

## Kedarnath Yatra temporarily halted due to bad weather in Uttarakhand

**Rudraprayag, 31 May:** The Kedarnath Yatra was temporarily halted on Sunday, and pilgrims were stopped at safe locations following an orange alert issued by the India Meteorological Department forecasting heavy rains and storms in the region, officials said. The district administration directed officials to accommodate all pilgrims currently on the route at the nearest holding centres immediately. District Disaster Management Officer Nandan Singh Rajwar said the administration was fully prepared to deal with any adverse situation arising from the weather conditions.



"Following the orange alert for heavy rainfall and storms in Rudraprayag, instructions have been issued to stop all pilgrims at the nearest safe locations. Sector officers deployed in landslide-prone areas, including Sonprayag and Gaurikund, have been directed to ensure no pilgrim moves forward until the weather clears," he said. Rajwar said the yatra was halted around 9.45 am as a precaution to ensure pilgrim safety. Due to continuous rainfall and adverse weather, Garhwal Commissioner Anand Swarup temporarily suspended the Kedarnath

Yatra as a precaution. Swarup directed officials to prioritise pilgrim safety, ignore rumours, and remain at their designated locations as the yatra will resume smoothly once the weather improves. The officials urged pilgrims to check the latest weather updates before travelling and strictly follow administrative guidelines. The administration is continuously monitoring the situation and making necessary arrangements to ensure the convenience and safety of the travellers, officials said.

Sector magistrates, police force, and teams from the District Disaster Response

Force, State Disaster Response Force, and National Disaster Response Force are on high alert across their respective zones, they said. The officials will issue fresh instructions regarding the resumption of the pilgrimage after a reassessment of the weather and safety conditions.

Despite Haryana's earlier release of additional water, supply disruptions and low pressure have continued in several parts of Delhi because water levels at the Wazirabad pondage area remain critically low, affecting raw water availability for

treatment plants. The state's Water Minister Parvesh Verma said the decline in water availability has been aggravated by a prolonged dry spell in the upper reaches of the Yamuna.

"The water level at Wazirabad has fallen from its normal pond level of 674.5 feet to nearly 668 feet, resulting in a shortage of raw water and affecting water production by nearly 80-100 MGD."

The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) told the review meeting that despite the shortfall, it has been able to maintain daily water production of around 900 MGD through emergency pumping arrangements and diversion of additional raw water.

The Wazirabad and Chandrawal water treatment plants, which supply large parts of north, central and northwest Delhi, have been among the facilities affected by reduced raw water availability. Additional Water From Haryana: The government said Haryana has assured a minimum supply of 1,000 cusecs through the Munak Canal as Delhi continues to face pressure on raw water availability.

Emergency Pumping To Maintain Supply: Additional raw water is being diverted from the Carrier Line Canal through the Twin Mains system to the Wazirabad intake. Emergency pumping arrangements installed in the dry Yamuna riverbed are contributing nearly 40 MGD of additional raw water. Officials said around 130 MGD is also being diverted through the canal system, helping sustain operations at the Wazirabad and Chandrawal water treatment plants.

## Himachal: Firing in Kasol amid clash between tourists-locals; 4 tourists from Punjab detained

**Manali, 31 May:** A shooting occurred at the Hotel Green Valley in Kasol, in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district, on Saturday evening during an alleged brawl between tourists from Punjab and local youth, police said. The incident took place around 6 pm when an argument erupted between the two groups over an unspecified issue at the hotel. The altercation quickly escalated into a physical fight, during which gunshots were allegedly fired, they added.

Upon receiving information about the shooting, a team from the Manikaran Police Station promptly arrived at the scene. They detained four individuals in connection with the case: The detained individuals are Manpreet Singh (29), a resident of Tarn Taran; Aman Randhawa (22), a resident of Amritsar; Sukhmandeep Singh (17), a resident of Ferozpur; and Karandeep Singh (22), a resident of Gurdaspur, all from Punjab.

Additionally, police reported that another individual involved in the incident, Taman, a resident of Gurdaspur in

Punjab, is currently absconding, and a search is underway to apprehend him. The Manikaran Police said that legal action is being taken on all important aspects of the case. An FIR is being registered under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Arms Act. An Investigation is underway to ascertain the sequence of events and recover the weapon used, police added. Reports indicate that a local youth was injured after being shot in the leg, but police have yet to confirm any injuries.

