

WINDOWS

4 killed as passanger train rams into goods train

BILASPUR: At least 4 persons were killed and many injured after a passenger train collided with a goods train near Bilaspur station in Chhattisgarh on Tuesday, railway officials said. Police officials said that several other passengers sustained injuries in the accident and some of them were still trapped under a coach of the passenger train. The incident took place around 4 pm when the MEMU (mainline electric multiple unit) passenger train was heading to Bilaspur from Gevra (in neighbouring Korba district), the railway officials said.

9 climbers dead in avalanches in Nepal

KATHMANDU: At least nine climbers, including two Nepalese guides, have been killed in two separate avalanches in Nepal, officials said on Tuesday. Seven climbers were buried in an avalanche near Mt. Yalung Ri (6,920m) under Gaurishanker Rural Municipality at around 10 am on Monday while attempting to scale the peak, said Deputy Superintendent of Police Gyan Kumar Mahato. A joint rescue mission have been mobilised to retrieve the bodies of the seven climbers, he said. The deceased climbers include two Nepali citizens, two Italians identified as Paolo Cocco and Marco Di Marcello, a Canadian, a French, and a German national.

Drone recovered from field in J-K's Poonch

MENDHAR/JAMMU: A drone was recovered from a field in a village in Mendhar sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Tuesday, officials said. The drone was recovered by the Special Operations Group (SOG) of local police from village Sakhi Maidan, which is around six km aerial distance from the Line of Control (LoC), the officials said. The SOG team was rushed to the village following information about the presence of a drone-like object in an open field. The drone was subsequently seized, the officials said, adding police have launched an investigation into the origins of the drone.

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Delhi was 6th most polluted Indian city in Oct

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

DELHI was ranked the sixth most polluted city in the country in October, behind neighbouring Ghaziabad and Noida, according to a study.

Dharuhera in Haryana was ranked as the most polluted city in October, with a monthly average PM2.5 concentration of 123 µg/m³, according to

Dharuhera in Haryana was ranked as the most polluted city; the findings revealed a sharp deterioration in air quality across the country, with worsening conditions concentrated in the Indo-Gangetic Plain, particularly the National Capital Region

the Monthly Air Quality Snapshot released by the Centre for Research on



Energy and Clean Air (CREA) on Tuesday. It provided a

comprehensive analysis of India's air quality based on continuous ambient air

quality monitoring station (CAAQMS) data.

The findings revealed a sharp deterioration in air quality across the country, with worsening conditions concentrated in the Indo-Gangetic Plain (IGP), particularly the National Capital Region (NCR), an official statement said.

Delhi ranked sixth with an average concentration of 107 µg/m³, three times higher than its September average

of 36 µg/m³.

Despite stubble burning contributing less than 6 per cent of Delhi's PM2.5 levels in October, the sharp rise highlights the impact of year-round emission sources and the need for long-term mitigation plans beyond short seasonal measures like the Graded Response Action Plan, it noted.

Dharuhera was ranked as the most polluted city in October, with a monthly

average PM2.5 concentration of 123 µg/m³, breaching the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) limit on 77 per cent of the days.

It recorded two 'Severe' and nine 'Very Poor' days during the month. Following Dharuhera, the next most polluted cities were Rohtak, Ghaziabad, Noida, Ballabgarh, Delhi, Bhiwadi, Greater Noida, Hapur, and Gurgaon.

FIR filed against Union Minister

Rajiv Ranjan Singh landed in a fresh controversy following of a video in which he can be purportedly heard asking NDA supporters to intimidate the opponents on polling day

HANS NEWS SERVICE
PATNA

AN FIR was registered against Union minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan' on Tuesday for making a controversial statement against opposition leaders during campaigning for arrested JD(U) candidate Anant Singh in Bihar's Mokama, the Patna district administration said.

The Minister landed in a fresh controversy with the surfacing of a video in which he can be purportedly heard asking NDA supporters to intimidate the opponents on polling day.

"The video footage was examined by the District Administration, Patna. Following the investigation, an FIR has been registered against Lalan Singh alias Rajiv Ranjan Singh under the sections of the BNSS and the Representation of the People Act," the Patna district administration said in a post on X. The video is said to be of Mokama, which falls under Lalan's Munger Lok Sabha seat, where the former JD(U) president's defence of party candidate Anant



NDA to win 142 seats

As per Polstrat survey findings NDA is expected to win 133-142 seats, while the grand alliance is likely to emerge victorious in 80-88 seats.

Singh in a murder case has already drawn flak from the Opposition.

In the video, Lalan could be heard saying, in Magahi, that "There are some people out here whom you must not allow to venture out on polling day. Lock them up inside their homes. If they cajole you, accompany them to polling booths and ensure that they go home after casting their vote."

Lalan's latest video, the authenticity of which could not be independently verified by PTI, went viral on social

media.

Controversial former Bihar MLA, Anant Singh, who seeks to reclaim Mokama seat, along with his two other associates -- Manikant Thakur and Ranjeet Ram -- were arrested in the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday in connection with the murder of Jan Suraj Party supporter Dular Chand Yadav.

Yadav died while he was campaigning for Jan Suraj Party's candidate Piyush Priyadarshi in Mokama area last week.

PM wants youth to be addicted to reels: Rahul

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AURANGABAD

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants the youth to remain busy in making social media reels, so that they stay distracted from pressing problems about education, health and employment.

Addressing back-to-back rallies in Bihar's Aurangabad and Gayaji, Gandhi charged the PM with promoting "addiction" to social media.

"Modi wants you to become addicted to making reels, Instagram, Facebook... This is the new high ('nasha') of the 21st century. He wants such a scenario because this



would ensure that the youth remain distracted, and do not hold his government accountable for their problems about education, health and employment," he alleged.

Gandhi also claimed that Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah "were indulging in 'vote chori' (vote theft) in Bihar, as they know the

103 ancient gold coins unearthed from TN temple

TIRUVANNAMALAI

OVER 100 ancient gold coins were unearthed from a temple which was under renovation near the Javvadu hills here, police said on Tuesday. As many as 103 antique gold coins were recovered from a mud pot that was discovered while the renovation work for the sanctum sanctorum of the main deity at the Sivan temple was underway on November 3 in neighbouring Kovilur. "Nearly 103 gold coins from a (mud) pot were discovered while the construction work was going on , " a senior police official of the Polur Police Station told PTI on Tuesday.

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Will secure record win, 'jungle raj' will suffer worst defeat: PM

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asserted that the people of Bihar have made up their mind to ensure that the NDA breaks the record of its scale of victory in the last 20 years, while the "jungle raj people" would suffer their worst defeat at the hustings in the state.

Modi said he is addressing rallies in Bihar and every rally is breaking the record of the previous one, with women coming in very large numbers.

"The women workers of the Bihar BJP are doing splendid work with the resolve of 'Mera Booth, Sabse Mazboot'," Modi said, interacting with women BJP-NDA workers in Bihar via NaMo App.

"I have been observing the polls closely and it is confirmed that the NDA is winning and it is winning big. So I have no questions about the victory but (I want) there should be more and more polling," the prime minister said.

Interacting with a BJP worker who said there is tremendous enthusiasm among the



The PM has been using the "jungle raj" analogy to attack the Mahagathbandhan. 'Jungle raj' is an apparent reference to the time when Bihar was under the rule of RJD chief Lalu Prasad and his wife Rabri Devi

people for the NDA, Modi said her words echo the feeling prevailing among the poor, Dalits, Maha Dalits, backward and extremely backward.

DSP suspended as SIT probe uncovers assets worth Rs 100 cr

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KANPUR

DEPUTY Superintendent of Police (DSP) Rishikant Shukla has been placed under suspension after initiation of a vigilance inquiry following a SIT probe that uncovered alleged undeclared assets worth nearly Rs 100 crore, officials said on Tuesday. Shukla was suspended after SIT findings indicated at least 12 properties, valued at approximately Rs 92 crore, linked to his PAN card along with additional properties, though yet undocumented, pushing the total value to Rs

100 crore or more, said a senior police official.

The SIT report said that during his tenure in Kanpur between 1998 and 2009, Shukla was in close association with advocate-turned-gangster Akhilesh Dubey, believed to be running a racket involving fake cases, extortion and land grabbing, he said. Rishikant Shukla was serving as the Circle Officer (Bhogaon) in Manpur district when his name cropped up in connection with the extortion racket. According to the then Commissioner of Police's submission, Shukla used his official position and

his network -- including family and associates -- to hide assets under the names of relatives and others. These properties included 11 shops in the posh Aryanagar area. Joint CP (Law & Order) Ashutosh Kumar confirmed the suspension and formal initiation of the full vigilance investigation against the suspended DSP. "The matter has been forwarded to the Director General of Police's headquarters for further departmental action," he added. Secretary Home, Jagdish, had written on Monday to the Principal Secretary (Vigilance) to order a full investigation and

has forwarded the case to the state's DGP headquarters for further departmental action, the letter said.

In another incident, a man who allegedly gave death threats to Gorakhpur MP Ravi Kishan on the phone has been arrested from Punjab, police said on Tuesday.

The person was identified as Ajay Kumar Yadav, a resident of Fatehgarh locality of Ludhiana. "The accused was arrested on Sunday and sent to jail today. He has no links with Bihar. He acted alone and claimed he made the call while under the influence of alcohol," Addition-

Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Rishikant Shukla used his official position and his network -- including family and associates -- to hide assets under the names of relatives and others. These properties included 11 shops in the posh Aryanagar area

al SP City Abhinav Tyagi said.

