



# THE Hans India



**At least one out of form batter to be dropped**  
The Indian team management may drop at least one among three out-of-form batters and revisit its one dimensional template of playing too many left-handers in the top-order, indicated head coach Gautam Gambhir's understudies. **P10**

**Life must be protected, not 'pactually' abandoned**  
Whether it is the Constitutional law or criminal law, suicide cannot be accepted under any circumstances. Life is for living. No one has the right to die, but rather a duty to live and let others live. The recent Supreme Court's dismissal of the appeal affirms a crucial. **P6**

**Finance Minister asks banks to refocus on core business**  
Articulating the strategic vision of the Union Budget while sharply calling out mis-selling by banks, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday urged lenders to refocus on their core business and place customers at the centre of financial. **P11**

**Saiyami Kher embraces vulnerability in Vikram Phadnis' upcoming social drama**  
Actress Saiyami Kher is set to surprise audiences with a softer and more emotionally driven performance in filmmaker Vikram Phadnis' upcoming yet-untitled social drama, where she will be seen exploring a more vulnerable side of her acting journey. **P12**

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**RAMZAN TIMINGS**  
IFTAR (Tue) 06:27 PM  
SEHAR (Wed) 05:15 AM

**WINDOWS**  
**First-time Cong MLAs seek Cabinet berths ahead of reshuffle**

BENGALURU: A group of first-time Congress MLAs in Karnataka has written to senior party leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, seeking representation in the state Cabinet during the proposed reshuffle.

In a joint representation addressed to the Congress high command and the state leadership, including Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, the legislators urged that at least five first-time MLAs be inducted as ministers.

"As you are aware, the people of Karnataka have elected 38 members to the legislative assembly from the Indian National Congress for the first time and thereby sent out a clear message that they want to see new young faces in the Legislature," the MLAs said in their letter.

The development came on the day Congress general secretary and Karnataka in charge Randeep Singh Surjewala is in Bengaluru to attend 'MGNREGA Bachao' event.

The MLAs pointed out that when the 34-member ministry was formed under Siddaramaiah's leadership, no first-time MLA was given an opportunity to serve in the Cabinet.

"That being the case, it is justified that the first time MLAs are also accommodated in the cabinet," the letter stated. Describing the move as the "need of the hour", the legislators said young and proactive representatives should be given administrative responsibility.

"It is the need of the hour that young dynamic and proactive first-time MLAs are provided an opportunity to serve as ministers in the cabinet," they said. The legislators urged the party leadership to ensure fair representation in the event of a reshuffle.

"We therefore request you to ensure that at least five first-time MLAs are accommodated as ministers in Karnataka, during the reshuffle," the letter added.

The signatories argued that inducting newcomers into ministerial positions was not unprecedented and noted that in several states, first-time MLAs had been appointed as Chief Ministers or ministers.

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We are protesting against their shameless protest

## India unveils first counter-terrorism policy Prahaar

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

THE government on Monday unveiled the country's first counter-terrorism policy, "Prahaar", setting out a multi-layered strategy based on "zero tolerance", intelligence-led prevention and disruption of extremist violence that aims to deny terrorists, their financiers and supporters access to funds, weapons and safe havens.

The policy unveiled by the home ministry is based

India has since long been affected by sponsored terrorism from across the border, with Jihadi terror outfits as well as their frontal organisations continuing to plan, coordinate, facilitate and execute terror attacks in India. India has been on the target of global terrorist groups such as Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), which have been trying to incite violence in the country through sleeper cells



on seven key pillars to counter the terror threats emanating from India or abroad -- prevention, responses, aggregating internal capacities, human rights and "Rule of Law"-based processes, attenuating the conditions enabling terrorism including radicalisation, aligning and shaping the international

efforts to counter terrorism and recovery and resilience through a whole-of-society approach.

"There has been a history of sporadic instability in the immediate neighbourhood of India, which has often given rise to ungoverned spaces. Besides, a few countries in the region have sometimes used terrorism as an instrument of State policy," the document said, without naming Pakistan. "Notwithstanding this, India does not link terrorism to any specific religion, ethnic-

ity, nationality or civilisation.

"India has since long been affected by sponsored terrorism from across the border, with Jihadi terror outfits as well as their frontal organisations continuing to plan, coordinate, facilitate and execute terror attacks in India. India has been on the target of global terrorist groups such as Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), which have been trying to incite violence in the country through sleeper cells."

India has always denounced terrorism and its use by any actor for achieving any stated or unstated ends unambiguously and unequivocally," it added. Stating that India has consistently stood by the victims of terrorism and has been steadfast in its belief that there can be no justification whatsoever for violence in the world, the document said it is this principled approach that informs New Delhi's policy of "zero tolerance" against terrorism.