At the same time, emerging challenges such as rising non-communicable diseases, lifestyle-related risks and the dual burden of undernutrition and rising obesity among adults highlight the need for continued focus on preventive healthcare, behavioural change and balanced nutrition strategies, the ministry said. Overall, the findings reaffirm India's steady progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it added.

"With continued emphasis on convergence, last-mile delivery and inclu-

sive growth, India is well-positioned to sustain these gains and further improve the health and well-being of its population," it stated.

The NFHS-6 was conducted during 2023-24 by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, with the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, acting as nodal agency.

Covering nearly 6.79 lakh households across 715 districts, the survey provides vital evidence on population, health, nutrition and family welfare indicators and supports evidence-based planning and programme implementation up to the district level. As part of the compensation package, the NHA will purchase Rathore's 1.5 bighas of land that was badly damaged by the debris, apart from paying him for the damages caused to about 440 apple trees.

"Our family has been living here and growing fruits for generations but god acted only after the NHA started cutting hills at 90 degrees to build national highways, construct tunnels and four-lanes," Rathore said sarcastically.

## Elections are won by ploy, not development: BJP MLA

**Hardoi, 31 May:** BJP MLA from Uttar Pradesh's Gopamau assembly constituency, Shyam Prakash, has asserted that elections are won through 'tikdam' (ploy) and not just by doing development work. "One does not get votes because of development. I too have done development. The villages, where I got roads constructed, from those booths, I did not get votes. I am telling you a practical thing. Elections are won by 'tikdam' (ploy). Elections are not won by development," Prakash said on Saturday. The BJP MLA was addressing village pradhans after the Uttar Pradesh government decided to appoint the outgoing gram pradhans (village heads) as the administrators of gram panchayats. He also told them to prepare for the next elections and win it using all the possible tricks ('saam', 'daam', 'dand', 'bhed').

The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to appoint the outgoing gram pradhans as the administrators of the gram panchayats. The outgoing pradhans will

continue to handle the general administrative affairs of the panchayats until the formation of the new village panchayats, or for a maximum period of six months. The tenure of the state's gram panchayats expired on May 26.

According to the weather department, the shift has been brought on by an active western disturbance over north-west India. This system, along with an associated cyclonic circulation, has pushed greater moisture and atmospheric instability into the region, setting off the rain and thunderstorm activity.

With thunderstorms likely to continue, the weather department has urged people to stay indoors wherever possible. Residents have been advised to avoid sheltering under trees, keep away from structures that appear weak or unstable, and unplug electrical appliances while the storms are active.

Another proposal, which could prove to be contentious, is to have two deputy chief ministers under DK Shiv-

akumar. One of them, according to the sources, could go to a Dalit leader. It is interesting to note that sitting home minister G Parameshwara, who is a Dalit, had made his own chief ministerial ambitions known amid the Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar tussle. Karnataka has not seen a Dalit chief minister till now, and by making a Dalit deputy chief minister Congress would want to send a message of inclusion and representation to the community.

It will also be a signal to keep the Siddaramaiah's AHINDA votebank, which is an amalgamation of Dalits, Backward Classes and minorities who are seen as the supporters of the sitting chief minister. But the proposal to have two deputy chief ministers could be a point of contention for the DK Shivakumar camp, that as per sources, is seen only on having one. The Siddaramaiah camp, on the other hand, is pushing for multiple deputy chief ministers, sources have told.

## Another Blow to Trinamool: Fresh Incident Reported Day After Alleged Assault on Abhishek Banerjee

**Kolkata, 31 May:** In a fresh development intensifying political tensions in West Bengal, another incident involving alleged violence against a Trinamool Congress leader has surfaced just a day after reports emerged of an attack on senior party leader Abhishek Banerjee.

According to preliminary information, a Trinamool Congress Member of Parliament was reportedly targeted in an incident captured on camera, triggering swift reactions from party workers and supporters. The visuals, which are now circulating widely on social media, appear to show a sudden altercation in which the MP is allegedly pushed and confronted amid a crowd. However, the exact circumstances leading up to the incident are still under investigation.

