



Jammu's Poonch and Kishtwar Hit by Cloudbursts

10 Dead, 250 Vehicles Washed Away; Landslides in Uttarakhand, Heavy Rain Alert in 14 States Including UP and Bihar

New Delhi/ Jaipur/ Bhopal/Patna,(GNS): Flash floods struck Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district around 3 am on Saturday night following heavy rainfall. The Dharhal River is in spate, and the New Bus Stand area in Bela has been inundated. Around 200 to 250 vehicles were swept away.

Meanwhile, 10 people lost their lives in Poonch due to overnight heavy rainfall, while six others are still missing. In Kishtwar district, a cloudburst in the Surnu area of Dachhan caused extensive damage to houses and agricultural fields.

With the monsoon becoming active for the second time this season, heavy rainfall continues across Delhi,



Punjab, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh. A Red

Alert for heavy rainfall has also been issued on Sunday for Uttarakhand, Sikkim and West Bengal.

Following landslides in Uttarakhand on Saturday,

horse and mule services on the Kedarnath pilgrimage route have been suspended, while a batch of Kailash Mansarovar pilgrims has also been halted.

Floods Affect 1.5 Lakh People in Arunachal; Landslide Disrupts Kedarnath Route

So far, seven people have died, 29 have been injured and 1,49,257 people have been affected due to floods and landslides in Arunachal Pradesh. The monsoon has impacted 26 districts, 328 circles and 576 villages.

In Pithoragarh, the fourth batch of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, comprising 50 pilgrims, has been stopped at the Dharchula base camp. Base camp in-charge Dhan

Amit Shah Speaks to J&K CM and Lieutenant Governor

Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke over the phone with Jammu and Kashmir

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah regarding the flood-like situation caused by overnight heavy rainfall in Rajouri district. He reviewed the situation and assured all possible assistance to ensure the safety of the affected people.



Singh Bisht said that the road leading to Gunji has been

blocked due to a landslide at Garbadhar.

'White Rabbit' Technology-Based Network Launched for Indian Standard Time

Move to Eliminate Dependence on Foreign GPS Systems

New Delhi,(GNS): The Central Government has launched a demonstration network based on 'White Rabbit' precision time-distribution technology. Announcing the initiative on Saturday, the government said the network has been developed to achieve the goal of "One Nation, One Time" and is capable of providing highly accurate time synchronisation across the country with precision of less than one nanosecond.

The initiative will eliminate dependence on foreign GPS systems for critical sectors such as finance, telecom communications and defence.



White Rabbit is an advanced technology designed to establish highly precise time synchronisation—within less than one nanosecond—among thousands of interconnected devices.

Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Prahad Joshi inaugurated the network last week at the Regional Reference Standard Laboratory (RRSL) in Bengaluru.

Supreme Court to Hear Ram Temple Donation Theft Case Today

● Petitions Seek Time-Bound Probe; Nirmohi Akhara Demands Ram Temple Trust Be Declared a Public Trust

New Delhi,(GNS):The Supreme Court will hear multiple petitions on July 20 seeking a fair and time-bound investigation into the alleged misappropriation of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. According to the Supreme Court's cause list, a Bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V. Mohan will hear four separate petitions related to the matter. On July 13, the apex court had agreed to hear



the petitions. It had directed the Special Investigation Team (SIT), constituted by the Uttar Pradesh Government to investigate the case, to submit a status report before the Court. The Court had also issued a notice to the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, seeking its response in the matter.

Rahul Writes to Modi Over Ram Temple Donation Theft

Says Silence Is Unacceptable, Demands Public Disclosure of Trust Accounts

Ayodhya,(GNS)

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi regarding the alleged theft of donations at the Ayodhya Ram Temple. They demanded an independent investigation into the financial affairs of the Trust and called for its accounts to be made public so that every devotee knows where and how the donations have been utilised. They also



sought accountability for anyone found responsible during the investigation. The letter, written on Saturday, became public on Sunday. Addressing the Prime Minister, they said that although he had announced the formation of the Trust in Parliament, all its members were appointed entirely by the government.

