

NEET leak: Court extends Hawaldar's CBI custody by 2 days; remands Mandhare to judicial custody

New Delhi, 31 May : A Delhi court on Saturday extended the CBI custody of accused Manisha Sanjay Hawaldar by two more days and remanded another accused, Manisha Mandhare, to judicial custody in the alleged NEET-UG 2026 paper leak case. Special Judge Ajay Gupta was hearing the agency's plea to interrogate both the accused and allowed the plea.

Seeking extension of Hawaldar's custody, the Special Public Prosecutor VK Pathak submitted that she was empanelled as a physics translator by the National Testing Agency (NTA) and had allegedly, in conspiracy with other accused persons, unauthorisedly retained and distributed the NEET-UG examination paper for monetary consideration. He told the court that her custodial interrogation was necessary to identify other accused persons allegedly involved in the conspiracy and to further investigate the case.

Opposing the plea, Hawaldar's counsel argued that she had been arrested on May 22 and had cooperated with the investigation. He contended that there was no requirement for further police custody and sought her remand to judicial custody. The court, however, allowed the CBI's plea and extended Hawaldar's custody by two days. In the case of Mandhare, the CBI submitted that she was required to be confronted with other



accused persons and students allegedly linked to the case. The agency alleged that Mandhare, in conspiracy with other accused, had retained the examination paper and distributed it for money. After hearing the submissions, the court remanded Mandhare to 14 days' judicial custody.

Meanwhile, the court also issued notice to the CBI on the bail application filed by another accused, Manisha Waghmare, who sought relief on medical grounds citing illness. The court directed the agency to file its response and posted the matter for hearing on June 5. The case forms part of the wider CBI probe into alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG examination and the alleged paper

leak network. The CBI has arrested 13 persons so far in connection with the matter. According to the CBI, P V Kulkarni, a chemistry lecturer in Pune and alleged kingpin, was involved in the NEET process on behalf of the NTA and had access to the question papers.

The agency said earlier that during the last week of April, Kulkarni mobilised students with the help of Manisha Waghmare, and conducted special coaching classes for them at his house in Pune. The CBI had earlier arrested Doctor Manoj Shirure and physics teacher Tejas Harshadkumar Shah. Both were sent to police custody till June 1. Manisha Sanjay Hawaldar was the 11th person arrested in the case.

The other accused were identified as Shubham Khairnar, the first arrestee from Nashik, Mangilal Khatik, Vikas and Dinesh Biwal, all three arrested from Jaipur, Yash Yadav, arrested from Gurugram, and Dhyananjay Lokhande, arrested from Ahilyanagar in Maharashtra. On May 16, the CBI arrested biology lecturer Manisha Mandhare, who was part of the NTA paper-setting committee. On May 12, the NTA cancelled the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate), or NEET, held on May 3 for medical admissions amid allegations of paper leak. A re-examination has been scheduled for June 21.

New Railway Division Set to Unlock South Odisha's Untapped Economic Potential

Rayagada poised to become the nerve centre of rail connectivity in the region; operationalisation from 01.06.2026.

DOI CORRESPONDENT

Bhubaneswar, 31 May : The Rayagada Railway Division of East Coast Railway is set to commence functioning from 1st June 2026, ushering in a new era of railway led infrastructure growth and regional development in South Odisha and adjoining areas.

The new division is expected to

strengthen railway operations, improve project monitoring, enhance infrastructure planning and accelerate execution of development initiatives across the region. With a dedicated Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) stationed at Rayagada, coordination with State Government agencies, district administrations, industries and local communities is expected to become faster and more effective.

People visiting temple does not establish public character of trust managing it: Allahabad HC



Lucknow, 31 May: The Allahabad High Court has held that the mere fact that general people have been visiting a temple does not establish the public character of a trust managing it. Justice Prashant Kumar said this on Friday while dismissing two pleas claiming that the Shri Ram Laxman-Janki Virajman Temple Trust was a public religious trust and that intervention in its administration could be sought under Section 92 of the Code of Civil Procedure. The CPC's Section 92 governs public charitable and religious trusts. It provides a legal mechanism for courts to intervene, remove trustees, or establish administrative schemes in cases of breach of trust. The dispute concerned the management of the trust and the appointment of its 'sarvarahkar' (manager).

Challenging a 2022 trial court order, the appellants had contended that the temple was a public religious trust and that intervention in its administration, including the appointment of a new manager, could be sought under Section 92 of the CPC. The trust, on the other hand, argued that the temple and the trust had been established by Gulzari Lal within his residential premises and had always been administered

according to a private scheme formulated by the founder. In its judgement, the court held that public access to a temple for worship is not, by itself, sufficient to establish the public character of a trust.