The latest episode comes less than 24 hours after claims of an assault in-

volving Abhishek Banerjee had already escalated political friction in the state. Party leaders have described the back-to-back incidents as part of a "disturbing pattern of targeted intimidation," while opposition parties have dismissed the allegations, calling for a thorough and impartial inquiry.

Police sources have confirmed that they are reviewing CCTV footage and eyewitness accounts to verify the sequence of events in both incidents. Security has reportedly been tightened around key Trinamool leaders following the developments.

Meanwhile, Trinamool Congress spokespersons have condemned the alleged attacks, stating that such incidents reflect a deteriorating law-and-order situation.

They have also urged the Election Commission and state administration to ensure the safety of elected

representatives and political workers. Opposition leaders, however, have countered these claims, arguing that the incidents are being politically amplified ahead of upcoming political engagements.

They have demanded



transparency in the investigation and cautioned against drawing premature conclusions. As the situation develops, both incidents have added fuel to an already charged political atmosphere in West Bengal. Authorities

are expected to release a formal statement once initial investigations are completed. For now, the twin incidents remain under scrutiny, with political tensions continuing to rise across the state. The government believes the scheme

beneficiaries facing issues related to documentation or bank account linkage. Awareness campaigns are also being conducted to ensure eligible women are informed about the payment schedule and verification requirements. The announcement comes ahead of several key administrative initiatives planned for the coming months and is expected to benefit lakhs of women across urban and rural areas of the state.

The government has urged beneficiaries to verify their application status through designated channels and ensure that their bank account details are updated to avoid payment delays. The rollout of Annapurna Yojana payments is likely to have a significant socio-economic impact, with the state government positioning the scheme as a crucial step toward women's empowerment and social welfare in West Bengal.

## 5 Arrested in Attack Case on Trinamool Leader Abhishek Banerjee in Bengal

**Kolkata, 31 May:** Police have arrested five individuals in connection with the alleged attack on senior Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee in West Bengal, officials confirmed on Sunday. The arrests were made following an investigation into the incident that triggered widespread political tension across the state. According to preliminary reports, the accused were identified after reviewing CCTV footage, mobile recordings, and eyewitness statements from the area where the incident took place. Police sources said the arrested individuals are being interrogated to determine the motive behind the attack and whether more people were involved.

Officials have not ruled out the possibility of a larger conspiracy, though no formal confirmation has been made at this stage. Security around key Trinamool Congress leaders has been tightened in the aftermath of the incident, with authorities increasing surveillance in sensitive areas. Law enforcement agencies are also coordinating with local administration to prevent any further escalation of tensions.

The Trinamool Congress has strongly condemned the attack and demanded strict action against those responsible, calling it an attempt to intimidate political leadership. Party representatives have also urged a comprehensive probe to ensure accountability. Meanwhile, opposition parties have reacted cautiously, with some calling for an impartial investigation while others have questioned the circumstances surrounding the incident. They have stressed the need to avoid politicising the arrests before the investigation is complete. Officials said further details will be released as the inquiry progresses.

The state government has initiated the process of integrating beneficiary databases and expanding the network of hospitals to ensure seamless implementation. Officials said special enrollment drives will be conducted across districts to help families verify their eligibility and obtain health cards. According to the Chief Minister, the move is expected to reduce out-of-pocket healthcare expenses for millions of households while improving access to advanced medical services, including surgeries, critical care, and treatment for major illnesses.

Healthcare experts have welcomed the announcement, calling it a transformative step toward universal healthcare coverage in West Bengal. The government has also promised strict monitoring mechanisms to ensure transparency and timely settlement of claims. With over a crore families likely to benefit, the rollout is being viewed as one of the largest public health initiatives undertaken in the state in recent years, potentially reshaping healthcare access for millions of residents across urban and rural Bengal. The new DHR service is expected to significantly reduce travel time while offering a safer and more reliable commuting option. Railway authorities also believe the initiative will help revive greater public use of the UNESCO World Heritage toy train network beyond tourism. While the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway is globally known as a heritage attraction, officials now want to strengthen its role as an everyday transport system for local residents. Parents and school authorities have welcomed the move, calling it a "timely and practical solution" to the worsening traffic crisis in the hills.