18,000 Indians Face Deportation from the US No Right to Appeal, Plead or Seek Legal Counsel; Trump Administration Earlier Sent Indians Back in Shackles in 2025



New York,(GNS): US President Donald Trump is preparing to launch a major deportation drive. Around 18,000 undocumented (without valid documents) Indians in the United States have come under the administration's radar. As before, the Trump administration is planning to use military aircraft for the deportation process, a move that has become one of the most widely discussed symbols of its strict immigration policy. Undocumented Indians will reportedly have no opportunity to appeal, present their case or seek legal representation. Teams of the US Immigration and



Customs Enforcement (ICE) have been conducting continuous raids. Reports from four US cities—New York, Texas, California and New Jersey—suggest that the deportation campaign has completely changed the lives of undocumented Indians. Accounts of alleged mistreatment of detainees in detention centres have also emerged. Two New Detention Centres Prepared for Deportation Drive The Trump administration has purchased one warehouse in El Paso and two in California to accommodate migrants awaiting deportation.

Delhi High Court says it's not wrong to take Wangchuk for treatment

Asks government and police to respond within three days, no interim order granted; next hearing on Thursday

New Delhi,(GNS): The Delhi High Court heard the case regarding Sonam Wangchuk, who was admitted to Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi. The court stated that due to his deteriorating health and the order of the division bench, he was taken to a government hospital.

This government action cannot be called arbitrary. Wangchuk is being given the medications he consented to. The court ordered the central and Delhi governments, along with the police, to file their responses within three days. Sonam's wife, Geetanjali, had requested that Wangchuk be transferred from Safdarjung Hospital to a private hospital. The next hearing in the case will be held on July 24. Delhi Police picked up Wangchuk from Jantar Mantar on Saturday morning and took him to Safdarjung Hospital.



All-Party Meeting Held Ahead of Monsoon Session Rijiju Says Everyone Expressed Their Views 'Vande Mataram' Bill to Be Introduced Tomorrow



New Delhi, (GNS): An all-party meeting was held in the Parliament Annexe Building on Sunday, a day ahead of the Monsoon Session of Parliament. The three-hour meeting was chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Leaders of 40 political parties, including the Congress, Samajwadi Party, Trinamool Congress and others, attended the meeting. However, Opposition parties staged a symbolic walkout midway through the discussion. The

Opposition alleged that the government had invited the group of 20 rebel MPs despite the fact that Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has not yet granted official recognition to their faction. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju later said the meeting witnessed constructive discussions and that everyone was given an opportunity to express their views. He added that ensuring the smooth functioning of Parliament is a shared responsibility.

Sweetness of life, light of humanity

(Kantilal Mandot)

Lord Mahavira considered humanity to be the greatest message of human life. He clearly stated that humanity should first and foremost be imbibed in one's life, for humanity is the true sweetness of life. Just as a flower, without being invited, fills the entire atmosphere with its fragrance, and bumblebees are drawn to it on their own, similarly, the life of a person who develops the qualities of humanity automatically becomes an inspiration for society. He becomes a benefactor not only of his family but of the entire society and nation. Humanity does not merely mean having a human body,

but also of cultivating love, compassion, kindness, humility, and service in one's thoughts, behavior, words, and actions. These qualities sweeten life and make a person truly great.

God has bestowed upon man the invaluable powers of mind, speech, and senses. Their purpose is not merely to attain material happiness, but to utilize them for self-development and the benefit of society. If the mind is filled with good thoughts, speech is sweet, and the senses are controlled, life automatically becomes meaningful. Conversely, if the mind is filled with jealousy, hatred, anger, and ego, human life becomes a source

of unrest and conflict. Despite being physically human, if one's thoughts become violent, selfish, and cruel, one becomes alienated from humanity and becomes a victim of animalistic tendencies. This leads to the manifestation of the aggression of a wolf, the venomous nature of a snake, and the belligerent mentality of a dog. Lord Mahavira's message is that humans should periodically introspect and see if such tendencies are entering their lives.

