

Gujarat: Authorities geared up for smooth conduct of NEET-UG re-test

AHMEDABAD: Authorities in Gujarat have put in place extensive security arrangements for the smooth conduct of Sunday's NEET-UG re-examination as police personnel will be deployed at the test centres and monitoring mechanisms will be activated to prevent any form of malpractice, officials said.

In Ahmedabad, drones and Quick Response Teams (QRTs) will be roped in as part of the security arrangements. "The Ahmedabad police force is fully prepared for the NEET-UG re-examination at 23 examination centres across the city, where around 10,445 candidates are expected to appear,"

said Reema Munshi, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) for the Police Control Room in Ahmedabad. To maintain law and order and facilitate smooth movement of students, six DCPs, personnel from 15 police station jurisdictions and traffic staff from 14 police stations have been deployed, she said.

All station house officers (SHOs) and their teams will remain on duty throughout the examination period, she added. The DCP noted that the crime branch will also deploy QRTs for immediate intervention in case of any emergency or untoward incident. "As part of enhanced sur-

veillance measures, eight drones will be used for aerial monitoring around examination centres, while the Cyber Crime Branch and social media cell will conduct continuous online patrolling to curb the spread of rumours, misinformation or panic situations," Munshi said. Gujarat Director General of Police (DGP) G S Malik, who is also Ahmedabad Police Commissioner, has issued a notification imposing certain restrictions to prevent irregularities during the examination. Photocopy centres located near examination venues have been directed to remain closed during exam hours, she said. An escort has been arranged

from strong rooms to exam centres for the vehicles carrying question papers, said DCP Zone-1 Harshadkumar Patel. Police personnel have been deployed at each examination centre as per the prescribed scale, based on the number of applicants, to conduct frisking and ensure security arrangements, he said. Traffic arrangements and parking facilities for applicants' parents were reviewed today, Patel added. In state capital Gandhinagar, security arrangements have been deployed across five exam centres. "The NEET-UG re-examination will be conducted at five centres across Gandhinagar, where a total of

2,597 students expected to appear. Three-tier security arrangements, comprising local police administration, central security agencies, such as the Central Armed Police Forces and academic observers, are in place," said Kendriya Vidyalaya Sector-30 Principal and Gandhinagar City Coordinator Alok Kumar Tiwari. The academic observers include faculty members from higher educational institutions and engineering colleges, deployed to help ensure a fair and impartial examination, he added. Vadodra City Police and the National Testing Agency (NTA) have completed extensive preparations for the exam.

Conspiracy being hatched to kill me, my father: Tej Pratap



PATNA: Janshakti Janta Dal (JJD) chief Tej Pratap Yadav has lodged a police complaint against former aide Akash Yadav and the latter's family members, accusing them of hatching a conspiracy to kill him and his father, Lal Prasad. Yadav lodged the complaint with the Sachivalaya police station on Friday. Speaking to reporters here, Yadav said, "Based on my complaint, an FIR has been lodged against Akash Yadav, his sister Anuska Yadav, and six others. They are making efforts to tarnish my image. My father, Lal Prasad ji is unwell... They are hatching a conspiracy to kill me and my father."

He requested Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary to provide him with adequate security. Those named in the complaint include Anuska Yadav, with whom Tej Pratap had claimed to be in a relationship despite being married to another woman. The development prompted his father to expel him from the RJD even as the former state minister later retracted and claimed that it was a

confusion arising out of his "hacked" social media handle. He further claimed that the alleged threat could be part of a broader political conspiracy. "It is possible that he (Akash Yadav) wants to have me killed in collusion with the Opposition," he alleged. Prior to Tej Pratap lodging the complaint against Akash Yadav, the latter lodged a complaint against the JJD chief with Patliputra police station in the state capital. Akash Yadav alleged that Tej Pratap and his aide attempted to force their way into his house, seeking to meet his family members. The JJD chief, however, dismissed the allegations as "false and fabricated". Akash Yadav said he received a call from a US number from a person who claimed to have links with a jailed gangster. Police said they were examining the matter. Tej Pratap was expelled from the RJD by his father Lal Prasad for six years on May 25 last year, a day after he reportedly confessed to being "in a relationship" with Anushka.