The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, established in 1881, remains one of India's most celebrated mountain rail systems and continues to be an engineering marvel attracting visitors from across the world. The new student-focused initiative is being seen as an important step toward blending heritage preservation with modern public transport needs in the Darjeeling hills. The central agency had earlier taken over the probe citing the seriousness of the incident and possible links to organised groups involved in orchestrating the blockade. Investigators believe several accused persons played key roles in mobilising crowds, coordinating the protest and creating pressure on judicial authorities inside the court premises. Sources in the agency said digital evidence, mobile phone records and footage collected from the area helped identify additional suspects. Several of those arrested are suspected to have actively participated in surrounding the court complex and obstructing law enforcement personnel during attempts to restore order.

## Jadavpur University Converts Classic Ambassador Taxi into Electric Vehicle in Green Mobility Push

**Kolkata, 31 May:** In a significant step towards sustainable transportation and heritage innovation, researchers at Jadavpur University have successfully retrofitted a classic Ambassador taxi into a fully functional electric vehicle. The project, developed by the university's engineering team, aims to combine India's iconic automotive legacy with modern clean-energy technology.

The converted vehicle retains the unmistakable vintage design of the original Ambassador while replacing its internal combustion engine with an electric drivetrain powered by rechargeable batteries. According to the project team, the goal is to demonstrate that older vehicles can be repurposed rather than scrapped, reducing both environmental waste and carbon emissions. The retrofit includes an electric motor, battery management system, and regenerative braking technology to improve efficiency.

Researchers involved in the initiative said the conversion also highlights the potential for affordable EV transformation kits in India, especially for commercial fleets and vintage vehicle enthusiasts. They believe such innovations could help extend the life cycle of thousands of existing vehicles on Indian roads. The retrofitted Ambassador has already undergone initial road tests on campus, with engineers reporting

smooth performance and significantly lower noise levels compared to its original petrol-powered version.

Further testing is planned to assess range, battery durability, and real-world efficiency under city driving conditions. Faculty members emphasized that the project is not only an engineering achievement but also an educational model for students working in the fields of automotive design, renewable energy, and sustainability. The development comes as India accelerates its shift toward electric mobility, with increasing focus on reducing dependence on fossil fuels and promoting green transport solutions.

He argued that bringing back a major industrial project to the region would not only boost economic activity but also generate thousands of direct and indirect jobs. The BJP leader stressed that West Bengal possesses the resources, workforce, and strategic location needed to emerge as a leading manufacturing hub in eastern India.

He said the state government should actively engage with major corporate houses and create a business-friendly environment to attract fresh investments. Political observers view the statement as part of the BJP's broader campaign to highlight industrial development and employment generation ahead of upcoming political

battles in the state.

The Singur issue continues to evoke strong emotions, as the withdrawal of the Tata Nano project nearly two decades ago remains one of the most debated chapters in Bengal's industrial history.

Industry experts believe that any major investment in Singur could have a significant multiplier effect on the local economy, benefiting small businesses, transport networks, and ancillary industries. While there has been no official response from the Tata Group regarding the proposal, the remarks have reignited discussions about the future of industrialization in West Bengal. The BJP leadership has indicated that attracting large-scale investments and reviving dormant industrial zones will remain a key focus of its economic agenda for the state.

The controversy comes at a time when Bengal politics remains sharply polarised following the Assembly elections, with religious identity and communal rhetoric becoming central flashpoints in the ongoing political battle between the BJP and the Trinamool Congress. Former Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee has been booked following a complaint alleging that her remarks hurt religious sentiments and provoked communal tension, police said on Wednesday.

The FIR was lodged at the Silig-

### Emergency Nos.

**Airlines**

Air India : 2211-6869 Dum Dum airport : 2511-8787

**Railway**

Howrah Station Old Complex : 2638-7412 New Complex : 2638 2217 Sealdah Station : 2350 3535/3537 Reservation : 139, Women Security : 182

**Emergency Services**

Lalbaraz Police Control Room : 2214- 3230 Bengal Police : 2214 3230 South 24 Parganas Police : 2479 1870 Fire Brigade: 2252 6666 Bhabani Bhawan : 2479 1761 Missing : 2450- 6100

**Night Medicine, Oxygen**

Life Care : 2475 4628 Nandan Medical : 2358 1723 Jivandwip : 2455 0962 South Kolkata Bureau : 2484 4322.

