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+91 8434931877,
+91 7250667974

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Govt removes NTA chief , announces CBI probe

The Union government on Saturday removed Subodh Kumar Singh, the former Director General of National Testing Agency (NTA) over allegations of irregularities in NEET UG exam .

Meanwhile , the health ministry has announced the postponement of NEET PG exam “ as a precautionary measure “ . The exam was to be held on Sunday .

Conceding to persistent demand of students and the opposition , the Education Ministry has announced a CBI probe in cheating allegations in the NEET exam .

The Ministry has constituted a seven member committee of experts on Saturday to create a roadmap for reforms of NTA and it's processed .

The panel will make recommendations of the structure and functioning of NTA , reforms in the mechanism of the examination process , and improvement in data security protocols .

Six held in Bihar

The Bihar police on Friday arrested six persons from AIIMS in Deoghar , Jharkhand in connection with the NEET question paper leak .

New Delhi , Dhaka to hold talks on comprehensive ties

Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina is on a two day visit to India . She is the first state guest to India.

PM Modi and Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina announced several projects and initiatives to be taken .

About project that has completed between two countries , PM said :

- Between Akhaura and Agratalla sixth India Bangladesh cross border rail link has been started .
- Cargo facilities for India's North Indian states and has been started through Khulna Mongla port
- 1320 Maitri Thermal Power plant have started generating electricity .
- Trade in Indian Rupees have started between the two countries .

The projects and initiatives announced :

- India and Bangladesh on Saturday , agreed to begin a dialogue on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) .
- The two sides signed multiple MoUs , covering maritime cooperation and economy , rail connectivity , oceanography , health , disaster management etc .
- India will open an Assistant High Commission in Bagladesh's Rangpur .
Rangpur is strategically located between West Bengal and Assam near Teesta river .
- A technical team will soon visit Bangladesh to discuss “ conservation and management of Teesta . “
China top has shown interest in this . And the project can feature in talks in Ms Sheikh Hasina's upcoming visit to China .

In near future India can attempt train services that will connect Tripura and West Bengal through Bangladesh .



➔ **No GST for hostel stay below ₹20,000 , Railway services**

GST council meeting was chaired by FM Nirmala Sitharaman . Following major decisions were taken in the meeting

- Hostel accommodation worth upto ₹20,000 a month and railway accomodation has been exempted from GST .
- Members agreed on Biometric based Adhaar authentication system for GST registration across county in a phased manner .
She said that this will quicken the registration process , but also curb the fraudulent use of input taxes .
- Milk cans , sprinklers , carton boxes and solar cookers will now attract 12 % GST .

➔ **INDIA MPs. not to assist *pro tem* speaker**

The Lok Sabha session will start on 24th June .

Bhartruhari Mahtap will be the *pro tem* speaker .

A five member panel has been formed to assist *pro tem* speakers . The panel consisted of Congress's K Suresh , DMK T.R Baalu , Sudip Badyopadhyay of TMC , BJP leaders Faggan Singh and Radha Mohan Singh .

By all convention and tradition Faggan Singh has been appointed , INDIA bloc members K Suresh , T R Ballu and S Badyopadhyay will not perform their duties of assisting *pro tem* speaker .

Congress demand was to make K Suresh the *pro tem* speaker .

By Convention senior most member in the house is made *pro tem* speaker . K Suresh is senior most member . But his term has not been continuous . K Suresh was. Not

➔ **Erred in not crediting ICMR as co inventor of Covaxin , admits Bharat Biotech**

Bharat Biotech India Limited (BBIL) , the manufacturer of India's Covaxin said it had made “ inadvertent mistake “ by not including names of ICMR in patent application filed in India and abroad to protect intellectual property rights .

CoVID 19 vaccine Covaxin was invented by Bharat BioTech India Limited (BBIL) with the help of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) .So , Covexin is jointly owned by BBIL and ICMR .

In the patent application ICMR name was missing , BBIL later cited it a “ inadvertent mistake “ , BBIL later said that it is in process of adding ICMR in application .

➔ **Programme to fast track traveller immigration launched at IGI airport**

Union Home minister inaugurated the fast track immigration trusted travellers programme (FTI TTP) at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi on Sunday .

The initiative designed for faster , safer and smoother , immigration clearance on congested airports .

Users has to register through online portal . Registered passengers will have to scan boarding pass at e gates .once passengers will be authenticated the e gates will open and

WORLD

➔ **Israeli attack on Gaza City camp leaves at least 42 dead**

- At least 42 people were killed in Israeli districts of Gaza City in the North of Palestinian enclave on Saturday , the director of Hamas media office said .
- The death toll in the Israeli attack has crossed 37,400 .

➔ **PM Modi likely to skip SCO summit in Kazakhstan ; Xi , Putin , Sharif may attend**

PM Modi is likely to miss the SCO meeting scheduled on July 3-4 in Astana .

EAM S Jaishankar will likely participate , according to sources .

Most of the heads of states of SCO is likely to participate . The absence of PM Modi is likely because of the presence of Pakistan and strained ties with China .

India in the past had difficulties at SCO , it didn't sign infrastructure initiatives proposed by China in earlier SCO summits .



The SCO members are Russia , China , Kyrgyzstan , Kazakhstan , Tajikistan , Uzbekistan , Pakistan . Iran and Belarus are expected to be inducted this year .

➔ **Pakistan Minister condemns swat lynching**

Pakistan's planning minister on Saturday condemned the lynching of a man in town swat , for allegedly committing desecration of Koran , lamenting how religion is being weaponised to justify “ street justice “ and “ vigilantism “ .

➔ **Russia targets ' Kyiv's power grid in 'massive' attack**

Ukraine said on Saturday that Russia had launched a massive wave of attacks on energy infrastructure in the West and South .

Russia launched 16 cruise missiles from land , sea and air as well as 13 attack drones .

The zaporozhian and Lviv is the most affected regions .

At least seven people died in the strike .

➔ **FAQ –**

➔ **Are heat waves natural disasters ?**

North India has been bearing the brunt of the longest stretch of heatwave in the last 15 years .

At least 100 have died due to heatwaves between March 1 and June 18.

This has revived the discussion of labelling heatwaves as natural disasters .

Currently 12 disasters come under National disasters under National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) and State disaster Response Fund (SDRF) . The 12 disasters are cyclone , drought , earthquake , Tsunami , flood , Hailstorm , Landslide , Avalanche , Cloudburst , Pest Attack , Frost and Cold waves .

There is demand mainly by states to include Heatwave in the list .

States can face difficulty in expenditure for heatwaves . Currently under SDRF there is provision that 10 % of funds can be spent on some different type of disaster situations .

the 16 th Finance commission can review the request by states to include heatwaves in the National disasters list .