

# Delhi sizzles as mercury crosses 44-deg C mark; heatwave warning in place till May 24

**NEW DELHI:** Dry scorching winds and relentless heat turned Delhi into a furnace on Monday as the maximum temperatures breached the 44 degrees Celsius mark in parts of the national capital, with the city staring at an extended spell of punishing heat in the upcoming week.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Delhi's base station at Safdarjung logged a maximum temperature of 43.4 degrees Celsius, 3 degrees above normal, while the minimum settled at 26.3 degrees Celsius. Though no heatwave conditions

were officially recorded in the city, Delhi witnessed its hottest May day since 2024 on Monday. The last time the national capital recorded a higher temperature in May was on May 17 in 2024, when the mercury stood at 43.6 degrees Celsius.

Among the other stations, Ridge was the hottest at 44.6 degrees Celsius, 3.1 degrees above normal, followed by Ayanagar at 44.4 degrees Celsius, 2.3 degrees above normal, Lodhi Road at 43.8 degrees Celsius, 4.8 notches above normal, and Palam at 43.5 degrees Celsius, 2.2 degrees above normal.



The minimum temperature hovered around 26 degrees Celsius at most stations, largely in tune with the normal for this time of the year.

“Lodhi Road reported a maximum temperature 4.8 degrees Celsius above normal. Since this is day one, and only one station reported temperature above normal by 4.8 degrees Celsius, as per the criteria, heatwave conditions were not declared for today,” IMD officials said.

The IMD has forecast heatwave conditions across northwest and central India, with Delhi expected to witness temperatures between 43 and 45 degrees Celsius during May 18-20.

According to the weather office, a heatwave is observed when the maximum temperature crosses

40 degrees Celsius and remains 4.5 to 6.4 degrees above normal for a prolonged period.

For Tuesday, the IMD has forecast heatwave conditions in Delhi with the city under a yellow alert, advising residents to “be updated”. The minimum temperature is expected to settle around 28 degrees Celsius, while the maximum may remain around 44 degrees Celsius.

Even though the city has not officially recorded any heatwave days this month, the IMD has issued a heatwave warning till May 24 for isolated parts of Delhi, along with a yellow alert till

May 22. “The northwesterly winds are sweeping into the national capital from the Thar Desert region of Rajasthan and parts of central Pakistan. Travelling across vast arid stretches, these winds turn intensely dry by the time they reach Delhi, trapping heat close to the surface and sharply intensifying the searing conditions across the city,” Mahesh Palawat of private forecaster Skymet Weather said.

Palawat also said that night temperatures have remained high over the past few days due to intense daytime heating.

## AIIMS Delhi forms 4-member board for Twisha Sharma's second autopsy, team to fly to Bhopal



**NEW DELHI:** AIIMS Delhi has constituted a medical board comprising four senior doctors, who will fly to Bhopal this evening by a state chartered plane, to conduct a second autopsy of actor-model Twisha Sharma following the Madhya Pradesh High Court's order in the alleged dowry death case.

Chief of Forensic Medicine at AIIMS Delhi, Dr Sudhir Gupta, said the court order authorised the director of AIIMS Delhi to constitute the medical board.

The hospital received the order and request from Madhya Pradesh government officials to conduct the postmortem on Sunday morning.

Dr Gupta constituted the medical board comprising four senior doctors from AIIMS Delhi with the approval of the director. “The team, along with the latest instruments, will fly by a state chartered plane at 6 pm today,” Dr Gupta said. The body of the 33-year-old actor-model is currently kept at the mortuary of AIIMS Bhopal, he said.

The high-profile death case saw fast-paced developments on Friday with the Madhya Pradesh High Court ordering a second autopsy by a specialised AIIMS Delhi team, while the victim's absconding husband withdrew his anticipatory bail plea and his mother, a retired judge, was served a notice for the cancellation of her bail over non-cooperation with the police.

Samarth Singh, husband of the model-turned-actor, who was arrested in connection with her death, was brought to Bhopal in the early hours of Saturday, with police set to seek his custodial remand for questioning, officials said.

According to police sources, Samarth Singh, the lawyer son of former judge and Bhopal consumer court chairperson Giribala Singh, was brought to the Katara Hills police station around 2 am.

“He will be produced before the court today, and police will seek his remand for interrogation,” Bhopal Commissioner of Police Sanjay Kumar told PTI.