The most important foundation of humanity is decency and simplicity. In today's times, a simple and honest person is often mistaken for a fool, whereas true great-

ness lies within them. Only a person who is free from deceit, fraud, and arrogance and possesses a heart as pure as a child is truly a noble person. But simplicity alone is not enough; the light of wisdom is also essential. Wisdom teaches a person the difference between right and wrong and inspires them to follow the right path. When wisdom is combined with simplicity, life becomes balanced and successful.

Humility holds special significance in human life. Lord Mahavira described humility as the very foundation of religion. Humility enables a person to attain knowledge. No matter how learned a person is, he or she

cannot attain true wisdom. Just as a diamond is set in gold because of its malleability, similarly, great virtues like non-violence, truth, kindness, love, and compassion find a place in the life of only a person who possesses humility. Therefore, a person should make his or her life as humble and valuable as gold. However, Lord Mahavira also advises against superficial humility, as wicked people often deceive others by bowing down. Therefore, it is essential to have wisdom along with humility.

Ego is the greatest cause of human downfall. Ravana is a prime example of this. He considered himself superior to all others, and this ego

led to his downfall. In contrast, a humble person constantly learns, progresses, and gains respect in society. The life of a person who understands his duty and puts the interests of others above his own is truly considered successful. Humanity means not only having good thoughts but also putting them into practice. The most beautiful expression of humanity is seen in purity of feeling. The story of a poor boy who came to an ascetic saint in Masakhman provides a wonderful example. The boy's mother was extremely poor, but she labored to collect milk, rice, and sugar and prepared kheer for her son.

Editorial

On the erosion of India's grassroots democracy

A new report, based on Rural Development Ministry surveys, opens a rare data-backed window into the erosion of India's grassroots democracy. But where the state has framed the issue as one of "vibrancy", the report highlights a paradox. It acknowledges that "participation fatigue" has kept citizens from engaging in gram sabhas whereas its solutions, such as more meetings and oversight, are a recipe to further alienate the rural working class. The 73rd Amendment empowers gram sabhas, but governments have reduced them to clearinghouses for central and State schemes. This fundamental aspect must change. However, in response to 18%-28% of respondents citing a lack of outcomes as the reason for low interest, the report pushes for greater use of the NIRNAY app and to upload meeting minutes in real-time. In the real world, panchayat secretaries thus have less time facilitating discussion even as lacklustre oversight has allowed officials to tell workers that their MGNREGA demands were 'not entered in the system' due to server errors. Similarly, that more than half of the barriers to participation are related to livelihoods could point as much to visibly systemic issues — such as the precarious nature of rural labour today — as to deliberate economic exclusion by the state, as scholars have highlighted. But the report does not acknowledge such divergent possibilities. Due to the state failing to institutionalise attendance as a paid component of social protection, gram sabhas have remained a playground for the leisured elite such as landlords and contractors.

According to the report, gram sabhas spend 13% of the time identifying local issues but only 4% discussing revenue generation. But gram panchayats have been systematically constrained from raising their taxes, leaving them dependent on grants. The 14th and 15th Finance Commissions grants tied panchayat spending to central priorities such as drinking water and sanitation, limiting local priorities to 'flagship' programmes such as the Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat. There is thus no incentive for citizens to attend a meeting if the funds are being earmarked by Delhi bureaucrats.

