

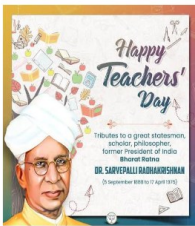


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NEWS BRIEF

Ropeway and Vande Bharat Emerge as Attractions During Janmashtami in Varanasi

Varanasi witnessed a unique blend of faith and modern infrastructure during the Shri Krishna Janmashtami celebrations, with the city's new ropeway project and Vande Bharat trains emerging as major attractions for residents and visitors. The ropeway, connecting Varanasi Cantonment with Godowlia, has generated considerable public interest as the city prepares to introduce the country's first urban public transport ropeway. The 3.75-km route is designed to significantly reduce travel time between the railway station and the major pilgrimage and commercial areas of the city. The modern transport facility is expected to provide visitors with a convenient way to access important religious destinations, including the Kashi Vishwanath area and Dashashwamedh Ghat, while also helping reduce traffic congestion on crowded city roads. Vande Bharat trains have also added to the festive enthusiasm in Varanasi. The Prime Minister recently flagged off four new Vande Bharat services from the city, including the Banaras-Khajuraho route. The new services are aimed at improving connectivity between major religious and cultural destinations and supporting tourism. With Janmashtami drawing large numbers of devotees to Kashi, the combination of religious celebrations and modern transport infrastructure has highlighted the city's changing urban landscape. The festivities have included religious processions, devotional programmes, cultural performances and elaborate tableaux across the city.

Tourist Bus Catches Fire in Mumbai's Goregaon, No Injuries Reported

A tourist bus caught fire in Mumbai's Goregaon East area on Friday evening, triggering panic among commuters and briefly disrupting traffic. No injuries or casualties were reported in the incident, officials said. The fire was reported at around 6:15 pm near the Chetana Signal, directly beneath the Oberoi Garden City Metro Station. The bus was travelling towards Gujarat and had five passengers and the driver on board. All of them managed to escape safely before the vehicle was engulfed in flames. Following information from a citizen, emergency teams, including personnel from the Mumbai Fire Brigade, local police, 108 ambulance services and Metro authorities, were mobilised to the spot. Firefighters brought the blaze under control shortly after the incident was reported. Traffic movement on the affected stretch was temporarily impacted as emergency personnel worked to extinguish the flames and clear the road. The bus was subsequently towed from the location. The incident comes amid growing attention to safety standards and maintenance of commercial passenger vehicles, particularly tourist buses that operate on long-distance routes. Despite the intensity of the blaze, the absence of injuries provided relief to passengers and emergency responders at the scene.

PM Modi Congratulates Giorgia Meloni on Becoming Italy's Longest-Serving PM

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday congratulated his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni after she became the longest continuously serving Prime Minister in Italy's postwar history, describing the milestone as a reflection of the trust and confidence placed in her by the Italian people. In a message posted on social media, Modi referred to Meloni as his "friend" and highlighted her contribution to strengthening the India-Italy Special Strategic Partnership. He said he looked forward to continuing close cooperation with the Italian leader to build a prosperous future for the people of both countries. "Her friendship has also been instrumental in strengthening the India-Italy Special Strategic Partnership," Modi said, while extending his best wishes for Meloni's continued success in the years ahead. Meloni reached the landmark after her government crossed 1,413 consecutive days in office,

surpassing the previous record of 1,412 days held by former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's second government between 2001 and 2005. She took office on October 22, 2022, becoming Italy's first woman Prime Minister. The achievement is particularly significant in Italy, a country historically known for frequent changes of government. Meloni's administration has maintained its coalition since taking office, providing an unusual period of political continuity. Her government has presented stability, fiscal discipline, employment growth and stronger international standing as key achievements. Responding to Modi, Meloni thanked him for his friendship and said relations between Italy and India were stronger than ever. She stressed the importance of the Special Strategic Partnership launched by the two countries and said both sides could work together to create new avenues for growth. Meloni also referred to cooperation



between India and Italy in strengthening links between Europe and Asia, including work on the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor. India and Italy have expanded their engagement in recent years across trade, investment, defence, technology, clean energy and connectivity. The political rapport between Modi and Meloni has also provided momentum to bilateral ties.

Meloni's record comes ahead of Italy's next general election, due by the end of 2027. While supporters point to political stability as a major achievement, critics continue to raise concerns over low wages, productivity and unfinished domestic reforms. The milestone nevertheless marks a defining moment in Meloni's political career and underscores the growing strategic importance of India-Italy relations.

India Achieves Major Space Milestone with EOS-05 Launch

GSLV-F17 Places India's First Geosynchronous Earth-Imaging Satellite into Transfer Orbit