## Appointment letters under Rozgar Mela are ‘starting line of sacred duty’: Suresh

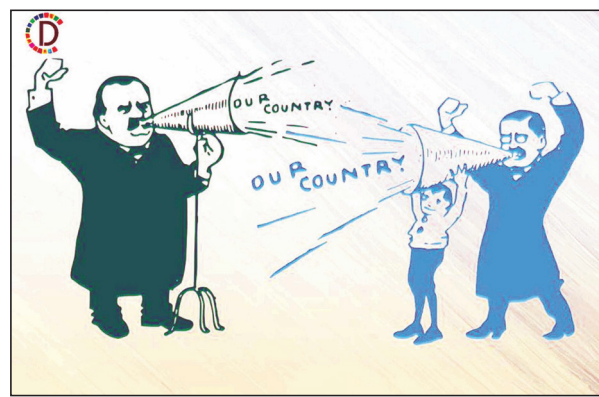
**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:** Union Minister of State Suresh Gopi on Saturday termed the appointment letters distributed under the 19th nationwide Rozgar Mela as the “starting line of a very sacred duty”.

Gopi, the Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Tourism, was the chief guest at the Rozgar Mela organised at the Railway Kalyana Mandapam here where appointment letters were distributed to 130 candidates virtually by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Modi virtually distributed 51,000 appointment letters to candidates in 47 locations across the country.

At the event held here, 79 candidates were recruited to the Indian Railways, 12 to the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) or Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and 23 to premier institutions like the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) and the National Institute For Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST), a Railways release said.

The remaining were appointed to Bank of Baroda, Airports Authority of India, Indian Air Force, Military Engineering Services and the Indian Navy, it said. Speaking at the event, Gopi referred to the appointment



letters as the “starting line of a very sacred duty” and stated that every role in public service—whether managing a railway station, crunching numbers at a bank, processing data for

a space launch, or guarding the nation's borders—was “a brick in the foundation of a developed India.” He said the Rozgar Mela initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in

October 2022 represents not just a massive recruitment drive, but a larger national vision aimed at transforming India's youth power into national power. The minister also said that every individual entering public service possesses the capability, aspiration and commitment required to contribute towards building a developed India.

“He urged the newly appointed candidates to dedicate their energy towards nation-building with dedication, integrity and passion, and called upon them to collectively realise the vision of Viksit Bharat,” the release said. Divyakant Chandrakar, Di-

visional Railway Manager, Thiruvananthapuram Division, Southern Railway, delivered the welcome address in which he termed the Rozgar Mela “a transformative initiative” aimed at providing meaningful employment opportunities to the youth of the nation and “strengthen public institutions with talented and dedicated professionals”, it said.

Referring to the spirit of ‘Nagrik Devo Bhava’, he urged them to serve citizens with honesty, dedication and empathy, and to contribute through their work towards the vision of a stronger and developed India.

## Bihar to roll out AI policy soon: Samrat

**PATNA:** Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary on Saturday said his government would soon roll out an artificial intelligence (AI) policy as part of its plan to develop Bihar as a major AI hub.

Speaking at the inauguration of the ‘Bihar AI Summit 2026’ at Urja Auditorium in Patna, Choudhary said AI would play a key role in transforming governance, improving transparency and accelerating Bihar's development trajectory.

“Bihar will continue to work towards becoming an AI hub, and the government will soon bring an AI policy. Through AI, Bihar will emerge among the country's leading devel-

oped states,” he said. Choudhary urged all government departments to maximise the use of AI to ensure transparency in welfare schemes and improve public service delivery.

He specifically referred to the ‘Sahyog Shivirs’, grievance redressal camps launched by the state government, and said AI technology would help speed up the resolution of public complaints.

The CM said complaints received at ‘Sahyog Shivirs’ must be resolved within 30 days, failing which the officer concerned would face suspension on the 31st day by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

“AI is going to become a

crucial part of our lives. Today, nearly 120 crore people use mobile phones. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brought a revolution in India's communication landscape, and AI will play a major role in shaping the future,” he said.

Choudhary also credited former CM Nitish Kumar for strengthening basic infrastructure and public services in Bihar, adding that the next phase would focus on building a prosperous and technologically advanced state.