Dispute over departmental profits – how will corruption be tackled

(Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani)

Globally, the entire world is experiencing economic weakness due to the scourge of corruption, as this black money is hidden by corrupt individuals in highly discreet locations, making it unusable for economic circulation. For example, large amounts of 2000 rupee notes were not in circulation, meaning they were locked in the hands of corrupt individuals. The result was demonetization. But it is very surprising that on one hand the government is hell bent on having zero tolerance towards corruption, on the other hand it is always seen that in politics there is a dispute between the powerful leaders of the ally party or within the party itself over the cream of the ministry departments, that is there are matters of percentage in government tenders, that is why in politics allegations of 40 or 50 percent keep on being made on each other, often from the people who won the elections to the ministers and from peons to high ranking officers are involved in this, then what is the meaning of zero tolerance policy of corruption? This is a matter to be highlighted, a perfect example of which is that a leader from Maharashtra was accused of taking Rs. 100 crore per month despite being the Home Minister, he even went to jail. Many such allegations are leveled against politicians and ministers, which is a matter worth highlighting, which makes it clear that corruption runs from top to bottom. Therefore, today, with the help of information available in the media, we will discuss through this article, the dispute over the cream of the departments, how will corruption be countered! and corrupt plus pickle at the rate of corruption, why are the Public Works Government Tenders Home Transport Ministries called cream departments?

Friends, if we try to understand the meaning of corruption, the

word corruption is formed by the combination of two words: corrupt and conduct, which have the following meanings: corrupt = contaminated, dirty, immoral, wrong, criminal, and conduct = conduct, behavior, activity. Simply put, corruption refers to any action that is wrong, unethical, criminal, or tainted. Thanks to our politicians, this word is used primarily in a political context these days, but generally, corruption encompasses any behavior that is unethical and malicious in pursuit of an ulterior motive. Corruption isn't just about scams in government work, but compromising one's ideals and causing harm to others for personal gain is also corruption. A milkman mixing water with milk is also corruption, as is a teacher not teaching in class. An official failing to perform his or her duties is also corruption, and so is demanding a bribe in exchange for work. Tax evasion is also corruption and not following traffic rules is also corruption. In limited words, corruption is not only about scams in government schemes but every wrong conduct done for personal gain is corruption.

Friends, if we consider the economic impact of corruption, corruption has a negative impact on economic development. For example, due to corruption, roads are built weakly, causing them to break down quickly. According to this formula, India and China should have lower growth rates because these countries are more corrupt. However, the reality is quite the opposite. India and China have higher growth rates. The negative impact of corruption depends on how the money obtained through corruption is used. Suppose, out of a contract worth Rs 1 crore for road construction, Rs 50 lakh was lost to corruption, resulting in a substandard road. The question arises as to how the Rs 50 lakh bribe was used. If this money was invested in the stock market, the negative

impact of corruption on economic development is somewhat reduced. This difference is clear between South American countries and India. South American leaders deposited the bribe money in Swiss banks, resulting in a decline in growth. However, Indian leaders, in addition to depositing the money in Swiss banks, also deposited it with domestic entrepreneurs. If bribe money is invested, unethical corruption can also have positive economic effects. Suppose, on average, 70% of government investment is utilized, while private investment is 90%. If ₹1 crore is withdrawn through corruption and invested in private companies, investment will increase by ₹20 lakh. In economics, there is a concept known as "propensity to save." The amount of savings a person saves from their additional income is called "propensity to save." If a poor person has an additional income of ₹100, they consume ₹90 and save ₹10. In contrast, if a rich person has an additional income of ₹100, they consume ₹10 and save ₹90. Suppose a rich engineer takes a bribe of ₹100 from a poor farmer. The poor person's income falls by ₹100, resulting in a reduction in savings of ₹10. But the rich engineer saved 90 rupees from a bribe of 100 rupees. Thus, the total savings from the bribery transaction increased by 80 rupees. While socially wrong, exploitation of the poor by the rich proved economically beneficial. Corruption has adverse effects on economic development. For example, due to corruption, roads are built poorly, causing them to break down quickly. According to this formula, India and China should have lower growth rates because these countries are more corrupt. However, the reality is quite the opposite. India and China have higher growth rates. The adverse effects of corruption depend on how the money obtained through corruption is used. Suppose, out

of a contract for building a road worth 1 crore rupees, 50 lakh rupees were lost to corruption. The road was built poorly. The question arises as to how the 50 lakh rupees bribe was used.