According to the police, on October 30, Yadav called the BJP politician and threatened to shoot him if he came to Bihar. A complaint was lodged by the MP's office in connec-

tion with the threat.

Police, using technical surveillance and phone tracking, traced Yadav to Punjab.

The mobile phone used to make the threat call has been recovered.



Passenger detained for trying to open emergency exit on flight

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VARANASI

A passenger on an Akasa Air flight from Varanasi to Mumbai was detained after he allegedly tried to open the aircraft's emergency exit before takeoff, officials said on Tuesday.

The incident took place aboard flight QP 1497, which was scheduled to depart for Mumbai at 6.45 pm on Monday from Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport.

As the aircraft was taxiing towards the runway, the passenger, Sujit Singh, a resident of Gaura Badshahpur in Jaunpur district, attempted to open the emergency exit, police

said. Following an alert from the cabin crew, the pilot informed the Air Traffic Control (ATC) and brought the aircraft back to the apron.

Security personnel escorted all passengers off the plane and took Sujit Singh into custody for questioning, the police said. Phoolpur Station House Officer (SHO) Praveen Kumar Singh said the passenger told investigators that he tried to open the exit "out of curiosity."

Sujit Singh has been booked, the officer said.

The flight departed for Mumbai at around 7.45 pm after security clearance.



Hunt on for youth who shot at teen girl in Har

THE GIRL, WHO IS PREPARING FOR JEE, WAS SHOT TWICE BY AN ALLEGED STALKER IN FARIDABAD'S SHYAM COLONY WHEN SHE WAS ON HER WAY HOME FROM A LIBRARY

HANS NEWS SERVICE
FARIDABAD

A hunt is on for the youth who allegedly fired gunshots at a 17-year-old girl here in broad daylight, wounding her in shoulder and abdomen, police on Tuesday said.

The girl, who is preparing for JEE, was shot twice by an alleged stalker in Faridabad's Shyam colony on Monday evening when she was on her way home from a library.

The attacker has been identified as 20-year-old Jatin Mangla, a native of Sarmathla village near Gurugram's Sohna, the police said.

The victim, Kanishka, is stable and under treatment at a hospital in Sector 8. Footage from a CCTV



camera showed a youth, allegedly Mangla, waiting for Kanishka in a street and shooting at her at a close range. One bullet struck her shoulder, while another grazed her abdomen.

Four teams have been formed to track down the attacker, a Faridabad Police spokesperson said.

According to the police, Kanishka, a resident of Bhagat Singh Colony and a class

six months ago when the girl had been enrolled there for a year. The library management said Jatin Mangla works as an accountant at a nearby private college, Ballabhgarh City Police Station SHO, Inspector Shamsheer Singh, said.

The officer said Mangla would not leave the girl alone, and kept hovering around her from the get go.

Within 15 days of his admission to the library, Mangla's membership was canceled, so was Kanishka's.

"The girl took admission again in the library about five months ago while the accused was denied admission. He continued stalking the girl," Singh said.

"Several teams of police station and crime branch are conducting raids to arrest him," he said.

Army chief visits Kharga Corps, reviews readiness

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

ARMY Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi visited the Kharga Corps in Haryana's Ambala during which he reviewed the formation's operational preparedness, and commended it for its "exemplary performance" during Operation Sindoor, officials said on Tuesday.

He was briefed on initiatives aimed at enhancing combat readiness, integrating cutting-edge technologies and strengthening inter-agency synergy.

The Chief of the Army Staff visited the Ambala-based Corps on Monday, a senior official said.

Gen Dwivedi reviewed the formation's operational preparedness and interacted with army officials and personnel.

He commended the formation for its "exemplary performance" during Operation Sindoor, as also the innovations in drone design and training, integration of advanced technological solutions in logistics and administration, they said.

Besides, outreach to



veterans and families, humanitarian contributions under Operation Rahat and sustained efforts in promoting civil-military fusion for sustainable security was also discussed during his visit.

During his interaction with all ranks, the Chief of the Army Staff lauded their professionalism, dedication and steadfast commitment to the service of the nation, the official said.

Kharga Corps falls under the Army's Western Command.

In November 2024, the Corps had conducted a two-day integrated field firing exercise, 'Kharga Shakti'.

This comprehensive exercise was aimed at testing and validating the effectiveness of combined arms operations in a simulated battlefield environment.

Post-Pahalgam terror attack

Film shooting resumes in Kashmir after six months

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR

IN a good news for Kashmir's battered tourism industry, film shootings have resumed in the valley, six months after the deadly Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 persons were killed. The crew of a Telugu film has begun shooting at the Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district -- the site of the April 22 terror attack.

The comedy movie is being directed by Vimal Krishna, known for films such as "Jessie" and "Ladies & Gentlemen". Speaking to the reporters, Krishna said Kashmir is totally safe for visitors and movie shootings.

"I want to thank every

Kashmiri. We are the first people to come here for shooting. I can say that it is 100 per cent safe. We feel totally safe. I hope in the coming days, more tourists come here," Krishna said. The filmmaker said he was looking for a beautiful location for the movie and found it in Kashmir. "I thought why not Kashmir? Right now it is completely safe. We came for a recce in July and did not find any problem. We have treated very well by the government, the security forces and especially locals who have treated us like their family members," he added.

Krishna said that after completing the Pahalgam schedule, the crew will continue shooting in Srinagar.



Death toll rises to 8 in car-truck collision

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BARABANKI

TWO persons who had sustained serious injuries in the head-on collision between a car and truck near Bishunpur village of Barabanki district on November 3 succumbed to their wounds in Lucknow during treatment on Tuesday morning, taking the accident toll to eight, officials said. Of the deceased, four people belonged to one family.

According to police, the incident took place around 10 pm when a speeding truck collided with an MUV without a number plate on the Kalyani River bridge, which has a single-lane road, under the Deva police station limits.

Six people died on the spot, whereas the two critically injured were taken to the Trauma Centre in Lucknow. All the deceased were passengers of the car and residents of Fatehpur town.

The impact of the collision was so severe that the car, which did not have a number plate and appeared new, was mangled to the extent that a crane was used to remove it from the road.

Chief Medical Officer



(CMO) Dr Awadhesh Kumar Yadav said that the deceased have been identified as driver Shrikant Shukla (40), Balaji Mishra (55), Pradeep Soni (55), his wife Madhuri Soni (52) and sons Nitin (35) and Naimish (15). Indra Kumar (50) and Vishnu Shukla (15) died during treatment in Lucknow on Tuesday.

He added that all the bodies will be handed over to their families after post-mortem examination.

The victims were returning from a holy dip in the river Ganga in Bithoor in Kanpur district, when the tragic accident occurred, police said.

Pradeep Soni was a jeweller, and he and his entire family were killed in

the accident.

Superintendent of Police Arpit Vijayvargiya, who reached the scene upon receiving the information, said that preliminary investigations indicate that speeding was the primary cause of the accident.

According to eyewitnesses, the truck was moving at a very high speed, and the truck driver apparently lost control upon seeing the oncoming car, leading to the fatal crash.

Police said they have impounded the truck, and its driver is absconding.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had expressed grief over the loss of lives in the accident.

Liquor-laden truck bound for Bihar, caught in Ballia



HANS NEWS SERVICE
BALLIA

A Bihar-bound truck was caught with illegal liquor worth almost Rs 17 lakh here, police on Tuesday said.

Five people were booked in connection with the seizure, and one was arrested, they said.

Superintendent of Police Omveer Singh said the seizure was made on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday during a routine check in the Baira Police Station area.

A police team spotted an Ashok Leyland pick-up truck speeding from the Shobha Chhapra area, and when tried to flag it down, it veered towards Shankar Nagar.

The team chased the vehicle and overtook it near the Govardhan Parvat temple,

the officer said.

One of those in the truck escaped as soon as it stopped, but the driver was arrested.

He was identified as Chandan Singh Yadav, a 32-year-old native of Janapur village in Ballia district.

Liquor worth Rs 16,75,200 of different brands was recovered from the truck.

Yadav told police that he was headed to election-bound Bihar, where liquor is prohibited, the SP said.

Voting will be held in 121 seats of the 243-member Bihar Assembly on November 6, while the remaining 122 constituencies will go to polls on November 11.

The counting of votes will be held on November 14.

The ruling NDA has 138 members in the current assembly, while the opposition alliance has 103 members.

Cheema slams Warring's remarks on Buta Singh

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Tuesday said Congress leader Amrinder Singh Raja Warring's "casteist" comment on former Union minister late Buta Singh was "unpardonable" and his party will report him to the Election Commission. He said the Aam Aadmi Party will submit a representation to the EC, seeking action against the Ludhiana MP for the remarks he allegedly made while campaigning for the Congress candidate for the November 11 Tarn Taran assembly bypoll. Warring's remarks have drawn sharp reactions from the leaders of other parties. After facing flak, Warring, the Punjab Congress chief, on Monday tendered an "unconditional apology" and said that Buta Singh, a veteran Congress leader, was like a father figure to him, and he could never mean any disrespect to him. Punjab State Scheduled Castes Commission took suo motu notice of Warring's remarks and asked him to appear before it on November 6. Addressing the media here on Tuesday, Cheema condemned Warring for his alleged casteist remarks.