He announced that the proposed 125-km Ganga Expressway project, estimated at Rs 30,000 crore, would be completed within the next three years under the public-private partner-

ship (PPP) model. He further said the long-pending Vikramshila University project would finally take shape during the current financial year, while degree colleges would be opened in 211 blocks from July onward. Model schools would also be established across all 534 blocks of Bihar, he said.

According to the plan, 10 such schools would come up in Patna, while five each would be set up in municipal corporation towns, including Gaya, Bihar Sharif, Bhagalpur, Purnea, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Motihari, Hajipur and Chhapra.

Appealing to migrant Biharis to contribute to the

state's growth, Choudhary said the government was focused on creating employment opportunities within the state to reduce distress migration for labour work.

The chief minister asserted that criminals challenging the police would face action within 48 hours, irrespective of caste or religion, and added that AI technology would also strengthen policing and crime monitoring systems in the state.

He said Bihar was working toward generating 20,000 mw of electricity with support from the Centre, stressing that uninterrupted power supply was essential for industrial development and investment.

## Beed police invoke preventive law MPDA against five history-sheeters

**BEED:** The police in Maharashtra's Beed district have invoked the stringent Maharashtra Prevention of Dangerous Activities (MPDA) Act against five history-sheeters to prevent them from committing more offences, officials said on Saturday.

Three of these individuals, identified as Zubair, alias Mari, alias Papa Mustaque Farooqui, Momin Salim Momin Shabbir and Tukaram Laxman Pawar, were sent to the Harsul Central Jail in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, an official release said.

According to the police, the fourth proposed detainee is currently in judicial custody, and the process to take his custody is underway. Meanwhile, a massive manhunt has been launched to nab the fifth accused, who is absconding.

All five persons face several serious offences, police said. MPDA provides for the preventive detention of individuals such as slumlord, bootleggers, drug offenders, “dangerous persons”, sand smugglers, human traffickers and persons engaged in black-marketing of essential commodities without trial for up to 12 months.

The action was taken as part of a zero-tolerance policy launched by District Collector Vivek Johnson and Superintendent of Police Navneet Kanwat against local goons, sand mafias, and organised crime syndicates, said officials.

## 13 arrested for involvement in over 900 cases of cyber crimes

**GANDHI NAGAR:** Cyber police in Gujarat have arrested 13 persons for alleged involvement in as many as 982 cyber crimes reported across India in which victims lost a total of Rs 631.86 crore, an official said on Saturday.

Under ‘Operation Mule Hunt 2.0’, these accused were arrested from Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodra, Bharuch and Rajkot. With this action, the state's Cyber Centre of Excellence (CCE) busted a major cyber crime network, said Superintendent of Police Rajdeepsinh Zala. The accused were arrested in connection with four different cases.



More than 200 FIRs were registered across the country in connection with these cyber crimes, SP Zala said. One of the accused used leaked database available on Telegram groups to obtain bank custom-

er IDs. He would then obtain OTPs from these customers and hack their accounts. The money would be transferred to his mule accounts. Another arrested accused sim-

ilarly used various firms to open mule accounts to commit frauds, Zala said.

The cyber frauds they committed were of different kinds, such as online financial fraud, internet banking-related fraud, UPI-related fraud, investment fraud and deposit fraud, the SP said.

When the details of 45 bank accounts used by the accused for criminal activities were checked on the NCCRP portal, they were found to be involved in 982 cyber fraud complaints filed across the country, including 137 in Maharashtra, 126 in Karnataka, and 77 in Gujarat, police said.

## Bengal's BJP govt trims Eid-Ud-Zoha break, declares May 28 as public holiday

**KOLKATA:** The newly elected BJP government in West Bengal has cancelled the two-day Eid-Ud-Zoha holidays announced earlier by the previous administration and declared May 28 as the sole public holiday for the festival, aligning the state's schedule with that of the Centre.

In a fresh notification issued by the Finance Department, the state government said the holidays declared for May 26 and 27 stood cancelled after information was received that Id-Ud-Zoha would be observed on May 28 this year.

Observed on the 10th day after the sighting of the

moon, Eid-Ud-Zoha or Eid-ul-Adha is a major Islamic festival commonly known as Bakrid.

The new notification from the West Bengal government's finance department said, “Information has been received that Id-Ud-Zoha (Bakrid) will be observed on May 28, 2026 (Thursday).” It further said the governor “is pleased to declare May 28, 2026, (Thursday) as a public holiday under Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, on account of Id-Ud-Zoha (Bakrid).”

