

COUGH SYRUP DEATHS

Taken 'without medical advice': Rajasthan Govt in Assembly

- If medicines are given on the prescription of doctors and deaths occur, then the responsibility lies with the doctor and the govt
- But if someone brings medicines from outside and deaths occur, neither the doctor nor the government is responsible: Minister

HANS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR

THE Rajasthan government on Tuesday said the cough syrup-linked deaths in the state were caused due to "overdosing and comorbidity", as the medicine was taken in the absence

of medical advice. It was responding to the query raised by the opposition in the Rajasthan Assembly during the Question Hour.

The issue of deaths in man-animal conflicts was also raised, after which the state government announced a proposal to



double the compensation for deaths caused by wild animal attacks.

Replying to a question by BJP MLA Jaswant Gurjar from Bari (Dholpur), Forest

Minister Sanjay Sharma said the government has decided to increase the compensation for deaths caused by wild animal attacks from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh. He informed the House that the process of amending the relevant rules to implement the enhanced compensation is currently underway.

Meanwhile, the Congress sought to corner the government over lower expenditure under the free medicine scheme, despite an increase in OPD footfall,

and over reports of deaths of children allegedly linked to the consumption of a government-supplied cough syrup in October 2025.

Congress MLA Harimohan Sharma and Leader of Opposition Tikaram Jyoti raised questions on these issues. Responding to them, Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khimsar said the syrup in question was not taken on the advice of government doctors.

"If medicines are given on the prescription of doctors and deaths occur, then

the responsibility lies with the doctor and the government. But if someone brings medicines from outside and deaths occur, neither the doctor nor the government is responsible," the minister said. Khimsar said that not many deaths had occurred in the cough syrup case, adding that "two to four or five deaths were reported". He said parents had administered cough syrup doses to children on their own, without medical advice.

The health minister

said cough syrup contains chemicals such as codeine, and the deaths occurred due to "overdosing and comorbidity". He also said the same cough syrup has been in use since 2014, including during the previous Congress government's tenure. Reacting to the reply, Jyoti said the company manufacturing the syrup had been blacklisted in several places and questioned whether the quality of the medicine may have deteriorated over time. The House later continued with its scheduled business.

Yogi: UP transformed into investment destination with zero-tolerance policy

- 'You can imagine UP between 2012 and 2017. There were more than 900 riots during that period. There was hardly any city that did not witness curfews'
- Leaving the land where one has spent childhood is extremely painful, but they were left with no option as personal security was also at stake

HANS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW

CHIEF Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said Uttar Pradesh has shed its image as a hub of riots, extortion and lawlessness to become a safe and attractive destination for investment. The chief minister attributed this shift to the state government's zero-tolerance policy towards crime.

"Today, Uttar Pradesh has established itself as one of the best destinations for investment. UP is no longer a 'Bimar' state, it is a break-

through state now," Adityanath said, adding that there is "zero political interference". Recalling the situation before 2017, Adityanath said, "You can imagine Uttar Pradesh between 2012 and 2017. There were more than 900 riots during that period. There was hardly any city that did not witness curfews."

He alleged that during those years, traders, doctors and entrepreneurs were forced to pay "goonda tax" and the youth had no future to plan for due to the absence of a clear government policy.



The chief minister was addressing a gathering at the first Pharma Conclave in the state capital. "The result was that even those who were already running businesses started migrating out of the state," the chief minister said. "Leaving the land where one has spent childhood is extremely painful, but they were left with no option as personal security was also at stake." Adityanath noted that restoring public

confidence after 2017 was as big a challenge as tackling crime.

He defended the police's use of force against criminals, stating, "Many people ask why the police fire bullets. If the police do not fire, should they take bullets instead? Both cannot happen simultaneously."

"If a criminal has the freedom to fire, the police have been given pistols for the same reason to confront him.

The police are trained to make criminals understand the law in the language they understand," he added. Highlighting the state's industrial potential, Adityanath said Uttar Pradesh is the largest consumer market for the pharmaceutical sector. He said the Uttar Pradesh's growth is built on three key "S" -- safety, stability and speed -- along with trust, transformation and timely delivery. Addressing the conclave, Adityanath said the state has vast resources and immense potential, including four national-level laboratories and several centres already in place to support the pharma ecosystem. "Uttar Pradesh is not only the biggest consumer market for the pharma sector, but the largest workforce for the industry can also be sourced from within the state," he said.