Cheema said Warring insulted Buta Singh, "spewing the poison of casteism."

Attempts made by BJP, RSS to 'finish' Panjab University: Channi

HANS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH

FORMER Punjab chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Tuesday slammed the BJP-led Centre over the issue of restructuring the Panjab University's Senate and Syndicate, alleging that attempts are being made to "finish this varsity in a systematic way by the BJP and the RSS."

Channi joined the ongoing protest of the PU students against the Centre's latest move of restructuring the Panjab University's Senate and Syndicate via an October

Channi joined the ongoing protest of the PU students against the Centre's latest move of restructuring the Panjab University's Senate and Syndicate via an October 28 notification

28 notification.

The notification amends the Panjab University Act, 1947, reducing the size of the Senate to 31, doing away with elections for its executive body, the Syndicate, and abolishing the graduate constituency of the Senate.

The students are also demanding the withdrawal of the "no-protest" affidavit, introduced in June this year by the PU. The affidavit requires students to declare that they will not participate in protests or demonstrations on campus, protesting students



have claimed while terming it "undemocratic."

Panjab University Campus Students' Council general secretary Abhishek Dagar is on a hunger strike over the

affidavit issue.

Speaking to the media, senior Congress leader Channi lashed out at the BJP-led Centre for restructuring the PU's governing bodies.

"It is a murder of democracy," he alleged.

"Attempts are being made to finish the university in a systematic way by the BJP and the RSS," Channi alleged.

He further alleged that the RSS has "completely controlled" the university.

He alleged that the strength of senators has been reduced from 91 to 31.

"We will fight it out," he said.

He urged the Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to convene a session of the Punjab Assembly to discuss this issue.

The Jalandhar MP further said he will raise this matter in Parliament.

He demanded that the decision of restructuring the PU's Senate and Syndicate be withdrawn.

Referring to the affidavit issue, Channi said students are being barred from staging 'dharnas'.

He said he urged all political parties to rise above party lines to save this institution.

The BJP-led government at the Centre is facing flak from the ruling AAP in Punjab, Congress and the Shiromani Akali Dal after it restruc-

tured Panjab University's Senate and Syndicate.

CM Mann slammed the Centre on Sunday for restructuring PU's governing bodies, terming the move "unconstitutional" and "dictatorial".

The AAP government is not averse to moving court in the matter, he had said.

Mann had claimed the Centre does not have the power to amend the Panjab University Act, 1947, through a notification to change the complexion and character of the Senate and Syndicate.

PWD to install mist spraying systems at 3 pollution hotspots

The systems will spray RO-treated water on roads to suppress dust, having a total capacity of 2,000 litres per hour. The cost of the project is Rs 4 crore, which includes operation and maintenance for five years

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Public Works Department (PWD) plans to install automatic mist spraying systems on three road stretches near the Narela, Bawana and Jahangirpuri area, all among the top 13 pollution hotspots of Delhi, officials said on Tuesday.

Earlier, similar projects have been taken up in NDMC and DDA areas, with the hope of reducing dust on

roads, which is among the major contributors to air pollution.

“PWD will now start its third project with the installation of these systems at Shahpur Garhi near DSIDC Narela, DSIDC Bawana near Pooth Khurd and the Jahangirpuri area,” a PWD official said. The sprinklers will be installed on the central verges of these roads. Tenders have been floated for the project, the official added.

The systems will spray

RO-treated water on roads to suppress dust, having a total capacity of 2,000 litres per hour. The cost of the project is Rs 4 crore, which includes operation and maintenance for five years, he added.

According to the tender, the system will be powered by a capacity RO water pumping unit, and to ensure the security of the equipment, the tender document also specifies the deployment of security guards.

“The misting system will operate in two shifts -- 6 am to 2 pm and 2 pm to 10 pm. The contractor will also be responsible for a five-year defect-free liability,” the tender states.

This initiative follows Chief Minister Rekha Gupta’s directive in March to install sprinklers and smog guns throughout the year to address air quality concerns.

In June, Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa conducted an on-

ground inspection of a similar Automatic Misting System installed on Lodhi Road. Officials stated that these systems are designed to suppress dust particles and reduce carbon emissions. Currently, high-pressure mist sprayers are operational not only in central Delhi but also on DDA-maintained roads in Dwarka, extending the city’s anti-pollution efforts across both central and peripheral zones.



INTER-STATE CHILD TRAFFICKING CASE

HC cancels bail to two women

Justice Ajay Digpaul set aside a trial court’s order, saying the sessions court did not adequately consider the nature and gravity of the offence and the larger implications on public interest and administration of justice

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Delhi High Court has cancelled the bail granted to two women, allegedly involved in an inter-state child trafficking racket, saying the magnitude and nature of the crime involving commodification of newborns warrant highest degree of judicial scrutiny.



licit trade, having established prior contacts with other members of the syndicate,” the high court said.

It said the presence of these two accused in the community poses a real possibility of them contacting witnesses or obstructing further proceedings and the prosecution’s apprehension that they may abscond or influence co-accused cannot be said to be unfounded.

Challenging the trial court’s bail order, the prosecution submitted that the case pertained to a heinous and organised racket of inter-state child trafficking, involving procurement and sale of newborns aged barely five to ten days, for unlawful monetary consideration.

The prosecutor said a charge sheet was filed against 11 accused persons out of 13 named in the FIR, and highlighted that both Pooja and Bimla are central figures in

the criminal syndicate which extended from Delhi to Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Delhi Police officials got a secret information in April and laid a trap in which three persons were arrested. A five-day-old infant was also rescued.

During investigation and based on the disclosure of some accused, others were arrested in the case. Some of the women accused told the police that initially they used to be egg donors but later indulged in trafficking of infants as it was more lucrative.

Pooja’s counsel opposed the prosecution’s plea saying no material has been placed on record to suggest violation of bail conditions or misuse of liberty post-release.

Bimla’s counsel also opposed the plea saying that bail, once granted, cannot be cancelled merely because the prosecution feels the order was erroneous.

SC reserves verdict on framing nationwide seniority norms

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI



THE Supreme Court on Tuesday reserved its verdict on framing uniform, nationwide criteria for determining seniority in the higher judicial services cadre to deal with the issue of slow and uneven career progression of judges across the country. A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice B R Gavai reserved the judgment on the issue after hearing a battery of senior lawyers, including advocate and amicus curiae Sidharth Bhatnagar, Rakesh Dwivedi, P S Patwalia, Jayant Bhushan and Gopal Sankaranarayanan, among others.

The bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, K Vinod Chandran and Joymalya Bagchi, is mulling to frame uniform, nationwide criteria for determining seniority in the Higher Judicial Service (HJS) cadre.

It took note of the situation that “in most of the states, judicial officers recruited as Civil Judge (CJ) often do not reach the level of Principal District Judge (PDJ), leave aside reaching the position of a High Court Judge. This has resulted in many bright young lawyers being dissuaded from joining the service at the level of CJ”.

The bench is concerned over the slow and uneven career progression of entry-level judicial officers across India and began the hearing on October 28 on framing uniform, nationwide criteria for determining seniority in the HJS cadre. The case was heard on October 19 and November 4 as well.

During the hearing, the bench had said that some kind of nationwide “uniformity” in criteria for determining seniority of entry-level judicial officers is needed to deal with the slow and uneven career progression of such judges.

On October 14, the bench framed the question, which reads: “What should be the criteria for determining seniority in the cadre of Higher Judicial Services?”

The bench also clarified that while hearing the main issue, it can also consider “other ancillary or related issues”.

Bhatnagar, who is assisting the bench as an amicus curiae, highlighted that promotions across most states were “driven more by seniority than by merit”, owing largely to the way Annual Confidential Reports (ACRs) are evaluated. Dwivedi, appearing for the Allahabad High Court, dissuaded the top court from imposing a uniform seniority framework.

He said the matter should be left to the discretion of the high courts, which are constitutionally empowered to manage the administration of the subordinate judiciary.

Shooting at house in Shahdara; accused remain unidentified

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THREE men of the Hashim Baba gang allegedly opened fire at a multi-storey house in Bihari Colony in east Delhi’s Shahdara and demanded Rs 30 lakh as extortion, police said on Tuesday.

The incident took place on Sunday night, and the shooters left an extortion note before fleeing, they said.

No injuries were reported in the firing.

A CCTV footage of the incident also went viral on social media platforms, showing three men — two of them wearing helmets and another covered his face using a cloth — entering the street and firing two rounds, before their



multiple teams under the leadership of senior police officers. We are checking CCTV footage to identify the accused and the vehicle they used. They will be behind bars soon,” he added.

Puneet Arora, who resides in the house with his family members, said that on November 2, his elder brother, Bunty, received a call regarding extortion from Golu, a member of the Hashim Baba gang.

“We thought that someone had joked with us, so we did not file any police complaint on the same day. Later that night, three men opened fire in front of our house. They threw slips, demanding Rs 30 lakh from us. We are under fear,” Puneet Arora told PTI.

Victims of road mishap turn out to be thieves on the run

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

A routine call about a road accident in Delhi’s Kapashera ended up exposing a trio of thieves, leading to their arrest and the recovery of stolen goods, police said. The thieves were in the police station speaking to officers about the accident when the victim of the theft was registering his complaint, they said. According to officials, a PCR call was received around 8:13 pm on Wednesday regarding a collision between a scooter and a car near Kapashera, they said.