Friends, if we try to understand the causes of corruption, we've all accepted it as part of the system. We curse the corrupt, but we also encourage them to expedite our work. If the driver's license isn't being processed quickly, we'll give them a little treat. If the police verification for the passport will take time, we'll give the officer a little money. If you're not wearing a helmet, or don't have your vehicle documents, we'll get away with paying a hundred or fifty rupees to the traffic police.

To ensure we get government tenders, we send some sweets to the government clerk. And then, the money that would otherwise be spent on their entourage, we'll make up for it by reducing the quality of our work. Our casual attitude (everything is fine) is responsible for all this. Simply blaming the government won't achieve anything. The first change must begin within ourselves, by changing our own thinking.

Friends, if we try to understand the lucrative departments, the police department isn't as corrupt as some other departments. This department plays a major role in today's scams, and it doesn't spare anyone who comes into contact with it. The mining department is considered the most corrupt department. It's the only department where the issue of scams is constantly raised. It's the department where bureaucrats from peon to commissioner, and even the department's minister, have been imprisoned. When the amount of scams in this department is published in the newspaper, the average person counts the number of zeros at least three times. Many politicians and ministers have also been jailed for mining scams, and many have been accused.

Delhi: Challenge of ozone pollution along with air pollution

(Lalit Garg)

The capital, Delhi, has been grappling with the serious problem of air pollution for years. Every winter, a thick blanket of smog, toxic air, and a suffocating atmosphere become a matter of national concern. Until now, discussion of this crisis has largely been limited to PM 2.5, PM 10, stubble burning, and vehicle exhaust. However, a new and more dangerous threat has rapidly emerged: ground-level ozone pollution. A recent report by the Center for Science and Environment has made it clear that not only Delhi-NCR, but also cities like Jaipur, Chandigarh, and Ahmedabad are falling prey to ozone pollution. This pollution is invisible, but its ill effects are slowly harming human life, agriculture, and the environ-

ment. Ironically, even a serious issue like pollution is often reduced to political blame games. Sometimes farmers' stubble burning is blamed entirely, and sometimes vehicles alone. However, the reality is much more widespread. To get to the root of the problem, unplanned urbanization, indiscriminate industrialization, the current energy consumption system, and the current model of development must be seriously reconsidered.

Today, Delhi is not only the capital of the country, but also the country's largest pollution hotspot. Rising summer temperatures, intense sunlight, and chemical reactions between nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds emitted by vehicles and industries create ground-level ozone. This is not the

same ozone that protects the Earth from ultraviolet rays in the upper layers of the atmosphere. Ground-level ozone is a toxic gas that reduces lung function, worsens the condition of asthmatics, causes eye irritation, and increases the risk of heart disease. Today, a large number of people in Delhi-NCR are experiencing problems like breathing difficulties, allergies, and asthma, all of which are contributing to the increasing role of ozone pollution. The Delhi government has taken several important steps towards pollution control. Decisions such as the promotion of electric vehicles, the new electric vehicle policy, the promotion of public transportation, the development of charging stations, and the phase-out of old, polluting vehicles are certain-

ly positive. If these plans are effectively implemented, meaningful changes in pollution control could be seen in the coming years. However, vehicle policy alone is not the solution to the problem.

The real crisis is unplanned urbanization. Over the past two decades, the rapid transformation of farmlands, ponds, and green spaces into concrete jungles in Delhi and its surrounding areas has severely disrupted the natural balance. Where rainwater once seeped into the ground, there is now a surface of cement and asphalt. Traditional water sources have disappeared, trees have declined, and heat has increased. This is why temperatures in cities are several degrees higher than in surrounding rural areas. This excess heat further

accelerates ozone depletion. Today, the expansion of metropolitan cities is considered a symbol of development, but this development is coming at the expense of nature. Cities need roads, electricity, housing, and industry.

To achieve all this, farmland is being lost, forests are being cut, and water sources are being destroyed. As a result, pollution is not limited to air pollution, but is also affecting water, soil, and biodiversity. This direction of development ultimately appears to be inimical to human life. The number of private vehicles in Delhi is continuously increasing. The availability and quality of public transportation have not yet been effective enough to persuade people to abandon private vehicles.