Hyderabad: ED auctions assets worth Rs 159 cr in Heera Group fraud case

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday said it has auctioned fresh assets worth Rs 159 crore in connection with its money laundering investigation against Hyderabad-based Heera Group, accused of perpetrating a multi-crore investment fraud against depositors. The properties auctioned comprise 23 immovable assets which were earlier attached under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). These were identified as "properties derived or acquired from the proceeds of crime."

The auction was conducted through Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Ltd (MSTC) on June 19 as per the directions of the Supreme Court, the ED said. According to a statement, the ED said that auction proceeds will be used to reimburse and repay genuine investors under the supervision of the Supreme Court. Nowhera Shaik, the prime accused in the case and the main promoter of the Heera Group, was arrested by the agency last month in Gurugram in Haryana, along with her personal assistant, Nazneen Ansari, alias Abeeda. Both are currently in judicial custody. Shaik, the Heera Group of Companies and others are alleged to have collected more than Rs 5,978 crore from the public with a promise of returns at over 36 per cent per annum. They, however, failed to return even the principal amount, duping more than 1.72 lakh investors to the tune of Rs 3,000 crore, the ED alleged.

'Won't leave until Pradhan resigns': Dipke, CJP supporters after police says time for protest over

NEW DELHI: The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) held a protest at Jantar Mantar on Saturday demanding Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation as accountability for recent exam paper leaks, as a section of the protesters remained at the site beyond the designated time, despite the police asking them to vacate the venue. CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke asked Delhi Police to extend their permission for the protest, saying he won't leave the site until the Union education minister resigned. Police said the protest, which started around 1 pm, only had permission till 5 pm. Dipke renewed his call for Pradhan's resignation at the protest and was joined by climate activist Sonam Wangechuk who announced that he would go on a hunger-strike from June 27 if the minister does not step down.



Amid heavy police deployment, hundreds of protesters, mostly youth, responded to Dipke's call to bring "thali and chammach" (plates and spoons) and banged them throughout as chants of "Dharmen-

dra Pradhan must resign" echoed at the venue. "If banging plates could drive away corona, then banging plates can drive away Dharmendra Pradhan too," said Dipke after arriving at the protest venue to huge cheers from the crowd. Around 4 pm, an hour before the permission for the protest was to end, Dipke asked the crowd if they want to end the demonstration or continue "till Pradhan resigns". Many people gave affirmative responses and the CJP founder announced that they would remain at the venue and urged Delhi Police to give them an extension. "I request Delhi Police authorities, since youth are here from all over the country, they want to continue the sit-in. The protest has been peaceful, we request Delhi Police to extend our permission. We are just

innocent students," he said, appealing to more people to join them at Jantar Mantar. Police, however, refused to allow them to continue, and said according to a Supreme Court order, protests cannot continue after 5 pm. They made announcements after 5 pm saying the demonstration was "illegal" after the allotted time. Soon, a number of protesters chanting 'Jai Bhim', 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' cordoned the stage where Dipke and others were present. As section of the demonstrators left, as Delhi Police personnel started pouring into the protest site in huge numbers. This was the second protest organised by the CJP here at Jantar Mantar over alleged examination irregularities, repeated paper leaks and demands for accountability from the government.

Cancer patient assaulted, sexually abused in Haryana's Kurukshetra; three cops suspended

KURUSHETRA: Haryana Police has suspended two Assistant Sub-Inspectors and a Home Guard after a 30-year-old cancer patient alleged that he was assaulted and sexually abused inside a Police Station here, officials said on Saturday. An FIR has been registered against ASI Sanjeev Kumar, ASI Rajender Kumar and Home Guard Sumit on charges of assault and misconduct, Superintendent of Police Chander Mohan said, adding that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been constituted to probe the allegations, including that of sodomy. The man, who is undergoing treatment for bone cancer and works at a bank, in his complaint alleged that while returning home on a motorcycle he was stopped by police personnel at a checkpoint on Indri Road

