

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

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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

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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.



The high court noted that the offence alleged was not an isolated transaction but a well-planned, profit-driven syndicate in child trafficking and the investigation revealed a well-knit chain linking suppliers, couriers and recipients across multiple states.

Justice Ajay Digpaul set aside a trial court’s order granting bail to accused Pooja and Binla in the case, saying the sessions court did not adequately consider the nature and gravity of the of-

fence and the larger implications on public interest and administration of justice.

The high court said the sessions court did not consider the modus in which the offence was committed and the possibility to influence

the witnesses and the likelihood of tampering with the evidence.

“It is also significant that both respondents (Pooja and Binla) are alleged to be repeat offenders and habitual participants in this il-

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 Binla 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.

Binla’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

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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

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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



gun got jammed. “After firing two rounds, their gun got jammed. The accused threw extortion paper in front of the house and fled,” said the police officer, adding that an FIR has been registered and further investigation into the matter is underway.

The officer also said that they have obtained the CCTV footage of the incident and are scanning the entire area to track and identify the accused.

“We have already formed

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

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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

gravely 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’

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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.

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