India wins 5 gold medals at International Physics Olympiad in Colombia

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

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

The Indian contingent delivered a remarkable performance at the 56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026, as Kanishk Jain, Riddhesh Anant Bendale, Rishit Garg, Shreshth Suraiya and Svarit Joshi each secured a gold



medal at the global competition held in Bucaramanga, Colombia.

The clean sweep marks one of India's finest performances at the prestigious international science Olympiad, reinforcing the country's growing strength in science education and the talent of its young students on the global stage.

Congratulating the team,

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

In a post on X, the Prime Minister said, "An outstanding performance by our youngsters! Congratulations to the Indian contingent of

Kanishk Jain, Riddhesh Anant Bendale, Rishit Garg, Shreshth Suraiya and Svarit Joshi for winning Gold Medals at the 56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026 held in Bucaramanga, Colombia. Their feat reflects yet another example of the limitless potential of our Yuva Shakti and their passion towards science and research. Equally commendable is the fact that in the last decade, our students have performed exceptionally well in the various editions of this platform."

Delhi Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh also congratulated Delhi student Rishit Garg, whose gold medal added another feather to the capital's cap. Calling it a proud moment for both Delhi and the nation, the minister lauded the team's historic achievement.

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

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

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

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

The CM said the Revenue Department has been designated as the nodal agency for implementing the scheme. PM-UDAY cells will be established in all 13 districts, each



headed by an Additional District Magistrate (ADM). The department will also undertake physical verification of properties, digital mapping and updation of land records across Delhi's 1,511 unauthorised colonies.

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

Timely financial assistance from the Centre, she said, would help ensure that lakhs of residents receive property rights at the earliest. Expressing gratitude for the Centre's support for the scheme.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

The AQI jumped from 140 on Saturday, crossing the 260 mark for the first time since April 17. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) attributed the sudden deterioration to long-range transnational winds carrying mineral dust generated by storm activity in Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan. The dust plume moved towards north-western India, including Delhi, leading to a sharp rise in PM10



concentrations

The city also witnessed hot and humid weather conditions on Sunday. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Safdarjung,

Delhi's base weather station, recorded a maximum temperature of 36.8 degrees Celsius, 1.3 degrees above normal, while the minimum settled at 28.3 degrees Celsius, one degree

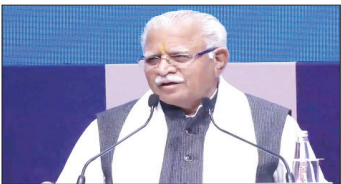
above normal. The 'feel-like' temperature touched 45.7 degrees Celsius at 5:30 pm due to high humidity.

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No rainfall was recorded in the city during the past 24 hours. Across the city, maximum temperatures ranged between 36°C and 37°C, with Lodhi Road recording the highest at 37°C, while the Ridge station remained relatively cooler at 36°C.

Khattar proposes housing above Delhi Metro stations

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



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

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

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

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

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

Director General's medals, commendation certificates and certificates of merit were also given to outstanding officers, officials and project teams for exemplary performance.

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

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

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

According to police, the

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

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



took her hostage inside the moving vehicle.

According to the FIR, one of the three men placed his hand over the victim's mouth to prevent her from raising an alarm. The driver then accelerated and parked the vehicle behind a railway line under the shade of some trees.

The three passengers

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

The survivor managed to break free and escape when the suspects were distracted by the sound of an approaching motorcycle. Before she fled, the suspects taunted the victim, bragging about their identities and village locations to intimidate her into silence.

Despite the threats, the woman reached the Tauru City Police Station and narrated her ordeal. Following a med-

ical examination, a FIR was registered and accused were identified.

The four accused have been identified as Habib alias Bulla, Sakil alias Titu, Niyamat and Sokat. They have been booked under Sections 64(1) (rape), 76 (assault with intent to disrobe), 351(3) (criminal intimidation), and 3(5) (joint liability) of the BNS.