on the night of June 17. An argument reportedly broke out over a cloth covering his face. The complainant alleged that the accused personnel slapped him, snatched his mobile phone and forcibly took him to Ladwa Police Station, where they assaulted him despite informing them about his medical condition. He further alleged that they mocked his illness and later committed an unnatural sexual act. His condition deteriorated after the incident and he was admitted to Lok Nayak Jai Prakash (LNJP) Hospital in Kurukshetra after initial treatment at the Ladwa Community Health Centre. The SP said he visited the police station and questioned the personnel named in the complaint. He added that the com-



plainant was also allegedly under the influence of alcohol and had abused police personnel during checking. DSP Nirmal Singh, who is heading the SIT, said a board of doctors at LNJP Hospital was constituted for a fresh medical examination of the complainant. However, the man declined to undergo the examination and refused to record a statement before the SIT. LNJP Hospital Principal Medical Officer Dr Sarah Aggarwal said the complainant, who has a fractured arm, is admitted to the hospital. She said he refused further medical examination, saying that he had already been examined at the Community Health Centre in Ladwa and later at LNJP Hospital. The forensic report is awaited. Police said further action will be taken based on the SIT's findings.

Punjab can achieve faster development under double-engine government: CM

CHANDIGARH: Haryana chief minister Nayab Singh Saini said on Saturday that Punjab could witness faster development under a "double-engine government" and asserted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to strengthening the state. Addressing a delegation of the Namdev Samaj from Sri Hargobindpur in Punjab's Gurdaspur district at his residence here, Saini said many youths in Punjab were forced to seek jobs abroad through illegal routes, while Haryana created organised overseas employment opportunities through its Foreign Cooperation Department. He said the department is processing over 5,500 applications from youths seeking employment abroad, and applicants

are required to bear only the cost of their air tickets. Paying tribute to the sixth Sikh Guru, Guru Hargobind, Saini said his teachings -- standing against injustice and protecting weaker sections of society -- continue to inspire people and remain relevant today. Expressing concern over Punjab's development, the Haryana chief minister alleged that successive governments in the state, including those led by the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), had failed to meet public expectations. He claimed that people from Punjab were looking to the BJP under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership ahead of the next Assembly elections. Criticising the Punjab government led by

chief minister Bhagwant Mann, Saini alleged that its promise to provide women with Rs 1,000 per month had not been fulfilled. He said the Haryana government allocated Rs 5,000 crore in the 2025-26 budget and Rs 6,500 crore in the 2026-27 budget under the Deen Dayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana. Under the scheme, eligible women receive Rs 2,100 per month directly into their bank accounts, he said. According to Saini, around Rs 1,600 crore has been disbursed to women beneficiaries across Haryana. The chief minister also said senior citizens in Haryana receive a monthly pension of Rs 3,200 under the Old Age Samman Allowance, compared to Rs 1,500 in Punjab.

Highlighting Haryana's welfare measures, Saini said if the people of Punjab support the BJP in the next Assembly elections, similar benefits could be extended to the state. He said a BJP government in Punjab would ensure procurement of farmers' crops at the Minimum Support Price (MSP), provide compensation for crop losses, promote industrial growth and work towards making Punjab a leading state in the country. Members of the delegation thanked the chief minister for the invitation and appreciated his outreach towards the people of Punjab. They expressed confidence that the BJP would strengthen its position in the state in the coming Assembly elections.

Three from Karnataka swept away at Payyambalam beach, two rescued, one missing

KANNUR: Two people from Karnataka, who were part of two different tourist groups, were rescued from the sea at the Payyambalam beach here on Saturday after being swept away by the waves while swimming, district officials said. A third person, who was part of one of the two groups and was also swept away, is yet to be found, the officials said. Fishermen and lifeguards are continuing the search for him under the supervision of the Azheekal Coastal Police and the Fisheries Department with help of the Ezhimala Naval Academy also being sought, they said. State Tourism Minister P C Vishnunadh, who was present in the district, reached the beach and assessed the rescue operations, they said. He also said that more lifeguards will be deployed on the beach and warning boards will be put up there, a statement by the district administration said. The first incident occurred at 9.15 am when an eight-member group of tourists from Mysuru entered the sea and one of them -- Chirant Sharma (24) -- got swept away. But, he was rescued by the lifeguards, the statement said. The second incident occurred around 1.30 pm when a second group of tourists, comprising four members from Rural Bengaluru, went into the sea for swimming and two of them got swept away, it said. Of the two, Manoj was rescued and is undergoing treatment, while the search continues for Santosh Kumar (20), it added. Both groups reached the beach after visiting the Kottiyoor temple, the statement said.

