

# New Vibe

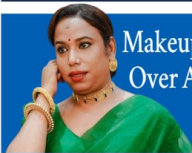
THE DAILY NEWS

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**NEW DELHI**  
WEATHER REPORT

FRIDAY  
21 AUGUST 2026

**133°C**  
Feels Like 37°C

**PARTLY CLOUDY**  
WITH SCATTERED SHOWERS

WIND: SW 14 km/h  
HUMIDITY: 68%  
CLOUDS: 40%

SUNRISE: 05:58 AM  
SUNSET: 06:55 PM

Warm and humid conditions with clouds and showers likely to moderate rain.

## NEWS BRIEF

### West Bengal Government Approves Netaji Museum at Buxa Fort

The West Bengal government has approved a proposal to establish a museum at the historic Buxa Fort in Alipurdur district, highlighting the site's association with India's freedom struggle and the history of political prisoners during British rule. The museum is expected to preserve and showcase the historical significance of Buxa Fort, which was used by the British as a detention centre for freedom fighters. Located in the Buxa Tiger Reserve, the fort has long been regarded as an important heritage site in northern West Bengal. The proposed museum is expected to feature historical material, archival information and exhibits relating to the fort's role during the colonial period. The project is also likely to strengthen heritage tourism in the region and provide visitors with a better understanding of the sacrifices made during India's freedom movement. Buxa Fort occupies a significant place in the history of colonial resistance in Bengal. Research indicates that the site was used to detain several nationalist revolutionaries and political prisoners during the British period. The museum project is being viewed as an effort to preserve the historical character of the fort while creating a dedicated space for educating visitors and younger generations about the freedom struggle.

### Delhi-NCR to Phase Out New Petrol, Diesel and CNG Light Goods Vehicles

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has announced a phased restriction on the registration of new petrol, diesel and CNG light goods vehicles (LGVs) across Delhi-NCR as part of efforts to curb vehicular pollution and accelerate the shift towards electric mobility. The restrictions will begin in Delhi from January 1, 2027. Under the new measures, N1-category light goods vehicles, with a gross vehicle weight of up to 3.5 tonnes, running on petrol, diesel or CNG will no longer be registered in Delhi from January 2027. The restriction will subsequently be extended to high-vehicle-density NCR districts, including Gurugram, Faridabad, Sonapat, Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddha Nagar, from July 1, 2027. The remaining NCR districts will follow from January 1, 2028. The next phase will cover N2-category light goods vehicles, weighing between 3.5 and 7.5 tonnes. Restrictions on their registration will be introduced in stages from 2028 and 2029. The policy is intended to gradually replace conventional fuel-powered goods vehicles with electric alternatives. CAQM said light goods vehicles account for around 1.2 per cent of the active vehicle fleet in Delhi-NCR but contribute approximately 3.3 per cent of fleet-wide particulate emissions. The targeted restrictions are therefore aimed at reducing their contribution to air pollution.

## Modi Government Plans 'One Day, One University' Outreach to Gen Z

NEW DELHI: The Narendra Modi government is planning a nationwide youth outreach programme aimed at strengthening direct engagement with students across the country. The proposed initiative, titled "One Day, One University," will see Union ministers visit universities regularly to interact with students, listen to their concerns and understand their views on issues affecting the nation. Under the proposed programme, Union ministers will be assigned universities where they will conduct direct interactions with students. Discussions are expected to cover a wide range of subjects, including education, careers, employment, skill development and opportunities for young people. Ministers are also likely to explain various government schemes and welfare programmes designed to benefit students and youth. Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi and Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya have reportedly been given



responsibility for coordinating the proposed initiative with universities and other Union ministers. The programme was also discussed during a Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, according to reports. The initiative comes at a time when issues concerning India's young population are receiving increased attention. Students across the country have raised concerns over examination

systems, recruitment processes, education quality, employment opportunities and career prospects. Recent student protests related to examination and recruitment issues have further highlighted the importance of maintaining meaningful communication between policymakers and young people. The government is expected to make the university visits a platform for two-way communication, rather than limiting them to the promotion of government

policies. Students will reportedly be encouraged to ask questions, express concerns and share their perspectives directly with senior members of the government. The proposed outreach is also significant because Generation Z forms a large and increasingly influential section of India's population. By engaging directly with students in educational institutions, the government hopes to better understand their aspirations, challenges and expectations. If implemented nationwide, "One Day, One University" could provide ministers with an opportunity to connect with students from different regions and educational backgrounds. It could also help create a more direct channel between young citizens and policymakers. The initiative is therefore being viewed as part of a broader effort by the Modi government to make youth engagement more accessible, interactive and nationwide, while giving students a greater opportunity to participate in conversations about India's future.

## Sergio Gor's Kashmir Remarks Do Not Signal Any Change in US Policy: Former Indian Envoy

NEW DELHI: US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor's recent remarks describing Jammu and Kashmir as an "important part of India" have triggered considerable diplomatic and political discussion, but a former Indian envoy has cautioned against interpreting the statement as a formal change in Washington's Kashmir policy. The comments came during Gor's visit to Srinagar, his first trip to Jammu and Kashmir as US Ambassador. Gor praised the security situation in the Indian Territory and indicated that the United States could reconsider its travel advisory for Jammu and Kashmir. His remarks were welcomed by several Indian political figures, while Pakistan strongly objected to the statement and summoned the US charge d'affaires in Islamabad to lodge a protest. Former Indian diplomat Harsh Vardhan Shringla has said the ambassador's comments should not automatically be viewed as a departure from the established US position on Kashmir. The distinction is significant because Washington's longstanding public position has treated Kashmir as an issue to be addressed between India and Pakistan. The remarks nevertheless come



at a sensitive diplomatic moment. Gor's Srinagar visit and his positive assessment of the region's security have been viewed in India as an indication of closer engagement and confidence in the improving situation. Pakistan, however, described his characterization of Jammu and Kashmir as contrary to its position on the territory's status. The episode highlights the gap between diplomatic statements by individual officials and formal government policy. While Gor's comments have generated political significance, any substantive change in US policy would require an explicit policy statement from Washington. For now, the remarks appear to have strengthened discussion over India-US relations and Washington's approach to Jammu and Kashmir, without by themselves establishing a formal policy shift.

