, bridges, flyovers, and pub-

lic buildings have been reported in various states across the country. The collapse of nearly a dozen small and large bridges in Bihar within a fortnight shocked the entire nation. The collapse of five bridges in a single day was not just a technical failure but a living testimony to the corruption prevalent in governance and administration. The Morbi bridge accident in Gujarat claimed the lives of 135 people. The collapse of the Vivekananda flyover in Kolkata devastated many families. The collapse of the roof of Terminal 1 at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport and the deaths caused by the collapse of a massive hoarding in Ghatkopar, Mumbai, also made it clear that the quality of public construction is facing a serious crisis.

Responsibility cannot be absolved by simply attributing these incidents

to natural disasters or heavy rainfall. If roads cave in, bridges are washed away, or roofs of buildings collapse in the first rain, it is not a story of nature, but of man-made failure and deep-rooted corruption. In this age of modern engineering and technology, such incidents are unacceptable. This is not development, but a betrayal of the public in the name of development. Roads and bridges are the arteries of any nation's economic progress. Through them, commerce is conducted, villages are connected to cities, farmers transport their produce to market, and ordinary citizens travel safely. When these infrastructures begin to collapse prematurely, it is not just the concrete and iron structures that crumble, but also the public's trust in governance and administration.

In the case of the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor road collapse, the National Highways Authority of India suspended the project manager and team leader and issued a show-cause notice to the construction company. But the question is, will suspension alone solve the problem? Experience shows that in most cases, suspended officials are reinstated or transferred after some time. Companies that are blacklisted often begin receiving government contracts under new names. As a result, the cycle of corruption continues. The real problem is a lack of accountability. Individual responsibility for every construction process—design, materials, technical testing, and quality control—is not fixed. When the guilty are not severely punished, corruption is implicitly protected. This is why, every year, with the

monsoons, roads erode, bridges crack, and projects worth crores of rupees collapse prematurely.

A large portion of public construction projects in the country fall prey to commission and bribery. Corruption is rampant at many levels, from contract acquisition to bill payment. When a significant portion of a project's cost is spent on illegal transactions, it's natural for construction quality to be directly impacted. The use of substandard materials, disregard for technical standards, and deadline pressures combine to create structures that fail the first test. Ironically, after every accident, investigation committees are formed, reports are prepared, and compensations are announced, but no fundamental changes are made to the system.

Delhi CM Rekha inaugurates 45 Ayushman Jan Arogya Mandirs



New Delhi ,(GNS): Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Friday inaugurated 45 new Ayushman Jan Arogya Mandirs across the Capital from Shakurpur, saying the initiative marks a major step towards ensuring accessible, affordable and quality healthcare for every resident. With the latest addition, more than 415 Ayushman Jan Arogya Mandirs are now operational across Delhi, providing primary healthcare services closer to people's homes. The Chief Minister said the government is on track to achieve its target of establishing over 1,100 such centres across the city.

"The objective is to ensure that no citizen has to travel long distances for basic medical care and that quality treatment is available in time," Gupta said. The Chief Minister said the health centres would offer general outpatient services, maternal and child healthcare, routine immunisation, free screening for non-communicable diseases, essential medicines, health counselling and nearly 80 types of free diagnostic tests.

She said the facilities would also focus on disease prevention, early diagnosis and promoting healthier lifestyles through regular health check-ups, yoga and exercise. The programme was attended by Tri Nagar MLA Tilak Ram Gupta, senior Health Department officials, doctors, nursing staff and local residents. Later, the Chief Minister inaugurated development projects worth Rs 14.25 crore in the Tri Nagar Assembly constituency. The works include reconstruction of five roads and a drain in the Netaji Subhash Place area, beautification of Samrat Enclave Market and development works at Gurjar Chaupal, Saini Chaupal and the Shakurpur cremation ground. She also inaugurated eight Public Works Department (PWD) roads built at a cost of Rs 6.25 crore, including Lawrence Road, Maharshi Parashuram Marg, Parwana Road, G&H Shakurpur Road, Ekalavya Marg, Thiruvalluvar Marg and Veer Hemu Marg. Highlighting the government's development agenda, Gupta said infrastructure and civic projects were being undertaken on a large scale across all Assembly constituencies. She said the focus is on improving roads, drains, colonies and slum clusters while strengthening healthcare infrastructure.