“When a police team reached the spot, they noticed that the two men on the scooter seemed unusually nervous and eager to settle the



matter quickly,” a senior police officer said. The duo -- identified as Rohit Ravidas (25) and Karamjeet (28), both residents of Sonia Gandhi Camp -- aroused further suspicion when one of them was found carrying a mobile phone that he couldn’t unlock. A few pointed questions from the team turned the supposed accident case into a crime investigation.

“During sustained questioning, the men confessed to having committed a house theft in the early hours of the same day in Gopalji Colony in Kapashera. They admitted to stealing a bag and three mobile phones from one Lal Chand,” he added.

At their instance, the complainant’s stolen bag was recovered, and police soon tracked down their associate, Pankaj (33), also from Sonia Gandhi Camp. He was found in possession of another stolen mobile phone that had been sold to him by the duo.

Police said Rohit and Karamjeet are habitual offenders who steal from houses and pass on the loot to Pankaj, who sells it and divides the proceeds. One of the stolen phones was said to be already sold, they said.

Investigations revealed that Rohit is involved in four previous cases, while Pankaj has two prior cases, police added.

2 held for man's murder in Samaypur Badli

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police have arrested two people for allegedly bludgeoning a 25-year-old man to death with stones during a violent confrontation in the Samaypur Badli area, an official said on Tuesday.

The accused, Manish alias Babu (22) and Sumit (23), were arrested on Monday, the police said. The incident occurred when the victim, also named Manish, accompanied by Santosh Kumar Srivastava (40), went to meet the alleged attacker, Manish, who had allegedly threatened him earlier.

After a brief argument near an underpass, the main accused was joined by two other attackers.

The accused allegedly began abusing the victim and the argument quickly turned violent. The attackers assaulted Santosh and Manish with stones, leaving the victim grievously injured, the officer said.

When Santosh regained consciousness, he found Manish lying unresponsive. He was rushed to a nearby hospital but was later declared dead.

The police said a murder case was registered on Monday on Santosh’s complaint and CCTV footage was scanned. Subsequently, the two suspects here held while a search is on for the third accused. During questioning, the duo admitted to their involvement in the fatal assault, the police said. A scooter, a motorcycle and the stone used in the crime were recovered from their possession, they added. The police said the attacker, Manish, was previously involved in another murder case and are investigating the exact reason behind the killing and further investigation is underway.

Indian women cricketers made us all proud: Lt Gen Kapoor

‘If India hopes to host the 2036 Olympics, the armed forces and other agencies will have to “work together” to realise this ambition; we have presented the roadmap to the Ministry of Sports, the sports minister, and it details what the army can bring to the table’

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Indian women’s cricket team has made every citizen of the country stand tall with pride by winning the World Cup, a senior army officer said on Tuesday.

In his address at the Army Sports Conclave 2025, Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Information System & Training), Lt Gen Rakesh Kapoor, said that if India hopes to host the 2036 Olympics, the armed forces and other agencies will have to “work together” to realise this ambition.

The officer said the army and sports have a long-standing and “symbiotic relationship.”

“We have presented the roadmap to the Ministry of Sports, the sports minister, and it details what the army can bring to the table. And, we will be happy to share with all other agencies who will be partners in this,” he said.

The Commonwealth Games 2030 is coming up, and that can be held as a “benchmark” before the 2036 Games, he said.

Lt Gen Kapoor emphasised how the Indian team’s

performance and accomplishment would motivate others to excel in sports.

“Sports is a huge way to build national prestige. We are very proud of the Indian women’s team... makes every Indian walk tall,” the DCOAS (IS & T) said.

On Sunday, the women in blue lifted the ICC Women’s World Cup, defeating the South African team by 52 runs in the final at Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra. This was the team’s maiden World Cup title.

Members of an Army Girls Sports Company and an Army Boys Sports Com-



pany attended the Army Sports Conclave hosted at the Manekshaw Centre.

Anjali Bhagwat, 16, who won a silver in the 25m shooting category in Khelo

India 2025, said the Indian team victory has motivated her to work harder to achieve her goals.

The teenager, currently part of the Army Girls Sports Company (AGSC) at Army Marksmanship Unit, Mhow, Madhya Pradesh, shared her regimen speaking on the sidelines of the conclave.

“We wake up around 5.30 am and then do yoga from 6 am to 7 am. After breakfast, we move to the ranges for practice, and after lunch, we again go for training, followed by physical training, and after early dinner go to

sleep for about 8 hours to start the next day filled with energy,” Bhagwat told PTI.

A native of Nasik and a student of class 12, pursuing distance education to devote time to her passion, she aims to do big for India and make the nation proud.

While she admitted that her strict regimen doesn’t allow her to find time to watch cricket on TV or on the internet, Bhagwat said, she felt proud after reading the news of India’s maiden triumph in the Women’s World Cup.

N Toni Meitei, 16, who hails from Manipur and is training in shooting at an

Army Boys Sports Company, echoes her sentiments.

“I don’t watch cricket, but their win in the World Cup made me happy... It has made me work even harder in my sports discipline,” he said.

Lt Gen Kapoor said India is a young nation and the “demographic dividend” of the country needs to be harnessed over the next ten years.

He also praised as “remarkable” the performance of the boys and girls in the Army Girls Sports Company and the Army Boys Sports Company.

Intense battle on in Bengaluru for a ‘new’ Congress CM

THE penultimate month of 2025 has begun in an unexpectedly turbulent manner in Karnataka. After all, the struggle for the pinnacle of power in the south-western state of India – the CM post – had been set in motion right from the day Congress assumed power in May 2023. While it is still unclear whether it had the backing of the high command or not, it seemed like there was an undeclared agreement between the top two leaders – Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar – that the two would trade places at the midpoint of the five-year government, which happens to be this month. As the deadline drew near, the pulls and pressures from both lobbies started impacting the political atmosphere in the state for some weeks now. While the CM, who has survived similar power struggles throughout his long career, emphatically denied existence of any such power-sharing arrangement and asserted that he would last the full term, the Deputy CM, also the state unit chief, was not openly contradicting it yet had enough backers within the state Congress unit and government to raise a call in his favour. After having joined the Congress nearly 20 years back, Siddaramaiah has proved to be more useful and effective to the New Delhi power lobby.

His smart usage of the potent minority and backward caste cards

have kept his detractors a little wary of what his next moves could be and presumably, a better candidate for remaining at the top of the helm. In contrast, a life-long Congressman, Shivakumar, has been feted for his crisis management dexterity and ability to raise funds for various political wheeling-dealing in States where Congress is in power. Yet, he has been deprived of the CM chair as he doesn't have the aggregating influence of his arch-rival, who has survived vicious criticism from Opposition parties who have targeted him for his appeasement and conciliatory politics with caste groups and a defiant anti-Hindutva streak in most of his actions. Shivakumar has also not earned much apprecia-

tion for his ‘friendly’ attitude with the Opposition (read BJP) which has added to the former’s problems by extending a welcoming approach if ever he decides to switch sides. That may not happen as DKS, as he is popularly known, has exhibited unflinching loyalty to the GOP high command and is unlikely to do something catastrophic as joining hands with his political foes.

Yet, vested interests on both sides keep loading the media with their sensational observations, the latest being that of Yathindra, son of the incumbent CM, who had predicted that his father may not be seen in active politics for long and speculated that a minister from Belagavi may be his replacement. Divided

that the Congress party is in the state, no one is now bothered to cover themselves with ambivalent statements or comments and freely express their opinions about whom they want as the next CM, provided the ‘November revolution’ takes effect. Bengaluru is awash with speculation and intense rumours on the power struggle drama once again as it has been in the past month or so. Bihar election results are awaited by Congress, which senses that they may be in with a chance to dislodge NDA and silence dissent in party units by announcing cabinet reshuffles or appeasing rebels with a post or two. The battle has just taken a pause, but it has not come to a grinding halt, for sure.

LETTERS

Guru Nanak Jayanthi today

GURU Nanak Gurburab holds profound significance as a day to honour the holy Guru and embody his teachings, encouraging followers to fight the five vices-lust, greed, attachment, anger and pride. His teachings are embedded in the Guru Granth Sahib, the holy book of Sikhs. Guru Nanak Jayanthi, also known as Gurburab, which is being celebrated on Wednesday (Nov 5) is a momentous occasion for the Sikh community worldwide. It marks the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, the revered founder of Sikhism. According to Sikh tradition, this celebration takes place on the full moon day of the Indian lunar month of Kartik.

C K Subramaniam, Navi Mumbai

Chevella horror: HC must take suo motu cognizance

IT’S heartbreaking that three college-going sisters from the same family died in a road accident at Chevella that killed 19 people on Monday. The impact was devastating - the truck, overloaded with small stones, left passengers half-buried under the debris. Who has the courage to console the victims’ families, and who will take responsibility for the potholes that led to the collision? The High Court of Telangana should take suo motu cognizance of the accident and hold the Telangana government accountable for the poor maintenance of Hyderabad’s roads.