It found that control and management of the trust had remained with the founder and his successors, and that the trust properties were dedicated to the maintenance of the temple. Accordingly, the court concluded that the trust was private in nature. The court further clarified that Section 92 of the CPC applies only to public religious or charitable trusts. Since the trust in question was a private trust, the suit filed under the provision was not maintainable. The court noted that Shiv Gopal had already been recognised as the lawful manager of the trust in earlier proceedings and those decisions had attained finality. It also observed that no member of the trust committee had objected to Shri Narayan succeeding him as manager. The court held that the issue relating to the office of the manager had already been judicially determined and was therefore barred by the principle of res judicata, which prevents re-litigation by the same parties of matters already decided.

NMC proposes restoring 10-year limit for completing MBBS course

New Delhi, 31 May : The National Medical Commission (NMC) has proposed amending the Graduate Medical Education Regulations (GMER), 2023, to allow MBBS students up to 10 years to complete their course, including the compulsory rotatory medical internship, effectively restoring the earlier time limit that was reduced in 2023. In a draft amendment uploaded on its website, the commission has invited comments and suggestions from stakeholders and the public within 30 days. Under the proposed changes, no student shall be allowed more than four attempts to clear the first professional MBBS examination, a provision that remains unchanged. However, students would be allowed to continue the undergraduate medical course for up to 10 years from the date of admission, including the internship period.

This is in alignment with the NMC's Foreign Medical Graduate Licensee (FMGL) regulations, 2021. "Provided that under no circumstances the student shall be allowed more than four attempts for the first year (First Professional MBBS) and no student shall be allowed to continue the undergraduate medical course after 10 years from the date of joining the MBBS course (including continuous rotatory medical internship)," the draft amendment issued on May 18 said. In June 2023, the NMC reduced the maximum duration for completing the MBBS programme from 10 years to nine years.

According to an official, the proposed relaxation is expected to benefit students who face academic setbacks, health issues, personal emergencies, or other unforeseen circumstances during the course, providing them greater flexibility to complete their medical education without losing eligibility. The amendment will be finalised after considering the feedback received on

the draft regulations, the official said.

A migrant labourer was beaten to death by a mob in Thiruvallur district after he allegedly misbehaved with a woman, police said on Saturday. The victim has been identified as Prosenjit Das (35), who along with six labourers from Assam came to Thiruvallur in search of a job and were staying in a rented room, they said. Initial probe revealed that Das, who was under the influence of alcohol, misbehaved with a woman under the pretext of asking for drinking water at her residence. However, the woman was forced to shut the door and go inside her house for safety.

When the accused began damaging the windows with a knife, the woman called her relatives. A group of relatives and some locals gathered at the spot and allegedly assaulted Das, who later succumbed to injuries. A case has been registered and investigation is on.

The Kerala government will launch "Operation Toofan: The Narco Hunt", billed as one of the largest anti-drug campaigns in South India, on June 2 as part of a comprehensive crackdown on narcotics networks operating in the state. The initiative, announced by state Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala shortly after assuming office, aims to curb the spread of narcotics through stringent law enforcement measures and a broad-based public awareness campaign, according to an official statement issued on Sunday.

The Kerala Police, in coordination with various government departments, will spearhead the operation, focusing on dismantling drug trafficking networks and building a strong community-led resistance against substance abuse. The project has been designed to address the rapid spread of synthetic drugs, using technology-driven surveillance and modern investigative techniques.

Dream job comes too late for Kerala man

Malappuram (Kerala), 31 May : An advice memo for a government job is usually a moment of joy for aspirants. But it turned into a matter of disappointment for a Kerala man who received it at retirement age -- 18 years after the rank list from which he was selected had expired.

Abdul Majeed, a native of Kalikavu in this northern district, was taken by surprise when he received an advice memo from the Kerala Public Service Commission (PSC) last month for appointment as a part-time junior Arabic teacher. The irony, however, was that Majeed had appeared for the PSC examination in 2005 and the rank list from which he was selected had expired in 2008.

A disheartened Majeed said a government job had long been a cherished dream for him and he had waited with hope for an appointment after securing a place in the rank list. However, as years

went by without any communication, he gradually gave up hope. By the time he crossed 60, even that hope had faded, he told reporters here on Saturday. "It took 18 years for the PSC to issue the advice memo. The appointment was delayed to such an extent that I have lost any realistic chance of serving in the post," Majeed said.