Shivakumar announces another Karnataka Bhavan in Delhi for civil services aspirants

BENGALURU: Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday announced a series of decisions taken at the Cabinet meeting, including the construction of Karnataka Bhavan-4 in New Delhi for civil services aspirants, approval for 620 new buses for state transport corporations, and major investments in healthcare infrastructure across the state. The Cabinet also approved exemptions for certain rural agricultural structures from regulatory provisions, sanctioned a 200-bed super-specialty hospital at Yadgir, cleared funding for medical infrastructure projects, and initiated a restructuring of Karnataka's administrative and legal coordination mechanisms in Delhi. "We have also decided to construct Karnataka Bhavan-4 in New Delhi. This facility is not meant for legislators or officials. It is intended for students preparing for IAS, IFS, IRS and other competitive examinations," Shivakumar told reporters after the second Cabinet meeting of his government. He said the proposed Karnataka Bhavan-4 would be developed by the Public Works Department at an estimated cost of Rs 80 crore and would provide accommodation and study facilities for students preparing for national-level competitive examinations. According to officials, the existing

Karnataka Bhavan in the national capital is used to administrative purposes. The chief minister said at least 50 per cent of the accommodation would be reserved for SC/ST students, while the remaining seats would be available to candidates from other categories. Shivakumar also announced a reorganisation of the Resident Commissioner's Office in New Delhi, saying the state government would establish a dedicated mechanism to monitor Central government projects and schemes and improve Karnataka's engagement with the union government. "We are reorganising it. We are setting up a new structure to track Central government projects, schemes available in other states, and the benefits being secured by states such as Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat," he said. The CM said the government was also exploring the possibility of engaging retired IAS, IRS and IPS officers in Delhi and would establish a dedicated legal cell in the national capital to handle Supreme Court cases and other important litigation involving Karnataka. On healthcare infrastructure, Shivakumar said the Cabinet had approved a major expansion of medical facilities in the state.

CAQM finds 66 violations during anti-pollution inspections in NCR

NEW DELHI: During the period from May 30 to June 13, the Commission for Air Quality Management in the NCR (CAQM) flying squads conducted 199 inspections in the national capital region in a bid to keep in check the air pollution sources. CAQM Enforcement Task Force covered inspections across 10 Construction & Demolition (C&D) sites, 94 inspections across the Industrial Sector and 95 inspections pertaining to Diesel Generator (DG) sets. According to the report, a total of 66 violations were reported across these sectors, including 8 from C&D sites, 23 from the Industrial Sector and 35 relating to DG set violations. Based on the inspection reports for the reported violations, closure 4 units/projects, sealing of 29 DG sets, issuance of 12 directions/orders for compliance and imposition of Environmental Compensation (EC) in two cases have been proposed. The ETF also reviewed actions taken pursuant to the 132nd ETF meeting and noted that all actionable cases pertaining to Construction & Demolition (C&D) sites and Diesel Generator (DG) sets have been acted



upon. It was also noted that a total of 12 resumption orders have been issued after verification of compliance since the last ETF meeting, including 6 pertaining to industrial units and 6 related to C&D sites. State-wise, 8 resumption orders have been issued in Uttar Pradesh, 3 in Haryana and 1 in Delhi. The ETF also reviewed the reports of a special drive inspection conducted in June in Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh, covering 10 industrial units, and out of these, only 1 unit was found compliant, while 9 were found non-compliant. The common gaps observed included non-functional or inadequate pollution control infrastructure such as non-operational wet scrubbers and

cyclones, non-operational Air Pollution Control Devices (APCDs), inadequate functioning of Fume Extraction Systems (FES) and poor maintenance of pollution control equipment. The inspection teams also observed lack of stack monitoring infrastructure, including absence of monitoring facilities, incorrect stack heights and non-compliance with prescribed stack monitoring criteria. In certain units, operational violations such as failure to meet emission standards, use of RDF without requisite pre-treatment and non-compliance with provisions under Direction No. 76 of the Commission were also observed, and enforcement actions are being initiated against the violating units.