**Nurses / Nurse Assistant**

South Kolkata Nurses : 2484 4322 City Point : 2567 4113 Janakalyan : 2867 5012 Health Care : 2416 4675 Alo : 2472 1039 Sister: 2442 6385 Loknath : 2372 2763 Life Care : 2578 8720 Nivedita : 2284 7810 Anandamoyee : 2464 7294 Relief : 2289 7362 Care : 2334 7068 Sanjibani : 2360 7881 Trend Nurses : 2554 2757 Nurses Association : 2241 682

**Ambulance**

Garpar Srijan : 2354 5847 South and Polyclinic : 2466 2433 Life Care : 2475 4628 Okhard : 2475 4320 Diganta : 2474 5455 Sisir Kumar Institute : 2533 0382 Rani Rashmoni Mission : 2431 9885 Jannangal : 2466 2879 Medical Bank : 2554 0084 Alipore Chetla Basti Unnayan : 2449 0286 Meera Seva : 2411 8316 Matri Sangha Janakalyan Ashram : 2475 4527 Dr. Bidhan Roy Memorial : 2574 9738 Kumartuli Institution : 2530 5561 Taltala People : 2265 3239 MAR Care : 2320 3181

**Blood Bank**

Central Blood Bank : 2351 0619 Peoples Blood Bank : 2455 5164 Lions : 2248 5780 Life Care : 2284 6940 Ashok Lab : 2472 0333 Hemophilia Society : 2426 3739 Ramkrishna Seva Pratishthan : 2475 3636-9

**Hospital**

SSKM : 2204 1100 Vision Hospital : (033) 71-222-000 R N Tagore : 2436 4000 Thakurpukur Cancer Research : 2453 2781 CMRI : 2456 7700 NRS : 2265 3214 Ram Krishna Mission Seva Pratishthan : 2475 3636 National Medical College : 2289 7122 R G Kar : 2555 7675 Shambhunath Pandit : 2302 2800 Nitangle : 2282 7462 Peerless : 2462 2394 Priyambada Birla Aravind Eye : 2289 4343 Ruby General : 3987 1800 B M Birla : 2456 7890 Renaissance : 4014 4014 Medical College : 2241 4901 Matribhavan : 2464 4189 Kalpataru : 2562 2280 West Bank : 2644 5516 Bangur : 2473 3354 Balananda Brahmachari : 2478 7801 Sushrut : 2358 0201 Apollo Glanigles : 2320 2122 Eye Care : 2287 2809 North City : 2321 1101 B P Poddar : 2445 8901 Barasat Cancer Research : 2552 2222 Escag Sanjiboni : 2554 1818 Medi Rehab : 2281 7881 Vinayak Health World : 2532 9950 Dafodil : 2534 6649 Mission Hospital, Durgapur : (0343) 2535 555

**Nursing Home**

EEDF : 2473 3601 Speed Edge : 2534 3170 Repose : 2287 1442 Mind Care : 2534 6220 Belle View : 2287 2321 New Life : 2570 8090 Woodlands : 2456 7079 Capital : 2350 7272 Ekbulpore : 2449 5151 Medica ENT : 2426 4901-03 Dr. Nihar Munshi Eye Foundation : 2461 8733

**Dead body Carriage**

Hindu Satkar : 2241 3849 New Alipore Suruchi Sangha : 2400- 9950 Garpar Srijan : 2354 5847 Park Circus Puja : 2287 1793 Sarkar Bagan. : 2554 1881 Baranagar Karmisangha : 2558 7526 Meera : 2411 8316 Rajib Memorial : 2454 9550 Lake Town Committe : 2521 9578 Kumartuli Institute : 2530 5561 Sribhumi Sporting : 534 0002 Udayer Pathe : 3250 1089

**Burning Ghat**

Keoratala : 2466 6602 Siriti : 2403 2013 Kashipore R K Mahasaman : 2558 3484 Kashi Mitra : 2554 2967 Nimtala : 2269 1955