The order clarified that May 26 and 27 would now be treated as normal work-

ing days for all government offices and establishments covered under the notification. The decision comes amid the new government's broader push to tighten administrative discipline and restore what it describes as “work culture” in state government offices following the change of guard in the state. A senior state government official said the administration wanted to prioritise public service delivery and reduce disruptions caused by prolonged holidays. “The government's message is that official work and public services should not suffer because of an excessive holiday culture.

## 10-year-old girl sexually assaulted, killed in TN, two held; CM Vijay assures tough action

**CHENNAI:** A 10-year-old girl was sexually assaulted and brutally killed in Coimbatore, leading to shock and outrage across Tamil Nadu, and Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Saturday promised strict action following opposition uproar. A 33-year old man, who allegedly committed sexual assault has been arrested under POCSO and for other offences including murder and his accomplice has been nabbed for criminal conspiracy, police said.

Terming the incident as “horrific,” CM Vijay said such inhuman and unforgivable criminal acts can never be tolerated. “I share my deepest condolences with the family of the girl,” he said in a statement. Referring to the arrest of the two persons, he said

the Tamil Nadu government will act firmly to ensure that those who engage in such heinous acts against women and children receive severe punishment under the law. “All immediate and necessary actions for this will be taken,” he asserted.

Opposition leaders -- DMK's Udhayanidhi Stalin, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami, AMMK chief TTV Dhinakaran and PMK leader Anbumani Ramadoss strongly condemned the crime and demanded tough action.

“This heinous incident has sent shockwaves across the country. The voice demanding true justice for this murder is echoing from all quarters”, Udhayanidhi, the Leader of Opposition, wrote on his

social media page. Palaniswami said: “This government must demonstrate seriousness not only in mere publicity measures regarding women's safety but also in creating robust and effective protection systems. It must act not as a “reels” government but as a real government.”

“While strongly condemning this inhuman crime, I also demand that the perpetrators be given the strictest punishment under the law, and that this government take immediate and firm actions to ensure the safety of women and children in such a way that incidents like this never occur again,” the former CM added.

A resolution adopted at a DMK Youth Wing consultative meeting here slammed the TVK govern-

ment over law and order issues. Listing out the incidents of crime since the TVK came to power earlier this month, the DMK meet alleged that there were more than 30 cases of murder, dacoity, sexual assault and others. It alleged that law and order had deteriorated.

Police said the girl, who was playing outside her house under the Sulur Police Station limits near Coimbatore went missing on May 21 by 5 PM. A complaint was received by 8.30 PM that day and a case was registered.

According to police, immediately, five special teams were set up and work to trace the child was intensified. CCTV footages from the area were scanned and technology was deployed to assist probe.

## DoS approves space manufacturing facilities in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu states

**NEW DELHI:** In a significant step towards strengthening India's emerging private space industry, the Department of Space (DoS) has approved the establishment of two Common Technical Facilities (CTFs) in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu to provide advanced testing, validation and integration infrastructure for space manufacturing and launch vehicle development.

The initiative, to be anchored by the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe), aims to reduce the high capital expenditure burden on private companies, startups and MSMEs by offering shared access to sophisticated facilities required for building spacecraft, satellites and launch vehicles.



The facilities will be developed within dedicated Space Manufacturing Clusters (SMCs) identified by the state governments. Gujarat and Tamil Nadu have already earmarked land parcels for these clusters, which are expected to function as plug-and-play hubs exclusively for space-related industrial activities. Announcing the decision, IN-SPACe Chairman Dr.

Pawan Kumar Goenka said the creation of common facilities equipped with expensive and specialised systems would play a crucial role in fostering an industry-led space ecosystem.

“Private space companies, including startups, MSMEs and large industries, will be able to utilise these facilities without having to invest in similar infrastructure individually. The

two clusters have already attracted strong industry interest and investment commitments,” he said.

Goenka added that IN-SPACe would oversee the procurement, installation and commissioning of technical infrastructure, operate the facilities for a defined period and later transfer ownership to the respective state governments. He also revealed that nearly ten states have expressed interest in setting up similar space manufacturing clusters, indicating growing momentum for a nationwide space industrial network. The Gujarat government has identified land near Ahmedabad's Khoraj area for a Space Manufacturing Park dedicated to spacecraft development, payload systems and space-based applications.