Alterations Allowed In DDA Flats, With Riders

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi

Development Authority (DDA) has revised its policy regarding permission and regularisation of additions and alterations to its flats, allowing owners of upper-floor flats in low-rise housing blocks to construct certain permanent structures, subject to conditions. This is DDA's first housing policy revision since 2007. According to the revised policy that been rationalised in consultation with ministry of housing and urban affairs and approved by it, owners of flats in two-, three- and four-storey buildings can construct permanent structures over an area created by covering a courtyard or the resultant terrace of the floor below. The move is intended to provide additional usable space while maintaining uniformity in its housing colonies, DDA said. However, such construction will be permitted only if it does not obstruct common circulation areas or interfere with existing utility services. It must also conform to the approved layout plan of the housing pocket and comply with technical and planning provisions. All cases henceforth will be processed in accordance with the revised policy.

Its implementation will be done by DDA or MCD depending on the area. The initiative aims to simplify regularisation process in cases where people have carried out additional construction. Also, it will help check if these additions ensure the safety of a building," officials said.



Delhi okays Rs 33.31-cr relief for farmers hit by heavy rains in 2025

New Delhi ,(GNS): The Delhi Government has approved more than Rs 33.31 crore as ex gratia assistance for farmers whose crops were completely destroyed due to heavy rainfall and water-logging during August and September last year.

Announcing the decision on Friday, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said the affected farmers would receive compensa-



tion at the rate of Rs 75,000 per hectare through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) method, with disbursement expected to

begin from next month.

The relief package will benefit farmers whose crops were damaged across 4,442.41 hectares of agricultural land in various districts and subdivisions of the Capital.

Gupta directed the Revenue Department and district magistrates to begin the disbursement process without delay to ensure that eligible farmers receive the financial

assistance at the earliest.

The Delhi Government stands firmly with its farmers in both good times and bad. This assistance is an effort to help farmers recover from heavy losses caused by nature's fury," the Chief Minister said.

According to the government, the affected areas have been assessed as having suffered 100 per cent crop loss.

The government said only registered or recorded landowners whose crops were damaged during the August-September 2025 rains will be eligible for compensation. Cultivation on Gram Sabha land, land owned by corporate entities and farmhouses developed as plotted properties with permanent boundary walls have been excluded from the scheme.

DU caps campaign cars at five bans flex posters gifts for DUSU polls

New Delhi ,(GNS): No candidate can campaign with more than five vehicles in the students' union elections, the Delhi University clarified Friday, while outlining more rules that students will have to follow.

The university has banned printed publicity material, flex posters and a range of campaign merchandise to impose a stricter code of conduct for the upcoming elections. The dates are yet to be announced.

The restrictions were conveyed during a meeting on Thursday between the university's proctor and office-bearers of the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU), along with representatives of various student bodies.

A press release issued by the proctor's office said handmade posters can be displayed only on the design-



nated Wall of Democracy. "The walls cannot be block-printed or spray painted. It was made very clear that no flex poster is allowed on the MCD advertisement board," the release said, adding that the proctor would write to the MCD commissioner for necessary action if any such display is found.

The university has also barred candidates from pasting stickers carrying their names on cars, buses, jeeps and e-rickshaws.

The use of tractors, JCB machines and animals has been prohibited.

Cars with tinted glasses, hidden or missing number

plates and unauthorised vehicles parked on the campus will face challans or will be towed away as per traffic police protocol, the release said.

The university has also prohibited the distribution of gifts or souvenirs bearing candidates' names. Canopies and umbrellas carrying candidates' names will not be allowed on the campus. "If such materials are found, the candidate's nomination will be cancelled," the release warned.

The proctor, professor Manoj Kumar Singh, advised student representatives to ensure that campaigning is conducted in accordance with the guidelines of Delhi High Court and the Lyngdoh Committee. There should be no defacement of public property or unauthorised pasting of posters, banners or digital advertisements, he said.

Govt to go for global bids to build twin-tower secretariat at ITO

New Delhi ,(GNS): Delhi govt is going to invite global bids for construction of its twin-tower secretariat complex at ITO, with Public Works Department (PWD) expected to float the tender in Aug.