2 cops suspended for taking Rs 30,000 bribe from farmer

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BAHRAICH

TWO police personnel, including a sub-inspector, were suspended for allegedly taking a bribe of Rs 30,000 from a farmer here, officials said on Tuesday. The action was taken on the directions of Devipatan Range Inspector General of Police Amit Pathak.

The complainant, Nizamuddin, a resident of Matehi Kala village, approached the anti-corruption cell at the IG office. According to a police statement, Nizamuddin was transporting soil in a handcart on January 7 to fill a pit at his home for his daughter's upcoming wedding. Sub-inspector Amresh Giri and head constable Shailendra Yadav, both posted at the Motipur police station, allegedly intercepted the farmer.



Nizamuddin claimed that the policemen threatened to frame him in an illegal mining case and demanded money to let him go. The policemen allegedly took Rs 30,000 from him, the statement said. An inquiry conducted by the anti-corruption unit and the local circle officer found the allegations to be true, following which both the policemen were suspended, it added.

The police statement noted that confidential inquiries into corruption complaints have led to action against 26 police personnel in the Devipatan Range in the past 18 days. This includes 18 in Bahraich, three in Shravasti and two in Gonda. Three sub-inspectors have also been transferred out of the range and further action has been initiated against them, it said.

Man promises to marry minor girl; abducts, rapes her

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BALLIA

POLICE in Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh arrested a 42-year-old man for allegedly abducting and raping a minor girl for approximately six months, officials said on Tuesday. According to the police, the Class 9 student from Ballia came into contact with the man from Patna district in Bihar through a mobile phone. Later, the man allegedly abducted the girl and took her to Valsad in Gujarat, where he raped her repeatedly.

The accused, identified as Rakesh Verma, was arrested on Monday and sent to judicial custody, a police official said. On the morning of July 30, 2025, the student had an argument with her mother, who scolded and slapped her after discovering that she had been communicating with the man on her mobile phone. Following the incident, the girl left home without informing her family, who later conducted an extensive search but could not locate her, the police said.

Subsequently, based on a complaint filed by



the girl's mother, a case was registered against an unknown person under Section 137(2) of the BNS (kidnapping). Baira police station SHO Vipin Singh said that the police, during their investigation, rescued the minor girl from Valsad on Sunday.

Referring to the information gathered during the girl's preliminary questioning, the SHO said that she had stated she met Rakesh through her mobile phone. After being scolded by her mother, Rakesh allegedly lured her into a relationship and then abducted her with a promise of marriage. He subsequently took her to Valsad, where he repeatedly raped her. Based on the girl's statement, Section 65(1) (punishment for rape) of the BNS and the provision of the POCSO Act have been added to the case, the SHO informed.

PROHIBITORY ORDERS IMPOSED IN BAREILLY AMID FESTIVAL SEASON

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BAREILLY

THE Bareilly district administration has imposed prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the BNSS with immediate effect in view of upcoming festivals, board examinations and intelligence inputs warning of possible attempts to disturb law and order, officials said on Tuesday.

District Magistrate (DM) Avinash Singh said the decision was taken keeping in mind the violence that erupted in Bareilly on September 26 last year and tensions following a recent controversy over



new University Grants Commission (UGC) guidelines. He said intelligence agencies have cautioned that "some anti-social elements may try to disrupt communal harmony

in the sensitive district. Bareilly is set to witness major religious occasions such as Mahashivratri, Holi and Shab-e-Barat in the coming days, besides the conduct of

board examinations, the DM said, adding that maintaining peace and public order is the administration's top priority. Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), earlier Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), prohibits the assembly of five or more persons at any public place.

Any organisation or group wishing to hold a protest, demonstration or procession will have to obtain prior written permission from the competent authority.

Government officials on duty have been exempted from the restrictions.

India has established itself as global healthcare hub: Nadda

HANS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW

UNION Health and Family Welfare Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda on Tuesday said India has established itself as a global healthcare hub, supplying nearly 30 per cent of the world's generic medicines and around 60 per cent of global vaccine demand. Addressing the Uttar Pradesh Pharma Conclave-1 online, in the presence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak and several investors, Nadda said Indian pharmaceutical products are exported to more than 200 countries. "India has

established itself as a global healthcare hub, and it is supplying 30 per cent of the world's generic medicines and 60 per cent of global vaccine demand. "Indian pharmaceutical products are exported to more than 200 countries across the world.