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## Delhi Master Plan 2047 Unveiled, 40 Lakh New Homes Planned

NEW DELHI: Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal on Thursday unveiled the Master Plan for Delhi 2047, a long-term blueprint aimed at transforming the national capital into a more inclusive, sustainable and economically vibrant city. The plan has been prepared to address Delhi's projected population growth to around 3.2 crore by 2047 and the resulting demand for housing, transport and infrastructure. A major component of the plan is housing. The government has targeted the construction of around 30-40 lakh new housing units, with a strong emphasis on affordable housing. The plan also seeks to encourage more efficient use of land and vertical



development to accommodate the growing population. Public transportation is another key focus. The Delhi Metro network is proposed to expand to around 695 km by 2047, compared with roughly 416 km

also been incorporated into the development strategy. The plan proposes safeguarding around 180 sq km of the Yamuna floodplains and the Ridge area, while measures have also been proposed for improving the Yamuna and reducing environmental pressures. The blueprint further aims to promote investment, innovation and employment by shifting urban planning towards a more development-oriented approach. It includes provisions for emerging economic activities such as data centres, co-working spaces and cloud kitchens. The Master Plan 2047 is expected to guide Delhi's urban development over the next two decades while balancing housing and infrastructure needs with environmental sustainability.

## Delhi CNG Station Blast: Extra Cylinders in Truck Suspected, Says IGL



NEW DELHI: The explosion at a CNG filling station in Delhi's Tikri Kalan, which claimed three lives and injured three others, may have been caused by additional CNG cylinders fitted in the truck, Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) said on Thursday. The incident occurred on Wednesday while the truck was being refuelled at a CNG station operated by Aadhya Energies. According to IGL, preliminary investigations indicate that the truck was authorised to carry six CNG cylinders. However, the company said it appeared that several additional cylinders may have been fitted in the vehicle at the time of the incident. The legitimacy of these additional cylinders and their possible role in the explosion are currently being examined by the authorities.

All three people who died in the blast were employees of the CNG station. Three others sustained injuries and were taken for medical treatment. The explosion caused panic in the area and prompted authorities to begin an investigation involving CCTV footage and forensic evidence. IGL expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives and said it was extending support to the affected families and community. The company maintained that safety remains a fundamental priority across its operations and that established safety protocols and standard operating procedures are being followed. The exact cause of the explosion has not yet been conclusively established. Authorities are investigating whether the presence of additional cylinders, along with other operational or technical factors, contributed to the blast. The incident has also renewed concerns over safety standards during CNG refuelling and the compliance of vehicles carrying multiple gas cylinders. A detailed investigation is expected to establish responsibility and determine whether any safety regulations were violated.

## Congress Accuses BJP of Politicising 'Vande Mataram' to Divert Attention from Failures

Party Says BJP Is Using National Song Debate to Shift Focus from Governance & Unemployment

NEW DELHI: The Congress has accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of politicising the national song "Vande Mataram" to divert attention from what it described as the government's failures. The criticism came after the BJP accused the Congress of pursuing "appeasement politics" over the song. The political exchange comes amid a renewed debate over the historical and contemporary significance of Vande Mataram. The BJP has argued that the Congress has, at various points, compromised on the national song for political considerations. Congress leaders have rejected the charge and accused the ruling party of attempting to use a national symbol for political gain. Congress leaders said the party respects Vande Mataram and its role in India's freedom struggle.

They maintained that the BJP should focus on governance and issues affecting citizens rather than turning the national song into a political controversy. The BJP, meanwhile, has continued to criticise the Congress over its historical handling of Vande Mataram and alleged appeasement of particular communities. Party leaders have argued that the national song should be accorded the respect and recognition associated with its contribution to the freedom movement. The dispute has emerged as political parties prepare for a broader national discussion on the legacy of the freedom struggle and symbols associated with India's independence movement. Both sides have sought to frame the issue around their respective interpretations of nationalism and secular politics.



The latest exchange highlights the continuing political sensitivity surrounding Vande Mataram, which was written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and became an important rallying cry during the freedom movement. The controversy is expected to remain part of the political discourse as parties continue to debate nationalism, history

and the use of national symbols in contemporary politics.

### Sonia Gandhi is right on Vande Mataram

A political row has erupted after BJP leaders accused Sonia Gandhi of objecting to the full rendition of Vande Mataram during an Independence Day programme at Congress headquarters. Congress rejected the allegation, saying Gandhi was asking for a chair for Mallikarjun Kharge. The controversy has intensified the BJP-Congress confrontation. The Congress, however, has dismissed the allegations as politically motivated, arguing that the BJP is attempting to distort a routine event for electoral gains. Senior leaders have maintained that the focus should remain on Independence Day celebrations rather than what they call "manufactured controversies."