PWD minister Parvesh Verma said the project required specialised technical capability and global experience. "The purpose of the global tender is to invite the world's leading companies with expertise in designing, constructing and developing such large and complex projects," he said.

A global tender allows participation by international engineering, procurement and construction firms, architectural consultants and consortiums with experience in delivering highrise govt complexes and integrated administrative headquarters.

A similar route was adopted for 28-storey Dr Syama Prasad Mukherjee Civic Centre, among

the city's tallest civic buildings. Municipal Corporation of Delhi floated the tender in 2005 and the civic headquarters was built by a Malaysian company.

According to officials, bidders will have to demonstrate experience in executing projects of comparable scale and value, besides meeting financial capability and quality benchmarks. The successful bidder is likely to undertake detailed architectural, structural and engineering design while ensuring compliance with seismic safety norms, fire safety regulations and green building standards.

The project, estimated to cost around Rs 2,000 crore, will bring under one roof govt departments functioning from multiple locations, including Civil Lines, Kashmere Gate, Vikas Bhawan and the current secretariat at Players' Building near ITO.



Delhi doubles income ceiling for ration card eligibility

New Delhi ,(GNS): Delhi govt has notified a major increase in the income ceiling for ration card applications, a move aimed at expanding the food security network in the capital. The annual family income eligibility limit for inclusion under the priority household (PHH) category of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) has been raised from Rs 1.2 lakh to Rs 2.5 lakh. The move is expected to widen access to subsidised foodgrains for more low-income families in Delhi. With the revised ceiling, families earning up to around Rs 20,800 a month can now apply for a ration card, provided they meet other eligibility criteria, such as not owning a car or a pucca house. The change was notified by the department of food, supplies and consumer affairs through Delhi Food Security (Amendment) Rules, 2026, published in the Delhi Gazette, and came into effect on July 13.

"The revised threshold is aimed at bringing the eligibility criteria in line with prevailing income levels and extending food security benefits to a larger section of economically weaker households that were previously excluded because of the lower income cap," an official said.

Delhi govt recently removed more than 2.3 lakh invalid ration cards, following an intensive audit to clean up the beneficiary database. Officials said many of these cards had been issued years ago and the beneficiaries' incomes had changed over time, making them ineligible under the existing norms. According to officials, the deleted records included 1.44 lakh beneficiaries who no longer met the income criteria but continued to hold ration cards, 35,800 beneficiaries who had not been lifting their ration, 29,580 deceased beneficiaries whose names were still on the rolls and 23,394 duplicate ration cards.

Yamuna in Delhi has shrunk by 68% in 200 years says study

New Delhi ,(GNS): A study by geology researchers at Delhi University and Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Bhopal, has shown that the Yamuna flowing through Delhi today is a fraction of what it was two centuries ago. The study has found that the river's average width has shrunk by nearly 68%, while its estimated discharge has dropped by 89% since the late 18th century. The researchers have argued that the cumulative impact of the construction of barrages, embankments, canals and rapid urbanisation has fundamentally altered the

river's natural seasonal flow.

A Media report, dated Sept 5, 2025, during the flooding of the Yamuna, pointed out how the carrying capacity of the river had shrunk. The study bore out the extent of this observation. Published in the Journal of Geological Society of India, the study reconstructed around 200 years of changes on the 50-km Delhi stretch of the Yamuna. The geologists used historical maps dating back to 1799, old topographic surveys, satellite imagery and river-width analysis.

They estimated that the river's average width of the banks reduced from

around 658 metres in 1799 to about 210 metres now. Correspondingly, the estimated discharge declined from nearly 30,000 cubic metres per second to around 3,900 cubic metres

per second.

The research linked these changes to a series of engineering interventions, beginning with the British-era Tajewala and Okhla barrages in the 1870s, followed by structures such as the Wazirabad, ITO and Hathnikund barrages.

Professors Vimal Singh of Delhi University's geology department, who is one of the authors of this study, explained that "water gets diverted and river itself has little water downstream because of the barrages and canals upstream."

"The irony is that Delhi's population has grown and thus the city also needed space to expand. Now, the maxi-

mum flooding is around 15 days to roughly a month annually. Other than that time, the water does not occupy the floodplain. So, people started seeing this as vacant land and started encroaching upon it. The width thus reduced from 658m in 1799 to just 250m. With floods, the river is actually claiming its area. We also started making embankments. Its not just with Yamuna. This is happening all over the world," professor Singh said. The researchers estimated that about one-third of Delhi's floodplains have become disconnected over the past century because of embankments and urban development.