According to him, the appointment was made against a vacancy that remained unfilled after repeated notifications and recruitment efforts failed to find eligible candidates. As per the rules, following the receipt of the advice memo, he is required to produce the necessary documents and join service within three months. However, Majeed's date of birth is recorded as May 27, 1966, in his SSLC book, making him ineligible for appointment as he has already crossed the prescribed retirement age.

PM Modi urges people to take precautions amid scorching heat

New Delhi, 31 May : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged people to stay hydrated in view of soaring temperatures across the country. In his monthly radio broadcast Mann Ki Baat, he said people should take extra precautions when stepping out in the sun. "With temperatures soaring across much of the country, it is important to take extra care. Stay hydrated. If you need to step out in the sun, do so cautiously and take necessary precautions," he said.

"Keep drinking water. Don't forget the guidelines issued by various government departments in this regard either," he said. Prime Minister Modi had on Wednesday last also urged citizens to take maximum precautions as the country is witnessing soaring temperatures, and said staying hydrated is key during such harsh weather.

Modi also referred to the king of fruits, saying there is hardly a home where mangoes are not talked about in the summer season. He noted that every region has its own mango and its own aroma. "Hapus or alphonso of Maharashtra, Kesar of Gujarat - these are the lifeblood of 'aamras'; Dussehri of Uttar Pradesh and Langra of Kashi. There are mangoes from Bihar, whose aroma can be smelt from far. Chausa, Malda - memories of people are tied to every name," he said. The prime minister said if someone goes to South India, people will find other varieties like Banganapalli, Totapuri, Neelam, Malgova; there is Himsagar in Bengal; Suvarnarekha of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. "In other words, the place changes, and so does the mango's form, colour, and taste... This journey of the mango is now reaching from villages to the global market," he said.

200 years of Hindi journalism: Journey that began with 'Udanta Martand' in Kolkata

New Delhi, 31 May : Exactly 200 years ago, from an old press located in the by-lanes of Calcutta, a weekly titled 'Udanta Martand' -- which translates to the "rising sun" -- was published, quite aptly heralding the dawn of Hindi journalism in India. Its very first issue, edited by Pt. Jugal Kishore Shukla, which came out on May 30, 1826, proclaimed itself as a journal with a premise: "Hindustaniyon ke hit ke het". Rare images of the first page of this very seminal publication and other historic Hindi journals published in the 19th and 20th centuries, have been displayed as part of an exhibition hosted at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) here on Saturday to mark the milestone occasion.

A two-day seminar, starting May 30, is also being hosted by IGNCA and Madhavrao Saprore Memorial Newspaper Museum and Research Institute, Bhopal, to commemorate 200 years of Hindi journalism. Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia, the chief guest at the opening session of the seminar, released a commemorative stamp, and also a commemorative volume on the bicentenary.

On the occasion, a written message in Hindi sent by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was also played on the screen on the dais.

"I am confident that this glorious journey of 200 years of Hindi journalism will inspire new generations of journalists, researchers and other people associated with the media fraternity," Modi said in his message dated May 29. The exhibition draws from archival records housed at the newspaper museum of Saprore memorial, and includes rare images of the cover pages of various Hindi newspapers published in the 19th century, such as 'Malwa Akhbar' (Hindi/Urdu), 'Akhbar Gwalior', 'Samachar Sudhavarshan' (Hindi and Bengali), 'Kavivachansudha', 'Hindipradip' (monthly), 'Hindosthan', 'Ananda Kadambini', 'Bharatbhara' and 'Shree Venkateswar Samachar', among others.

The 20th-century journals born before the independence, whose rare images have been showcased include, 'Dainik Lokmat', 'Madhukar', 'Hind Kesari', 'Saraswati', 'Vigyan', 'Vishwamitra', 'Aaj', 'Sainik' and 'Aryavarta'. According to one

of the exhibits, at the end of every issue of 'Udanta Martand', it was written -- "This 'Udanta Martand' is published every Tuesday, at Martand press in Calcutta's Kolhu Tola, Amratala Gali, haveli at no. 37."

Veteran journalist and founder of Saprore memorial newspaper museum Vijaydutt Shridhar told PTI that he built the museum by collecting material from across the country, as part of his research for a scholarly work. He also said that 'Udanta Martand', though started in May 1826, did not get much financial patronage, and folded in "one year and seven months".

In his address, he quoted author and journalist Makhmalan Chaturvedi, saying, "the pen should neither get stuck nor go astray". Scindia said in his address: "The seed sown 200 years ago by Pt. Jugal Kishore Shukla, has grown into a massive banyan tree across the country". He said, commitment, human sensitivity and national interest should remain at the core of journalism.