Ganti Venkata Sudhir, Secunderabad

Highway roads turn deathtraps

THE bus-truck collision on the National Highway near Mirjagada, which claimed 19 lives, is a grim reminder of the quality of roads on the National Highway and the apathy of the state transport department. The accident was caused due to a pothole on the road that the truck driver tried to avoid and ended up colliding with the bus. Huge loans are taken from the World Bank to build National Highways, and the citizens also pay toll tax and yet the condition of roads remain pathetic and risky. Will the Minister of Highways and State Minister of Transport own responsibility for the mishap?

P R Ravinder, Hyderabad

Punish errant drivers

THE gruesome accident near Chevella, involving a tipper truck and TGSRTC bus which collided head-on resulting in the death of 19 people was heart-wrenching. Some deaths were due to gravel being thrown on the passengers much like a shrapnel in a bomb blast; and burying the unwary travellers. Over speeding seems to be the cause for the accident. Rash and negligent driving must be strictly curbed on highways, which can be done by way of severe punishment and heavy penalties.

S Lakshmi, Hyderabad

Don’t malign women players

MANY self-styled cricket lovers celebrate players one day and trash them the next. Even as praise poured in for the Indian women’s team after their historic World Cup win, an ugly post targeted one of the key players, who helped India cross the final hurdle. The troll mocked her saying her “God was on holiday” — a cheap and disgraceful remark. Such venom shows how shallow and reactionary our fandom has become. Sport is about respect, not ridicule. True supporters stand by their players through both triumph and trial. It’s time we learn to cheer with dignity, not spew hate when things don’t go our way.

N Nagarajan, Hyderabad

Mazumdar displayed Chak De! spirit

AMOL Muzumdar, the unsung hero of Indian cricket, displays the spirit of coach Kabir Khan in Chak De! India. He never played for India but coached our women to the 2025 World Cup glory. With calm resolve and fierce faith, he united warriors and shattered barriers. His mantra is ‘believe, build, conquer’.

TS Karthik, Chennai-10

Women empowerment in Indian sport

PROPOS ‘Harman’s angels cast a spell for ages’ (THI, Nov 4), close on the heels of the men in blue winning the Asia Cup, the women in blue won the coveted ICC Women’s World Cup for the first time. Surely this achievement will not only bolster women empowerment in Indian sport but also instil gender parity in the same. Indian women players displayed their abilities to match their male counterparts in every department of the game, an apt representation of sport in India, where cricket is almost a religion and cricketers’ demigods.

Dr George Jacob, Kochi

thehansreader@gmail.com

BENGALURU ONLINE

Engineers given weekly targets to demolish illegal buildings

BENGALURU: The drive to remove unauthorized constructions in Bengaluru is picking up pace once again. The Bengaluru East Municipal Zone has set a weekly target for engineers to demolish eight illegal buildings as part of a renewed crackdown on unauthorized structures. Following the formation of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), the city’s civic officials have intensified their focus on illegal construction activities.

Bengaluru East Zonal Commissioner Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar recently convened a coordination meeting with municipal engineers, directing them to implement the demolition plan with strict timelines. Under the East Zone’s jurisdiction, there are 8 divisions, 24 sub-divisions, and 50 wards. Officials have been instructed to compile and maintain complete data related to construction activities in their respective areas within a week. As per the directive, each division must remove at least one illegal building per week, resulting in a total of eight demolitions weekly across the East Zone.

Read more at
<https://epaper.thehansindia.com>

The decline of moral ethics and values in marital life



TADAKAMALLA MURALIDHAR

In Hindu tradition, marriage is considered a sacrament that unites two souls and two families. However, the present marriage system in India, whether arranged or love, is undergoing significant pressure and witnessing a transformation because of declining values within the families.

Spouses shift their responsibility and accountability for their own actions, which is known as the “blame game” resulting in misunderstandings, quarrels and fights and lack of happiness in marital life. The harmony between the spouses is damaged and a bitter experience is left between the two families of the married couple.

Thus, there is a possibility of breaking of the marital bond. The mind turns towards wrong thoughts about the spouse. One of the reasons is the absence of elders in the family to guide the younger ones and there are not as many joint families as there used to be earlier.

The ego of “me, mine” distances the couple from the idea of “we, ours”. Like adding fuel to the fire, the instigation of parents also causes damage to the system.

In today’s system, extra-marital affairs in the name of civilization are destroy-

ing marital life. Thus, situations arise in which the spouses do not want to live together.

The Union Government brought the Family Courts Act in 1984 as a viable measure to resolve rifts, misunderstandings and conflicts between the husband and wife through mediation, keeping them together without going in for a divorce, and providing speedy justice.

In Telangana State, three Family Courts were established for the first time in 1994 at the level of District Judge. Today, there is one Family Court in each district headquarters apart from two in the Hyderabad City limits, one in Secunderabad limits, three in NTR Nagar in Rangareddy district limits and one each in Malkajigiri and Kukatpally.

Approximately 2,000 to 2,500 cases are pending in each Family Court and each presiding judge calls about a hundred cases for hearing every day. Keeping in mind the increasing number of cases, unlike other courts, Family Courts are hearing cases even on Saturdays.

The presiding judges are working under a lot of pressure and carrying an unbearable burden because of the huge number of cases piled up before them.

Dispensation of justice by the presiding judges as desired by the divorcing couple is not an easy task. The two sides throw mud at each other with accusations, stubbornness, jealousy and hatred and sometimes quarrels in the courtroom itself. Filing of cases with false accusations with a malicious intention and trying to hurt the op-



The two sides throw mud at each other with accusations, stubbornness, jealousy and hatred and sometimes quarrels in the courtroom itself. Filing of cases with false accusations with a malicious intention and trying to hurt the opponent in some way, intentional violation of court orders, and even accusations against the judge for any delay in issuing orders or for not delivering the expected order are not uncommon.

ponent in some way, intentional violation of court orders, and even accusations against the judge for any delay in issuing orders or for not delivering the expected order are not uncommon.

Before the advent of the Family Courts Act, 1984 three judges, namely District Judge, Senior Civil Judge, and Magistrate, used to deal with matters pertaining to estranged spouses with different duties. However, after the enactment of this Act, all those duties are tacked to the Family Court Judge. The main duty of the Fam-

ily Court Judge is to first bridge the gap between the couple through mediation and overcome the problems and keep them together, and only as a last resort, grant order of divorce by dissolution of marriage.

Apart from these, restitution of conjugal rights, judicial separation for six months as provided by the law, declaration of marriage as nullity, custody of children, property disputes between husband and wife, temporary and permanent maintenance and domestic abuse cases are all dealt with by the Family Courts.

A significant portion

of divorce cases involve young couples with good income. There has been a large increase in two types of cases i.e., cases of divorce sought by mutual consent after one year of marriage under Section 13-B and cases where the spouses seek declaration of annulment of marriage within a month of marriage under Section 12.

In cases instituted under Section 13-B, the most common reason cited by the estranged couples for divorce is that their differences were irreconcilable and they are unable to get along in life. Once the mar-

Bihar-The seat of ancient Indian civilisation

DR HYMA MOORTHY

Bihar, the region known historically as Magadha, Anga and Mithila has over the years evolved and transformed itself into a developing state, which makes for a laudable development.

In keeping with its rising status, this month’s Assembly elections in the State has become a prestigious issue for several key players, especially to all political contenders in the fray as also the stakeholders and the people across the national firmament.

A unique feature of Bihar is that the more you try to understand the entire gamut of its politics, the more likely that it slips away like sand through your fingers. Not surprisingly, the upcoming elections are generating significant interest across the country, more so because the eventual outcome will have a significant bearing on national politics.

As things stand, the electoral dynamics of one of the largest states in India that are characterised by complex caste equations and high-stake battles make it a closely watched event.

What I gathered from television channels and pod-

casts is that people at the nukkads, tea stalls and village court yards, with their spirited conversations show that they keep track of the State’s politics, and display their preferred ideas or parties. This shows that they are politically mature. The characteristic of every Bihar is that the individual nurtures a revolutionary temperament and speaks with a fearless mind.

Lest one forgets, this is the land of Gautama Buddha, Vardhamana Mahavira- the last Jain Tirthankara, and Chanakya. It is this very land that was once ruled by the Great Mauryan Empire, which unified a large part of the Indian sub-continent.

The Gupta Empire, often referred to as India’s Golden Era, for its advancements in art, science and philosophy flourished in this region with Pataliputra (the present day Patna) as their capital.

Going deeper, Bihar was the seat of prestigious ancient Universities like Nalanda, Vikramshila, Odantapuri and Telhara, which figures prominently in the travel accounts of Chinese travellers HiuenTsang, and Mithila University, which were major centres of learning with a global reputation.



They once symbolized the grandeur of ancient Indian Civilization.

Overtime, Bihar gradually lost its lustre and its rich heritage, glorious past and pioneering intellectual traditions. It has been observed that people from Bihar often hesitate to identify themselves as Biharis due to the negative connotations associated with the term. Historically, the word “Bihari” has evolved from a neutral geographical identifier to a derogatory label, symbolizing backwardness, poverty and lack of sophistication. It is such extremes that films and even the media often portray Biharis in a negative light, reinforcing stereotypes

and stigmatising the community.

However, of late, there is a growing movement to reclaim the term “Bihari” and challenge these negative perceptions. Many people from Bihar proudly declare their roots, using phrases like “Bihari hoon, garv hai” (I am a Bihari, and I am proud of it) to promote a positive identity to counter stereotypes.