WESTERN RAILWAY
DESIGN, SUPPLY, ERECTION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING WORK
Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer (Construction), Western Railway, 1st floor Station Building, Room No. 165, Churchgate, Mumbai 400 020 invites
E-Tender No.: EL-92-12-C-CCG-2026-27-01
Name of Work: Design, Supply, Erection, testing and commissioning of 25 KV AC-OHE and modification of TSS/SP/SSP of Harbour Line between Goregaon and Borivali (TRD/PSI Work) under Mumbai Division of Western Railway. NIT Cost: ₹ 19,48,82,072/-
EMD: ₹ 38,97,700/- E-Bid Submission Closing: On 28.07.2026 at 15:00 Hrs. E-Bid Opening Date: On 28.07.2026 at 15:30 Hrs. For further details please visit our website www.irops.gov.in
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CJI SGPC chief Gursharan Kaur pay respects to Teja Singh Samundri

New Delhi ,(GNS): Leaders and influencers cutting across party and political lines on Friday recalled the legacy of Teja Singh Samundri, the leading light of the Gurdwara Reform Movement and a prominent founder member of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee. Leaders and influencers cutting across party and political lines on Friday recalled the legacy of Teja Singh Samundri, the leading light of the Gurdwara Reform Movement and a prominent founder member of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee.

Hundreds turned out at the Shabad Kirtan ceremony hosted by Delhi L-G Taranjit Singh Sandhu in memory of his grandfather, Teja Singh Samundri,



under the aegis of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee.

The programme, held at the historic Gurdwara Rakabganj here, was led by Padma Shri Harjinder Singh Grewal Srinagar Wale. Chief Justice of India Surya Kant was also in attendance.

Among those who paid respects were Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, members of the Delhi

Cabinet and Delhi MPs, including Bansuri Swaraj.

Actor Anupam Kher, ex-RAW chief Samant Goel, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's wife Gursharan Kaur, Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly and senior Congressman Partap Singh Bajwa also attended the ceremony.

Among those who paid their respects were SGPC president Harjinder Singh

Dhami, along with several eminent political, religious and social leaders, revered saints, and a large gathering of devotees. The dignitaries fondly recalled the panthic services, farsighted leadership and extraordinary sacrifice of Shaheed Sardar Teja Singh Samundri. Addressing the congregation, the speakers observed that the martyrdom of Shaheed Sardar Teja Singh Samundri - rendered in defence of the Sikh community's religious freedom, the autonomy of Sikh Gurdwaras and the preservation of Panthic traditions - is inscribed in the golden pages of history.

They said his ideals continue to inspire the younger generations to dedicate themselves selflessly to the service of the Panth and society.

PWD plans new drainage link to end recurring waterlogging at Delhi's Dera Mandi

New Delhi ,(GNS): The Delhi Government on Friday announced a long-term drainage project for the waterlogging-prone Dera Mandi Road aft Following the review, it was decided that the PWD will construct a new precast RCC drain from Dera Mandi Road to Dera Bhati Road, with a further connection to Bandh Road. From there, the water will be pumped into the SSN Marg drain within Delhi. The government said the proposed project is intended to provide a permanent drainage solution and improve stormwater management in the area.

Explaining the reason behind the recurring problem, Parvesh Sahib Singh said, "Mandi Gaon and Dera Gaon lie along the Delhi Haryana border. Years ago, before large-scale urban development and before Gurugram expanded the way it has today, rainwater used to flow naturally through the existing drainage channels. Today, with extensive concrete construction, rapid urbanisation and a signifi-

cant increase in population, those natural pathways have disappeared. As a result, rainwater and even sewer water accumulate here during heavy rainfall."

He said the government's focus is on addressing long-standing infrastructure gaps through scientific planning and durable engineering works rather than relying only on temporary measures after every spell of rain.