SRIHARIKOTA: India achieved a significant space milestone with the successful launch of the GSVL-F17 rocket carrying EOS-05, the country's first-ever Earth-imaging satellite designed for operation from a geosynchronous orbit. The mission lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre early on September 4 and placed the satellite into its planned sub-geosynchronous transfer orbit about 18 minutes later. Weighing about 2,367 kg, EOS-05 is the heaviest satellite carried by a GSVL so far. Once it reaches its final geosynchronous orbit, around 36,000 km above Earth, the satellite will be capable of maintaining continuous observation of large areas, unlike conventional Earth-observation satellites that periodically pass over the same locations. The satellite is expected to strengthen India's capabilities in monitoring natural disasters,



weather events, agriculture, forests and environmental changes. Its persistent imaging capability can also support strategic surveillance and improve situational awareness across India's land and maritime regions. The successful mission is also an important achievement for the GSVL programme. The rocket had previously suffered a setback in August 2021 when the EOS-03 mission failed because of an anomaly in its

third stage. Since then, ISRO has undertaken extensive reviews and improvements to enhance mission reliability. The latest success further strengthens confidence in the GSVL's capabilities. ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan said all satellite systems were functioning normally after deployment and that the solar panels had been successfully deployed. The spacecraft will undergo a series of orbit-raising manoeuvres before reaching its final position.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated ISRO, describing the achievement as a reflection of India's growing technological and innovative capabilities. He also highlighted the expanding partnership between ISRO and Indian industry. The EOS-05 mission marks another important step in India's effort to strengthen its independent Earth-observation infrastructure and expand the strategic and civilian applications of space technology.

Quad Sherpas Meet in New Delhi to Advance Indo-Pacific Cooperation

India, US, Japan and Australia Review Cooperation on Maritime Security, Critical Technologies and Economic Resilience

NEW DELHI: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Thursday hosted a meeting of Quad Sherpas in New Delhi, with senior officials from India, the United States, Japan and Australia reviewing progress across key areas of cooperation and discussing ways to strengthen the grouping's practical initiatives. The meeting was attended by Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Deputy Secretary Ely Lawson, Japan's Senior Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Hiroyuki Namazu and US Ambassador to India Sergio Gora, who is also serving as the US Quad Sherpa. The discussions followed the Quad Foreign

Ministers' Meeting held in New Delhi on May 26 and were aimed at taking forward its outcomes. The Sherpas reviewed ongoing initiatives across several priority areas, including maritime and transnational security, economic prosperity and security, critical and emerging technologies, and humanitarian assistance and emergency response. They also exchanged views on developments in the Indo-Pacific as well as the wider regional and global situation. A key emphasis of the meeting was on delivering concrete and action-oriented outcomes. The officials reiterated their shared commitment to advancing a free



and open Indo-Pacific and explored possible new initiatives that could be announced at the next Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting. US Ambassador Sergio Gora said the grouping was "moving forward with clear purpose" and highlighted the importance of developing an action plan focused on concrete deliverables. His remarks reflected Washington's emphasis on making Quad cooperation increasingly results-oriented.

Delhi airport flooded, streets waterlogged after an hour of heavy rain

NEW DELHI: Heavy rain and thunderstorms lashed Delhi-NCR on Friday, disrupting flight operations and causing waterlogging in several parts of the national capital. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a red warning for heavy rainfall in parts of the region and forecast another spell of rain and thunderstorms on Saturday. Nine flights were diverted from Indira Gandhi International Airport between 3:30 pm and 4:30 pm due to the adverse weather. Four flights were diverted to Jaipur, four to Lucknow and one to Ahmedabad. Water accumulation was also reported at the airport's approach road and forecourt, though authorities said it was cleared shortly afterwards.

Rekha Gupta Asks MCD to Focus on Cleanliness, Health and Education



NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Friday directed Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) office-bearers to prioritise cleanliness, waste management, primary healthcare and education. Addressing newly appointed chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of MCD committees, Gupta said making Delhi garbage-free should be a key priority. She stressed that effective waste disposal and clean public spaces were essential for improving the capital's image and quality of life. She also called for improvements in MCD-run primary schools and local healthcare facilities, saying quality education and accessible medical services were vital for Delhi's future. Gupta urged civic representatives to adopt a results-oriented

approach towards sanitation, healthcare, education, environmental management and basic amenities. She also assured them that the MCD would not face financial difficulties and asked officials to make better use of available resources. The Chief Minister said stronger coordination between the Centre and Delhi Government should help accelerate development and move the national capital towards the goal of a "Developed Delhi". She directed the civic body to strengthen monitoring mechanisms and ensure that development schemes reached residents without delays. Gupta said regular reviews, greater accountability and prompt action on public complaints would be necessary to improve the delivery of municipal services across the city.

Amit Shah to Undertake Three-Day Goa Visit from September 5

Home Minister to Review Goa Matters, Address Narcotics Press Conference and Chair Western Zonal Council Meeting

NEW DELHI: Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah will undertake a three-day visit to Goa from September 5 to 7, combining official engagements on internal security and Centre-state coordination with organisational programmes. According to the schedule, Shah will chair a meeting on September 6 to review matters concerning Goa across various divisions of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The meeting is expected to take up state-specific issues and matters falling under the ministry's jurisdiction. Later that day, Shah will address a press conference on narcotics, focusing on the government's efforts to combat drug trafficking and strengthen anti-narcotics enforcement. The issue is expected to remain an important component of the Home Ministry's internal-security agenda. During his visit, Shah will also inaugurate the newly constructed BJP state office, Atal Bhavan, and chair a meeting of the party's State Core Committee. On September 7, Shah is scheduled to participate in the Western



Zonal Council meeting. The council comprises Goa, Gujarat and Maharashtra, along with the Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. It provides a platform for discussing matters of common interest and strengthening coordination among states and Union Territories. Shah will subsequently attend the Goa Police President's Colours Award Ceremony at the Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in Taleigao. The President's Colours are among the highest honours awarded to uniformed services for distinguished service and professional excellence. The visit will therefore bring together discussions on governance, narcotics control, regional coordination and policing, alongside BJP organisational engagements.