One should not forget that Biharis are well represented in civil services, engineering and medical fields due to several factors. The State has a rich tradition of prioritising education with many students excelling in competitive exams at all

Historically, the word “Bihari” has evolved from a neutral geographical identifier to a derogatory label, symbolizing backwardness, poverty and lack of sophistication. It is such extremes that films and even the media often portray Biharis in a negative light, reinforcing stereotypes and stigmatising the community. However, of late, there is a growing movement to reclaim the term “Bihari” and challenge these negative perceptions.

India level. One can come across countless quality technical and medical institutions, thanks to the initiatives launched by the State government.

Bihari culture places high value on merit and hard work, which together drive students to excel academically and secure prestigious jobs and be assured of a prosperous future.

Bihar elections are crucial for all the parties as their reputation and leadership is being tested. At the end of the day, the real winners should be the people of Bihar. It’s crucial for the elected representatives to

prioritise the State’s development, progress and welfare of the people. Bihar has immense potential. A pro-people government can tap it to the fullest and also open up opportunities for its citizens, to eventually propel growth and prosperity.

One hopes that the focus of the contenders will be on key issues like infrastructure, education, and healthcare and job creation to ultimately improve the quality of life for the people of Bihar. All said and done, Bihar, especially its people, deserves leaders who will work tirelessly and strive for all-round betterment.

Centre allocates ₹2,000 cr for rural roads in state

- Centre sanctions funds under SASCI
- Deputy CM Pawan directs officials to prioritise quality, durability and repairs to damaged panchayat raj roads
- Says funds were secured with PM's support and CM Naidu's guidance
- Stresses that there should be no compromise on engineering norms, multiple quality checks, personal field inspections

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE Central government sanctioned Rs 2,000 crore under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme for improving rural roads across the state. Deputy Chief Minister and minister for panchayat raj and rural development Pawan Kalyan directed officials to make the best use of these funds to provide durable roads to the people. Chairing a review with senior panchayat raj and engineering officials on Tuesday, Pawan Kalyan said that there should be no compromise on quality standards in road construction. "The responsibility for maintaining quality lies entirely with the administrative machinery," he said. The Deputy CM instructed officials to

give priority to repairing the most damaged panchayat raj roads across villages and ensure that construction is carried out strictly in accordance with engineering norms. He noted that these funds were made possible with the support of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and under the guidance of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, marking yet another step forward in strengthening rural infrastructure. "Every rupee must translate into tangible benefits for the people," he asserted. Pawan said that multiple quality checks would be conducted from the construction stage till completion. He warned contractors and officials that any deviation from prescribed standards would invite action. "Neither negligence nor irregularities will



be tolerated. I, along with experts, will personally inspect road works at the field level," he said. As part of the SASCI fund allocation, the government has decided to spend Rs 35 crore on strengthening Panchayat Raj roads in Puttaparthi, in view of the centenary celebrations of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, as part of infrastructure development works. "The coalition government, with consistent support from the Centre, is determined to secure and effectively use funds for the state's all-round development," he said. Expressing gratitude to the Prime Minister for his cooperation, the Deputy CM added that Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is personally monitoring the planning and utilisation of funds. "Our coalition government is fully committed to delivering better amenities to the people, and the administration must play a proactive role in achieving that goal," he added.

7 Mayoerians to represent India at Geneva Summit

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

IT is a moment of great pride for Mayoer School, Noida, as it stands among the Top 8 schools globally selected to participate in the 9th Edition of the IM1B Impact Summit 2025, to be held at the United Nations Headquarters, Geneva, on November 7. The school is the only institution from Uttar Pradesh to earn this distinction, joining esteemed schools from Delhi, Haryana, and Dubai. A team comprising six Class XII students and one Class X student will present their research on "Ocean and Water Health – SDG 14", focusing

on marine conservation and water sustainability through innovative, student-driven solutions. The IM1B (One Million for One Billion) Foundation is a United Nations-accredited non-profit organization that works to inspire and enable a million youth to positively impact a billion lives. The annual Impact Summit provides young changemakers with a prestigious platform to present their sustainability projects before global policymakers and thought leaders. The summit will be attended by eminent global dignitaries and keynote speakers, offering students an invaluable opportunity to share their ideas and advocate for a sustainable future on an international stage. Principal Ms. Alka Awasthi expressed immense pride, saying, "Our students have always embodied Mayoer's spirit of innovation and responsibility. Representing India on such a global platform is a reflection of their commitment to making a meaningful impact on the world." The school celebrates its young ambassadors who will represent Uttar Pradesh and India with passion, innovation, and purpose at this prestigious international forum.

Kolleru Lake Management Authority formed for sustainable conservation

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE state government constituted the Kolleru Lake Management Authority (KLMA) for the sustainable management and development of the Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary. The order, issued by principal secretary for environment, forests, science and technology Kantilal Dande, follows the recommendation of the National Board for Wildlife's (NBWL) Standing Committee and aligns with the approved management plan of Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary. The newly-formed authority will be chaired by the chief secretary of Andhra

Pradesh, with the principal secretary (EFS&T) as vice-chairman. Senior officials from revenue, fisheries, agriculture, panchayat raj and water resources departments will serve as members. The principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife) will act as the member-convenor. The authority will serve as a neutral coordinating agency to balance competing ecological and developmental interests. Its mandate includes preparing an Integrated Management Plan for the Kolleru Lake, restoring hydrological regimes, improving water quality, controlling pollution, managing siltation, conserving biodiversity, and promoting sustainable fisheries and ecotourism.

SIT GETS CUSTODY OF 7 IN SPURIOUS LIQUOR CASE

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE Sixth Additional Judicial Magistrate of the First Class on Tuesday ordered five-day SIT custody for seven accused in the spurious liquor case. Those remanded were Ravi (A4), Badhal Das (A7), Pradeep Das (A8), Srinivas Reddy (A11), Kalyan (A12), Ramesh Babu (A15), and Allah-bakshi (A16). All were previously lodged in Vijayawada district jail. The police had also arrested former minister Jogi Ramesh on Sunday in connection with the same case. He is currently in Nellore Central Jail. With the court granting SIT custody, investigators expect major leads on the network behind the adulterated liquor racket and hope to make progress in related cases registered at Mulakalacheruvu and Ibrahimpatnam. SIT officials have already questioned Janardhan Rao and Jagan Mohan Rao earlier in the same investigation.

Ensuring permanent livelihoods to BCs is govt's aim: Savitha

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

BC, EWS welfare, handlooms and textiles minister S Savitha on Tuesday said that the coalition government is committed to providing permanent livelihood opportunities to caste-based and traditional artisans by supplying them with modern equipment. She said that the government's priority is to strengthen backward classes economically and socially through schemes like Aadarna 3.0. Speaking at an interaction with chairpersons and directors of seven BC corporations at the BC Bhavan in Gollapudi here, the minister said the government would not only allocate funds to these corporations but also enhance the dignity and responsibilities of their board members. As part of Aadarna 3.0, she collected feedback from corporation heads on the types of tools and machinery required for their respective caste-based professions. Savitha recalled that it was the TDP that first gave political, economic and social recognition to BC communities, beginning with N T Rama Rao and now continued by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. She highlighted initiatives



BC welfare minister S Savitha addressing chairpersons and directors of seven BC corporations at BC Bhavan in Gollapudi

- BC welfare minister says that coalition govt is striving to providing permanent livelihoods for caste-based artisans via modern equipment under Aadarna 3.0, with Rs 1,000 cr allocated
- Gathers feedback on required tools/machinery from BC corporation heads, pledges enhanced funding, dignity and responsibilities for board members

such as installing inverters, CCTV cameras and RO plants in BC hostels and gurukul schools, supplying sports kits and track suits to students, and offering free coaching for DSC and civil services for unemployed BC youth. The minister said Rs 1,000 crore has been earmarked for Aadarna 3.0 to modernise traditional occupations and ensure sustainable income for artisans. A survey has already been conducted to

identify profession-wise equipment needs, and a final report will be submitted to the Chief Minister after incorporating inputs from corporation chairpersons, she said. Savitha urged corporation boards to take government welfare schemes to the grassroots and counter misconceptions spread during the previous regime. Senior BC welfare officials and corporation chairpersons attended the meeting.

150 YEARS OF VANDE MATARAM

BJP to conduct statewide programmes

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

IN connection with the completion of 150 years of the patriotic song Vande Mataram, Andhra Pradesh BJP president P V N Madhav called for special programmes to be held across the state on November 7. Addressing a teleconference with BJP MPs, MLCs, MLAs, and state-level leaders on Tuesday, Madhav announced that BJP SC Morcha state president Panthal Suresh would serve as the state in-charge for the anniversary programmes. He said the Vande Mataram song, written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, played a pivotal role in the Indian freedom struggle and united people from Kashmir to Kanyakumari under one patriotic spirit.



BJP Andhra Pradesh president P V N Madhav

Madhav recalled that in Vinukonda, people were fired upon by the British for singing Vande Mataram, while in Rajamahendravaram, youth were inspired by the song to launch a local freedom movement. He emphasized that the song also played a major role in opposing the partition of Bengal. The BJP leader pointed out that Vande Mataram was shortened at the 1923 Congress session held in Kakinada, and only a portion of it is sung today. "As we commemorate 150 years of Vande Mataram, we must sing the full version of this national song," he said. Madhav added that the main event of the anniversary celebrations would be held in Kakinada on November 7, with simultaneous programmes planned in all districts in the state.