This event is being held at a time when India is standing at a crucial and decisive phase of its development journey," the minister said. He said that over the past decade, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has moved beyond a consumption-based economy towards a production- and innovation-driven economy. Nadda said that due to a strong digital infrastructure



and wide-ranging governance reforms, India has emerged as a reliable and responsible global partner.

Initiatives such as Make in India, Aatmanirbhar Bharat, Digital India and Viksit Bharat have given a new direction to manufacturing, innovation and human development, he added. Referring to India's G20 presidency and vaccine diplomacy, the minister said these have clearly demonstrated the country's global responsibility and capabilities, with the most visible impact seen in the healthcare and pharmaceutical sectors.



'Ind-Pak ties covered like war': Omar slams politicisation of sports

HANS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU

JAMMU and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that Pakistan's decision to withdraw from the high-profile T20 World Cup match against India was the result of the problematic intersection of sports and politics. Abdullah, a cricket enthusiast, emphasised that merging sports with political issues often leads to adverse outcomes. "We have now completely stopped differentiating between sports and politics.

Time and again, through the media, whenever there is a match between India and Pakistan, it is presented as a war. You never cover it like a normal match," the chief minister told reporters from the Assembly lawns here. Asserting that India's matches with Pakistan are always blown out of proportion, Abdullah said

it was one of the reasons for such controversies to arise.

"When we play against other countries, it does not receive as much attention, but when it's against Pakistan, it is blown out of proportion. That is when such situations arise. It should not happen. Yes, they are participating in this World Cup, but they will not play against us," the chief minister said.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has warned Pakistan of severe repercussions for its selective pullout from the high-profile T20 World Cup contest against India in Colombo on February 15. Pakistan's decision, conveyed through an official government statement, is being seen as a political protest linked to Bangladesh's removal from the tournament after the world body declined its request to shift matches from India to Sri Lanka on security grounds.

Har police says preventive strategy saved 121 youth from organised crime

- One of the biggest challenges today is to guide youths at the crucial juncture where they can either become partners in nation-building or fall into the trap of crime: DGP Ajay Singhal
- 'Timely identification of 121 youths by STF and keeping them away from organised crime through counselling is not merely police action, but a visionary step towards safeguarding society'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH

THE Haryana Police on Tuesday said 121 youths, who were found to be in contact with major criminal gangs in

the state, were saved from the clutches of organised crime due to an effective preventive strategy. Haryana Police's Special Task Force (STF), while launching a decisive offensive against the spread



of organised crime and gangster networks, successfully identified 121 youths across the state and steered them

towards the right path under the comprehensive strategy, they said.

"These youths were found

to be in contact with major criminal gangs of Haryana through various means. This initiative reflects the far-sighted policy of Haryana Police aimed not only at law enforcement but also at ensuring social security," an official statement said.

DGP Ajay Singhal said, "One of the biggest challenges today is to guide youths at the crucial juncture where they can either become partners in nation-building or fall into the trap of crime." He said the timely identification of 121 youths by STF

Haryana and keeping them away from organised crime through counselling is not merely police action, but a visionary step towards safeguarding society. According to Singhal, the fight against gangster culture, violence and glorification of crime is a responsibility shared by police, families and society.

Along with this, the Cyber Police and district-level police units are also actively playing a significant role in similar preventive and corrective activities, he said. Singhal clarified that Haryana

Police's objective is not only to punish criminals but also to save those youths who are on the verge of going astray. During in-depth technical and field-level monitoring by STF, it came to light that these youths were active on social media platforms linked to gangster networks and were showing attraction towards gang activities, the statement said. "The Haryana Police operates a multi-layered, technology-based surveillance system to identify youths who come into contact with or under the in-

fluence of gangsters through social media," it said. It further said the information about youths who could be at risk emerges during interrogation of arrested accused in criminal cases and routine analysis of available digital evidence. Active criminal profiles on social media and the patterns of activities associated with them are also monitored simultaneously to assess which youths are likely to be negatively influenced. "Gangsters and their associates lured youths through greed and temptation.