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Gujarat will undertake a 17-day

"Water Conservation" Drive at CLW

DOI CORRESPONDENT

Chittaranjan, 31 May : The World Environment Day campaign (spanning from May 15 to June 5, 2026) at CLW is currently underway, having commenced on May 15, 2026, with a pledge-taking ceremony. Various programs are being organized throughout this period. Under this campaign related to environmental protection and awareness, a 'drive program' was organized in front of the Water Department office today on 31.05.2026. Everyone present pledged to make an active contribution towards maintaining a



healthy water cycle through water conservation efforts. This water conservation drive commenced at the Water Department office and concluded near the petrol pump. A

large number of officers and employees participated enthusiastically, carrying various posters, and helped raise awareness regarding water conservation.

Over Rs 17,800 crore disbursed in loans to street vendors under PM SVANidhi in six years

New Delhi, 31 May : More than 1.12 crore collateral-free loans worth over Rs 17,800 crore have been disbursed under the PM SVANidhi scheme since its launch in June 2020, emerging as a key driver of financial inclusion and economic empowerment for street vendors, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs said.

As the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme completes six years on Monday, the ministry said that the scheme has benefited over 75.5 lakh street vendors across urban India, helping them access formal credit, adopt digital payments and avail social security benefits.

Launched in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, PM SVANidhi was designed to provide affordable working capital loans to street vendors who tradi-

tionally relied on informal sources of credit charging high interest rates, the ministry said in a statement.

The scheme offers collateral-free loans in three progressive tranches of Rs 15,000, Rs 25,000 and Rs 50,000, along with interest subsidies and credit guarantee support. Beneficiaries who successfully repay their loans are also eligible for UPI-linked RuPay credit cards with limits of up to Rs 30,000.

The ministry said digital inclusion has been a major focus of the scheme, with more than 55 lakh beneficiaries onboarded onto digital platforms. These beneficiaries have collectively carried out over 841 crore digital transactions worth nearly Rs 8.96 lakh crore. Street vendors have also received around Rs 800 crore through cash-back incentives and interest subsi-

dies, it said.

The government said the scheme has significantly expanded access to institutional finance, with nearly 95 per cent of beneficiaries obtaining formal credit for the first time. Around 30 per cent subsequently accessed additional loans beyond PM SVANidhi, reflecting improved creditworthiness, the statement stated. Independent impact assessments conducted in 2023 and 2025 found that beneficiary incomes increased by nearly 20 per cent annually on average, while gains in housing stability, healthcare, education and nutrition were also recorded. Women account for nearly 46 per cent of beneficiaries, while about 70 per cent belong to marginalised communities, underlining the scheme's inclusive outreach. The government has extended PM SVANidhi till March 2030.

V-P Radhakrishnan warns youth may follow 'cockroach' if positive news is ignored

Kottayam, 31 May : Vice President C P Radhakrishnan on Sunday said youngsters would end up following the "cockroach", in a veiled reference to the BJP, if positive activities and achievements were not reported adequately. He stressed that constructive journalism is essential to guide society and strengthen public confidence. Speaking as the chief guest at the celebrations marking the 140th anniversary of the Malayalam daily Deepika, Radhakrishnan said positive developments should receive greater attention in the media so that young people are exposed to the right information and role models.

"Positive activities should be reported well. Only then will youngsters receive the right information. Otherwise, they will lose interest and end up following the 'cockroach'," he said. The vice president said he was not against freedom of expression, but questioned the tendency to give disproportionate attention to issues that may not stand the test of time. Apparently referring to the social media buzz generated by the Cockroach Janata Party (a satirical social-media account), particularly among youngsters, he questioned whether something truly deserved so much attention in a single day.

public outreach campaign across the state next month to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 12 years in office, a party functionary said on Friday. The campaign will run from June 5, which is observed as World Environment Day, to June 21 that is celebrated as International Day of Yoga, and will feature a series of development-oriented and social welfare initiatives, he said. "PM Narendra Modi completed 12 years in office. To mark the occasion, the Gujarat BJP will organise a massive public outreach campaign across the state," spokesperson of state BJP Dr Anil Patel said.

Following the BJP's "report card" culture introduced by PM Modi, the party will organise a series of service-oriented, political and social programmes, he said. The campaign will include cleanliness drives, tree plantation initiatives, 'Viksit Bharat' conferences, and interactive sessions with eminent citizens, Patel added. The BJP will also promote natural farming practices and conduct a major tree plantation drive under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign across 50,000 booths in Gujarat, he said.