Kollu urges granite units to end strike, forms committee



Ministers Kollu Ravindra, Gottipati Ravi Kumar and Dola Balaveeranjane Swamy meet representatives of the Granite Cutting and Polishing Units Associations at the Secretariat on Tuesday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

MINES and excise minister Kollu Ravindra on Tuesday urged owners of granite cutting and polishing units to immediately withdraw their strike and resume operations, stressing that the workers dependent on the industry were suffering due to the shutdown. Addressing representatives of the Granite Cutting and Polishing Units Associations from the erstwhile Guntur and Prakasam districts at the Secretariat, the minister assured that all legitimate issues raised by the industry would be addressed without delay. Ministers Gottipati Ravikumar and Dola Balaveeranjane Swamy, along with MLAs Eluri Sambasiva Rao and B N Vijay Kumar, were present at the meeting.

- Mines minister urges granite unit owners in Guntur and Prakasam districts to end their strike, stressing the impact on workers' livelihoods
- The govt forms a high-level committee to review issues like the uniform sintering fee and suggest solutions within a week

The association representatives highlighted the financial burden caused by the uniform sintering fee levied on all grades of raw material, requesting the government to rationalize the system. They said that while industries were committed to fulfilling obligations to the government, the current structure was rendering op-

erations unviable. In response, Ravindra announced the formation of a high-level committee comprising the joint director (mining), the district DMGO, a representative from the seigniorage collection agency and two members from each association to study and resolve key issues faced by the units. The minister directed the committee to hold consultations with stakeholders and submit a detailed report within one week. The minister reiterated that the government was committed to protecting both industry interests and the livelihood of workers. "All concerns will be examined and resolved fairly. There should be no disruption to production," he said, urging entrepreneurs to restore normalcy immediately.

Rulers, departments ignored early warnings of Montha, complain locals

OFFICIALS OPEN GOPALAPUR LAKE SLUICE GATES USING JCB MACHINES ON TUESDAY

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HANUMAKONDA

LAST week, the Montha cyclone submerged the city of Hanumakonda. Locals allege that due to the negligence of the Municipal Corporation and Irrigation officials, the drainage canal was not opened, and 100 ft of road canals were blocked, causing water to enter several colonies, causing damage to the people and the government. Finally, on Tuesday, the authorities are taking action on a war footing to drain the flood water.

People allege that the public representatives and officials of Warangal and Hanumakonda districts ignored cyclone warnings and failed to take preventive measures, leading to massive losses



Photo: G Shyam Kumar

to crops, lives and property across cities, towns and villages. After a week of continuous rainfall subsided, on Tuesday, the irrigation and municipal

officials finally opened the Gopalapur lake sluice gates using JCB machines. Locals are furious that this was done too late. Residents say if the sluice

gates and drainage channels had been opened earlier that same day, such large-scale destruction could have been avoided. They complain that despite repeated calls and pleas, officials did not respond; their negligence led to flood havoc in Warangal city. Even after a week, people sarcastically remarked that the "officials finally woke up." People across the region are criticising the authorities, saying the flood destruction, property loss, and deaths were mainly due to: encroachments on lakes, ponds and drainage channels; lack of coordination and negligence among departments; absence of effective supervision by the rulers. They say this "curse" has continued from past govern-

ments to the present, as lakes and drainage systems were encroached and luxurious buildings were constructed on them. This reduced their capacity, causing floodwaters to overflow onto roads and into houses every monsoon. Because of the lack of a strong underground drainage system and properly designed main roads, people continue to suffer severe losses each rainy season. They are demanding the government take immediate action — especially since Warangal is called the second capital after Hyderabad. They urge strict measures against long-standing encroachments, demolition of illegal constructions, punishment of offenders and construction of robust underground drainage and main roads.

One more TGRTC bus accident!

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KARIMNAGAR

IT hasn't even been a day after the terrible accident of an TGRTC bus with a lorry in Chevella, another accident occurred; this time in Karimnagar. Passengers in the bus were seriously injured after the road accident that took place on the Rajiv Rahadari in Renikunta village of Thimmapur mandal in Karimnagar district on Tuesday morning 4.30 am. The RTC bus (TS21 Z 0116) belonging to Metpally depot coming from Hyderabad and going towards Karimnagar hit a tractor carrying paddy from behind on the outskirts of Renikunta. In this accident, the tractor driver and 15 passengers in the bus were seriously injured. Meanwhile, after receiving information, the LMD police reached the spot and with the help of locals, shifted the injured to Karimnagar Government Hospital for treatment and regulated traffic.



It is learnt that the accident happened as the bus driver was sleepy. The grain bags in the tractor fell on the road due to the accident. Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar expressed shock over the accident. The Minister, who is on



a visit to Manipur, spoke to the Karimnagar District Collector, doctors of the government hospital and asked them to ensure better medical treatment for the injured.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering)	
Name of work with its location	S&T work in connection with provision of thick web switches in DL-BTI section of Delhi Division.
App.cost of the work	Rs. 78,79,421.73/-
Bid Security	Rs. 1,57,600.00/-
Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055.
Date & Time for uploading the tender/closing of the tender	Tender uploading 03.11.2025 / closing date & time- 25.11.2025 up to 15.00 hrs.
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.	See the Northern Railway website www.nreps.gov.in & Notice board at the S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.
Tender No. : 558-Sig-16-M-TENDER-1465 Dated : 03.11.2025	
SERVING CUSTOMER WITH A SMILE 3416/2025	

Mandhana concedes top spot to Wolvaardt

DUBAI

SMRITI Mandhana dropped a rung to second but Jemimah Rodrigues scaled nine positions to be 10th in the latest ICC women's ODI rankings after India's title-winning World Cup performance.

South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt has moved up two positions to the No.1 spot in the latest list. Wolvaardt overtook Mandhana after her incredible effort of striking hundreds in both the semifinal and final.

The two innings took Wolvaardt to 571 runs, the most in a single edition of the tournament, and the run was rewarded with a career-high rating of 814.

Mandhana, who held the top spot for the entirety of the World Cup, was named



in the Team of the Tournament alongside Wolvaardt. India defeated South Africa by 52 runs in the final on Sunday.

Rodrigues' match-winning hundred against the Australians in the semifinal in Navi Mumbai meant the 25-year-old entered the top-10, while Phoebe Litchfield made a 13-spot jump to a career-high 13th (637) thanks to a century in the same match.

Australia's Ellyse Perry moved to seventh, sharing the spot with New Zealand's Sophie Devine, who has announced her retirement from the format.

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur also rose four spots to 14th in the updated

list.

There was marked movement in the bowling rankings, with South Africa's Marizanne Kapp now the closest to knock Sophie Ecclestone off the top spot thanks to her 5/20 against England in the other World Cup semifinal.

Kapp moved two spots to a rating of 712, with Australians Annabel Sutherland (sixth) and Kim Garth (seventh) making one-spot moves in the top 10.

World Cup's Player of the Tournament Deepti Sharma cemented her credentials with seven wickets and 82 runs across the semifinal and final at the tournament. As a result, she gained a spot to fourth in the all-rounder rankings, overtaking Sutherland (388)

Smriti, Jemimah, Deepti named in ICC Women's WC team of tournament

DUBAI

THE title-winning Indian stars expectedly dominated the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Team of the Tournament with Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues and Deepti Sharma making it to the line-up announced on Tuesday.

The Indian trio played a stellar role in the team's maiden World Cup triumph. India defeated South Africa by 52 runs in the summit clash on Sunday.

Runners-up South Africa also have three of their players in the side, with skipper Laura Wolvaardt chosen to captain the Team of the Tournament following her sensational efforts with the bat where she amassed a whopping 571 runs at an average of 71.37 to break the record for the most runs at any single edition of the Women's World Cup.

Annabel Sutherland, Ash Gardner and leg-spinner Alana King feature from the Australian team that reached the semi-finals, with standout wicket-keeper Sidra Nawaz of Pakistan the only player named in a side to miss out on the final four,



stated an ICC press release.

England's Sophie Ecclestone was also included following some strong efforts that helped her side reach the semi-finals, while compatriot Nat Sciver-Brunt is named as the 12th player.

Opening batter Mandhana scored 434 runs at an average of 54.25 with one century and two fifties.

A model of consistency at the top of the batting order for India, Mandhana finished as the second-leading run-scorer at the tournament behind only Wolvaardt.

Her 109 against New Zealand in Navi Mumbai

New Zealand was of vital importance in India's run to the semifinals, while Rodrigues' knock of 24 helped alongside Shafali Verma's fireworks in the final against South Africa.

With the bat, Deepti scored 215 runs at an average of 30.71 with one century and three fifties. She also took 22 wickets at an average of 20.40.

Named Player of the Tournament, Deepti was instrumental in India's title-winning campaign. She finished as the leading wicket-taker and scored crucial runs across the tournament. (PTI)

ICC Women's World Cup Team of Tournament:

1. Smriti Mandhana (India); 2. Laura Wolvaardt (c) (South Africa); 3. Jemimah Rodrigues (India); 4. Marizanne Kapp (South Africa); 5. Ash Gardner (Australia); 6. Deepti Sharma (India); 7. Annabel Sutherland (Australia); 8. Nadine de Klerk (South Africa); 9. Sidra Nawaz (wk) (Pakistan); 10. Alana King (Australia); 11. Sophie Ecclestone (England); 12th Player: Nat Sciver-Brunt (England).