"Our objective is not merely to remove water after every spell of rain, but to create infrastructure that prevents waterlogging in the first place. Every vulnerable location is being assessed, and long-term solutions are being implemented on priority," the minister said. He directed officials to prepare the project proposal on priority and ensure coordination among all agencies so that work can begin at the earliest. He also said ensuring safe and hassle-free movement for residents during the monsoon remains one of the Delhi Government's priorities.

Why was Golcha ousted

New Delhi ,(GNS): Moments before he was replaced as Delhi Police Commissioner this morning, Satish Golcha was at a "mega plantation drive" with Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa. Minutes later, the 1994 AGMUT-cadre IPS officer Anurag Kumar, two batches junior to Golcha, took his place as Delhi CP.

The abrupt transition, executed on Friday, caught all senior officials at Delhi Police Headquarters on Jai Singh Road off guard. Golcha had assumed charge on August 22, 2025, and his tenure was to end next year.

This is the second time within a year that the Ministry of Home Affairs, which controls the Delhi Police, has replaced the Delhi Police Commissioner before the completion of the incumbent's

tenure, which is usually two years or more.

Sources indicate that there cannot be any single reason behind the move to oust Golcha.

They say various incidents - the handling of the Jantar Mantar protest by the Cockroach Janata Party; Red Fort blast case; security breach at Vidhan Sabha and arrests of police personnel in graft cases by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) could be behind Golcha's sudden exit.

Delhi has also seen a recent sudden spate in the incidents of violent crimes, including stabbings. Sources say a premium is now being placed on intelligence-based policing by placing at the helm a seasoned Intelligence Bureau man in Anurag Kumar.

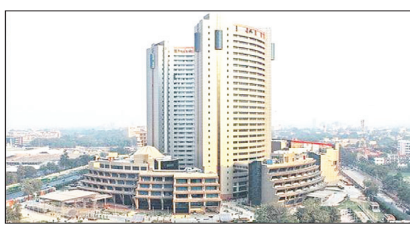


NGT tells MCD to explain how Ghazipur landfill will be cleared by 2027 when waste is added daily

New Delhi ,(GNS): National Green Tribunal (NGT) has asked MCD to explain how it plans to clear all legacy waste at the Ghazipur landfill by Dec 2027 when fresh untreated waste continues to be added to the dumpsite every day.

During a hearing on July 6, MCD told the tribunal that 69 lakh MT of legacy waste exists at the Ghazipur landfill site, and this is likely to be cleared by Dec 2027.

The bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava and expert member Afroz



Ahmad took up MCD's submission which said east Delhi generates 2,200-2,400 MT of municipal solid waste daily. Of this, 1,200-1,300 MT is processed. This leaves about 1,000-1,100 MT of untreated fresh waste at the landfill every day.

The tribunal noted that MCD's proposed facilities to bridge the treatment

gap would also take time to start operations. MCD is banking on a new 2,000 MTPD waste-to-energy plant that is likely to start processing waste in two-and-a-half-years. A 300 MTPD municipal solid waste compressed biogas plant and a 300 TPD biogas facility would also take considerable time to start operations. "The disclosure shows that till these facilities are operational, the gap in daily generation and treatment will continue to exist and there will be addition to the legacy waste every day in Ghazipur landfill site," the

tribunal said.

"Therefore, it needs to be explained on what basis this statement has been made, that by Dec 2027, the entire legacy waste from the Ghazipur landfill site will be cleared," NGT asked.

"It also needs to be clarified that when there is continuous daily addition to the legacy waste, only by referring to the existing 69 lakh MT of legacy waste, can a statement be made that by Dec 2027, the entire legacy waste from the Ghazipur landfill site will be cleared," the bench added.

Cigarette payment leads police to fake currency unit in Mumbai

New Delhi ,(GNS): A payment made at a shop in lieu of five cigarette packets at Bhalswa Dairy in outer north Delhi led the police to uncover a fake currency printing unit in Navi Mumbai and arrest three persons involved in the illegal activity, the police said on Friday. The accused have been identified as Natraj Mohan Kanchan (62), Vinod Munnalal Jaiswar (38), both residents of Mumbai, and Subhash Chandra (55), a resident of Maksudpur, Delhi. According to the police, the case came to light after Pankaj, who runs a shop in Bhalswa Dairy,