Tauru City Station House Officer (SHO), Inspector Chanderbhan, stated that the auto-rickshaw's registration details have been recovered. Dedicated police teams are currently conducting raids to arrest the fleeing suspects.

One festival, 400 mango varieties to savour & celebrate

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

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

The Chief Minister described mangoes as an inseparable part of her childhood memories. Talking about mango diplomacy, she said, "Mango is not just a gift item anymore. India has sent mangoes to diplomats and envoys, signalling that the king of fruits is also important for maintaining diplomatic ties. It is making a name for itself not just in India but internationally." pan-India mango showcase Sunil Anchipaka, MD & CEO of Delhi Tourism, noted that the festival featured over 400 varieties of mangoes from across the country. He said, "This festival has become a legacy of Delhi Tourism, and Delhiites have been looking forward to it for over three decades." Families celebrated the mango season with mango softies, jams, pickles, mango iced tea and seasonal snacks. The mango mandi was a major attraction, bringing mangoes from Malihabad, Muzaffarnagar, Roorkee, Haridwar, Gujarat and Maharashtra under one roof. Orchard to stalls Vendors at the festival happily offered mango slices for tasting before visitors picked up multiple boxes to take home. Faheem Qureshi, a mango vendor from Roorkee, shared, "Makkhan aam is buttery soft in texture and tastes really sweet. We have been coming to the Mango Festival for decades. My father was a vendor here, then my elder brother, and now I carry on the tradition. We have multiple varieties, including Dinga, Gulab Khas and Langda, but Makkhan aam is the speciality at our stall."

RAF outside Delhi gurdwara screens Satluj to packed hall

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



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

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

ward incident.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Power discoms roll out monsoon readiness plan

New Delhi, (GNS) : As the monsoon advances across the Capital, power distribution companies BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL) and BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) have activated a comprehensive preparedness plan. The discoms said they were fully prepared to maintain power supply for more than 54 lakh consumers and over 2.25 crore residents while responding to risks posed by heavy rain, waterlogging, strong winds and falling branches. The plan focuses on preventive maintenance, faster response to complaints and consumer awareness. A BSES official said, "We are fully prepared to ensure power supply to our over 54 lakh consumers and more than 2.25 crore residents, while taking all necessary safety measures during the monsoon. Consumers, too, have an important role to play in ensuring an incident-free



season by following simple safety guidelines. We urge all residents to stay alert, exercise caution around electrical installations and report any safety hazards promptly. The discoms said they may temporarily switch off electricity supply in vulnerable or waterlogged areas whenever required to prevent accidents and protect electrical infrastructure. Such shutdowns, they said, are precautionary measures taken in the interest of public safety. As part of the action plan, preventive measures have been taken to minimise moisture-related breakdowns in grids, panels and other critical equipment.

57,000 MT silt removed from storm water drains DDA



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

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

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

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

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

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

The project will include technical audits and restoration of exist-



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

support will be provided for a year.

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

She added that the Delhi Government was

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

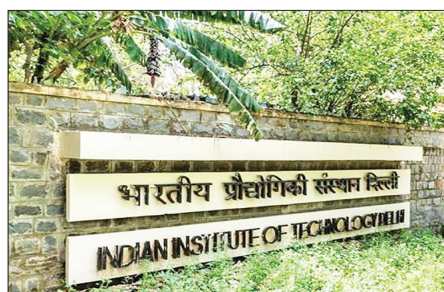
The Chief Minister said the government's goal was to make government schools so well equipped that parents would prefer these over private institutions. She also described the initiative as an important step towards implementing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Catch the Rain" vision in Delhi. Highlighting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

IIT-Delhi showcases green technologies at conclave

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Delhi power discoms roll out monsoon preparedness plan

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The discoms said they may

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

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

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

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



the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

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

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

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

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

Student's union holds march seeks Pradhan's resignation

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

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



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