TELANGANA SPORTS MINISTER UNVEILS TPL POSTER

League will feature 600 teams from two Telugu states; Tournament prize money is Rs 80 lakh

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

Telangana Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari unveiled the poster of the Telugu Premier League (TPL) cricket competitions. Representatives of Zuper LED, which organizes TPL, formally met the minister at his office and explained the features of the league.

Srihari said that sports have the power to make the youth not addicted to drugs and make them disciplined athletes and responsible citizens. Youth should opt any one sport and try to excel in that event, he added. He wished the success of this TPL, which is being organized to take the 'Say No to' drug campaign into the youth.

Later, O. Ramesh, Director of the league's organizing company, Zuper LED, said that this league is not just organized for entertainment but to raise awareness about healthy life fitness and sports in the society. He said that Zuper LED is organising these compe-



Minister SriHari unveils TPL poster

titions with its CSR funds. These competitions are being organised with 600 teams, at nearly 60 venues in the two Telugu states, he added. Four teams from Telangana and four from Andhra Pradesh will be selected for the

knockout competitions.

He said that their idea is also to provide an opportunity to rural cricketers to play cricket on big platform. The total prize money of this tournament is Rs. 80 lakhs, he added.

Asia Cup row: Surya fined 30%, Rauf banned for two matches

DUBAI

INDIA'S T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav and Pakistan pacer Haris Rauf were on Tuesday found guilty of breaching the ICC code of conduct at the Asia Cup in the UAE and were slapped with sanctions for their actions.

Rauf copped two financial penalties of 30 percent each for two separate incidents during matches against India,

leading to a two-match ban in the upcoming ODI series against South Africa on November 4 and 6.

India skipper Suryakumar has also been fined 30 percent of his match fees for "bringing the game to disrepute" for his comments supporting the Indian armed forces and showing solidarity with victims of Pahalgalam terror attack.

In the September 14 game, Rauf was found guilty of the same offence and

fined 30 per cent of his match fee, resulting in two demerit points.

Then, in another game against India, Rauf was again found guilty of a breach of Article 2.21 and was fined 30 per cent of his match fee and received two additional demerit points.

Jasprit Bumrah copped one demerit point while Arshdeep Singh and Sahibzada Farhan were also let off without any penalty. (PTI)

'Crimes against women 'skyrocketed uncontrollably' under BJP-JD(U) in Bihar'

NEW DELHI

THE Congress on Tuesday alleged that crimes against women have "skyrocketed uncontrollably" under the BJP-JD(U) rule in Bihar and posed questions to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the alleged "neglect" of women's safety, health, and dignity in the last 20 years.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge slammed the BJP-JD(U) over the security situation for women and asserted that the Mahagath-

bandhan is fully committed to their empowerment and economic upliftment.

Kharge said the Congress' promises are not just to garner votes during elections or right before them, but rather, they are the same promises that the party will fulfil.

Congress general secretary in charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh, alleged that for the 20 years under the BJP-JD(U) government in Bihar, there has been a "consistent neglect" of women's safety, health, and

dignity. The prime minister didn't remember to check on Bihar's women for an entire decade, and now, at election time, a sham digital outreach is being staged for votes, Ramesh said.

In a post in Hindi on X, Kharge said, "The BJP-JDU government in Bihar has been in power for 20 years. If even today, Modi ji has to say that in Bihar 'daughters-in-law and daughters are not safe', then this is his self-admission that in 20 years, they have not made Bihar safe!".

He alleged that the situation of women and children in the state is extremely alarming.

Citing data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), Kharge claimed that 70 per cent of children in the state were afflicted with anaemia and 40 per cent were victims of malnutrition. Only 11 per cent of infants receive adequate nutrition, he said.

The Mahagathbandhan is fully committed to the empowerment and economic upliftment of half the popu-

lation, he said, referring to women.

Listing the promises made to women by the Mahagathbandhan, Kharge said they will be given an assistance of Rs 2,500 per month if the opposition alliance comes to power. A monthly pension of Rs 1,500-Rs 3,000 would be given to the elderly, widows, and disabled, while Jeevika Didis will be given official status, he said.

"Our promises are not just to garner votes during elections or right before them,

but rather, they are the same promises that we will fulfil and we have already fulfilled them in Congress-ruled states," he said.

"That's why today we're asking three direct questions: Crimes against women have skyrocketed uncontrollably under the BJP-JD(U) rule: A 336 per cent increase in crimes against women -- compared to before, now 20,222 crimes every year, with a total of 2,80,000 women victimised so far," he said in a post in Hindi on X. (PTI)



Security forces bust Maoist arms factory in Sukma



SUKMA

SECURITY forces have destroyed a weapons manufacturing facility of Maoists located in dense forest in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district, and seized 17 firearms along with a huge cache of equipment used in production, a police official said on Tuesday.

A team of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) on Monday recovered 17 weapons, including a Barrel Grenade Rocket Launcher (BGL), six Barrel Grenade Launchers (BGLs),

six 12-bore rifles, three single-shot rifles, and one country-made pistol after busting the makeshift factory in the Gomguda forest area.

The seizure includes two 12-bore rifle barrels, 2 single-shot rifle barrels, one large hand-drum machine, 17 bench vises, three BGL barrels, two BGL body covers, electric wire, iron pipes, and other materials used in manufacturing firearms.

"The objective of operations by security forces is not only to dismantle Naxal infra-

structure but to establish lasting peace and development in the region. Those who wish to give up arms and return to society will be assured of a dignified life under the government's rehabilitation policy," said Sukma Superintendent of Police Kiran Chavan.

The action comes amid a string of surrenders by Naxalites in Chhattisgarh in response to widespread operations launched by security forces to eliminate the Naxal menace by March 31, 2026. (PTI)

Couple in live-in relationship jumps to death in Palghar

PALGHAR: A couple in a live-in relationship allegedly committed suicide by jumping from the fourth floor of a residential building in Maharashtra's Palghar district, police said on Tuesday.

The incident occurred in the Hanuman Nagar area of Nallasopara East in the wee hours of Sunday, an official said.

As per preliminary inquiries, the victims, Deepak Jogadia and Kanchan Solanki, both aged 35, were in a live-in relationship, and had been residing in the building for some time, he said.

The official said residents of the building alerted authorities after hearing a loud thud and discovering the couple lying in a pool of blood near the premises.

No suicide note was found at the spot, and the exact reason for the extreme step remains unclear, he said.

The duo was rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared them dead, the official said, adding that an accidental death report has been registered. (PTI)

EC must act on voters' list irregularities: Maha Congress

MUMBAI

THE Maharashtra Congress on Tuesday said the Election Commission should take immediate cognisance of the demand of the Opposition parties to rectify "irregularities" in the voters' lists ahead of the local body polls, citing that leaders from the ruling dispensation had made similar claims.

Maharashtra Congress general secretary Sachin Sawant said political parties are an essential part of democracy, and the electoral process is incomplete without them.

"When all Opposition parties are together demanding a clean and error-free electoral roll, it is the EC's duty to act. Now, even ruling party leaders, including the chief minister and state BJP president Chandrashekhar Bawankule, have said that the voters' list must be cancelled. If the ruling party is saying the same thing, what's the problem now?" Sawant wrote in a post on X. Maharashtra minister Ashish Shelar on Monday accused Shiv Sena (UBT) chief



Uddhav Thackeray and MNS head Raj Thackeray of engaging in appeasement politics and conspiring to pressure government staff ahead of the local body polls in the state.

He charged that the Opposition was attempting to create a "fake narrative," with its claim about the voters' list, alleging that multiple entries of people from the Muslim community and other minority groups were ignored, but they (the Thackeray cousins) only talk about Hindus, Dalits, and Marathi people.

Referring to BJP leaders' statements, Sawant said,

"Earlier, Anurag Thakur had exposed the BJP, and now Ashish Shelar has admitted to vote theft, again exposing his own party. Will the chief electoral officer of Maharashtra now ask Shelar to file an affidavit?"

He further claimed that the BJP is being branded as "vote thieves" across the country.

"The so-called superpower that attacks the Constitution is being challenged and exposed by none other than Rahul Gandhi. Lies cannot sustain for long — BJP leaders should rather worry about their future," Sawant said in his post.

'No progress in Munde murder probe, woman doctor's suicide; will meet Shah'

MUMBAI: NCP (SP) leader Supriya Sule on Tuesday expressed concern over the lack of progress in the investigations into the murder of Mahadev Munde in Beed and the suicide of a woman doctor in Phaltan, and said she would meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah to seek justice for the grieving families.

Sule said that despite the formation of a special investigation team (SIT) three months ago to probe Munde's murder in Beed, there has been "no visible progress".

Mahadev Munde, a resident of Parli, was abducted on October 19, 2023, and was found dead three days later.

"The police have not shared any details of the investigation with the victim's family. Even after repeatedly approaching the government, the Munde family continues to be denied justice," she said in a statement.

The Baramati MP further said those in power were making contradictory statements regarding the suicide of a 28-year-old woman doctor in Phaltan town of Satara district.