became suspicious of six notes of Rs 100 denomination and informed beat officer HC Prateek about it. The officer then alerted senior officers, following which the police detained Natraj Mohan Kanchan. During interrogation, Kanchan disclosed that he was staying at a hotel at Paharganj, where the police recovered 180 counterfeit

notes of Rs 100 denomination and 13 fake notes of Rs 500 denomination. Further questioning revealed that Kanchan had supplied counterfeit currency samples to Subhash Chandra for circulation in different parts of Delhi. Acting on the information, the police apprehended Chandra and recovered 10 counterfeit notes of Rs 100 denomination from his possession. The accused have been identified as Natraj Mohan Kanchan (62), Vinod Munnalal Jaiswar (38), both residents of Mumbai, and Subhash Chandra (55), a resident of Maksudpur, Delhi.

Court seeks CBI response on bail plea of Dinesh Vikas Biwal

New Delhi ,(GNS): A Rouse Avenue Court on Friday sought the CBI's response to the bail pleas of Dinesh Biwal and Vikas Biwal, who are among the accused arrested in the alleged NEET-UG 2026 paper leak case. Special CBI Judge Ajay Gupta issued notice to the agency and listed the matter for reply and arguments on July 23. Advocate AP Singh appeared for the accused, while Senior Public Prosecutor Neetu Singh accepted notice on behalf of the CBI and sought time to file a reply. Dinesh Biwal and Vikas Biwal are among the 13 accused arrested by the CBI in connection with the alleged leak of the NEET-UG question paper before the scheduled examination. All accused are cur-



rently in judicial custody until July 24. The case stems from an FIR registered on May 12 on the complaint of a government official under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Prevention of Corruption Act, and laws relating to the use of unfair means in public examinations. According to the CBI, Mangilal Biwal allegedly approached Shubham Khairnar to procure the NEET-UG question paper for his son, Vikas Biwal. During

investigation, the agency reportedly recovered the leaked question paper from Mangilal Biwal's mobile phone. The CBI alleged that Mangilal obtained the paper from Yash Yadav in exchange for Rs 10 lakh. During interrogation, Vikas Biwal stated that he came into contact with Yash Yadav while attending coaching classes in Sikar, Rajasthan. The agency further alleged that Shubham Khairnar first leaked the question paper to Yash Yadav, who then passed it on to Mangilal Biwal. Mangilal subsequently shared it with his sons, Vikas Biwal and Dinesh Biwal, and allegedly sold the leaked paper to several other candidates for 12 lakh each, thereby expanding the network of the accused.

International Seminar Saushrutam 2026 Successfully Concludes In New Delhi

New Delhi ,(GNS): The three-day international seminar Saushrutam 2026, organised by the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi, successfully concluded yesterday. The seminar brought together eminent academicians, surgeons and healthcare experts from countries including Thailand, Israel, Austria, the United Kingdom, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Nepal, Greece and India.

The Ministry of Ayush said participants shared their expertise and experi-



ences in various fields of surgery and healthcare. Experts and faculty members from leading institutions, includ-

ing AIIA, Banaras Hindu University, the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, and the Institute of

Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar, also took part in the event.

During the seminar, AIIA renewed its Memorandum of Understanding with IIT Delhi for another five years to strengthen collaboration in research and innovation. The Ministry said Saushrutam 2026 marks another important step towards integrating traditional knowledge with modern scientific advancements and promoting a holistic, evidence-based healthcare system.

DDA invites bids for 1.8 MW solar carport projects in city

New Delhi ,(GNS): The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has invited bids to set up 1.8 MW of grid-connected solar carport projects across Delhi. The authority has floated the tender under the Renewable Energy Service Company (RESCO) model and has set July 30, 2026, as the last date for the submission of bids. Unlike conventional solar plants that require separate land, solar carports are elevated structures with solar panels installed above parking spaces. They provide shade for parked vehicles while producing electricity that is supplied to the power grid, allowing the same space to serve two purposes. Under the tender, the selected developer will be responsible for the design, procurement, construction, operation and maintenance of the solar carports. Since the project follows the RESCO model, the developer will bear the investment cost of the project and manage its long-term operation, instead of the DDA bearing the upfront cost. After the July 30 deadline, the DDA will carry out technical and financial evaluation of the bids before moving ahead with the project. Interested bidders have also been advised to monitor the DDA portal for any clarifications or amendments related to the technical specifications.