## Police busts global drug racket, arrests 5

- 18 lakh psychotropic tablets worth Rs 9 crore in the illicit market seized; the case dates back to Oct 7 last year, when a team of the crime branch acted on specific intelligence and laid a trap in Sarita Vihar



- Abid disclosed that he procured the tablets from Javed, his relative and son-in-law. Khan was arrested on October 30 and during questioning, named Sunil Kumar, owner of Prahlad Logistics in Samalka

United Kingdom and seized over 18 lakh psychotropic tablets worth Rs 9 crore in the illicit market, an officer said on Monday.

Five people have been arrested in this connection with the case, which exposed an organised pharmaceutical drug network that operated through logistics firms, courier services and export consignments to smuggle prohibited medicines abroad.

An FIR was filed and further investigation was initiated, during which the police unravelled the supply chain of the syndicate. Abid disclosed that he procured the tablets from Javed Khan, his relative and son-in-law. Khan was arrested on October 30 and during questioning, named Sunil Kumar, owner of Prahlad Logistics in Samalka, as his source. Sunil Kumar was arrested on November 2, last year and he, in turn, disclosed the name of Vishnu Dutt Sharma as the supplier.

Sharma, who works as an exporter, was also arrested on November 2.

He revealed further links to Vikash Singh alias Ishwar Singh and TC Sedana. Vikash Singh was arrested on November 6. Proceedings are underway to declare another associate, Naushad alias Bablu, a proclaimed offender.

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

THE Delhi Police has dismantled an international drug trafficking syndicate with alleged links to the

### Series of bomb threats

## Security intensified at Delhi Metro stations, prominent sites

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

SECURITY has been tightened at all metro stations and prominent location across Delhi after a series of bomb threats were received via emails, an official said on Monday. Multiple institutions, including the Delhi Secretariat, Delhi Assembly, Red Fort and two schools, received bomb threats emails earlier in the day, which were later declared hoaxes following extensive searches by security agencies.



which some miscreants are issuing bomb threats. Such criminals are using Virtual Private Network (VPN) to send emails to mislead police investigation. But our experts will find out the culprits," a senior police officer said.

The officer further said that after receiving bomb threats, the police beefed up security arrangements at all the im-

portant installations, including Delhi Metro stations.

The emails stated "Delhi banega Khalistan" and warned of blasts at the Delhi Army School, Red Fort and metro stations within the next three days. The messages claimed that explosions would take place at the Army school at 1.11 pm, the Vidhan Sabha at 3.11 pm and the Red Fort at 9.11 am today, officials said. Following the threat specifically mentioning metro services, the Delhi Police stepped up security deployment across all stations of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation network.

## Delhi govt revamps edn website; adds fee review

NEW DELHI: The Delhi government has revamped its education department website and has added a new Fee Review section along with features such as daily attendance tracking, mock tests and question banks to improve transparency and student support. According to the website, the Fee Review tab allows parents to raise complaints related to school fees, track updates and directly email the chairman of the Fee Review Committee. The committee comprises Justice Anil Dev Singh, former Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court, as chairman, chartered accountant J S Kochar, and former additional director of education R K Sharma as members, it showed.

## Booked in POCSO case, Seer says won't resist arrest

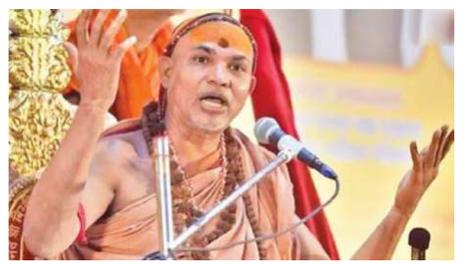
HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VARANASI

DAYS after being booked under the POCSO Act over allegations of sexual abuse of two persons, including a minor, Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati on Monday said he will not oppose his arrest even though "the public is watching everything".

Saraswati said there are three courts, the first is the public, which is following all the developments and will deliver its verdict; the second is his own conscience; and the third is the Supreme Court, which "knows who is right and who is wrong".

"I have received clean chits from all three," he claimed.

An FIR was lodged in



Prayagraj against Saraswati and his disciple Mukundanand Brahmachari on Saturday on charges of sexually abusing two persons, including a minor, over the past year. The action followed an order of the Special Judge (POCSO Act), Prayagraj, which directed that a case be registered against Saraswati on an application moved by Ashu-

tosh Brahmachari Maharaj and others. Responding to the allegations linked to his gurukul, he claimed that the boys in question never studied there nor did they take admission, and that their marksheets indicated they were students of a school in Hardoi. He also dismissed claims about an alleged CD, asking why it was not made public if it existed.

## Super-specialty hospital coming to Karwar in next budget: CM

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
KARWAR

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah gave an assurance to the people of Uttara Kannada on February 22 that a super-specialty hospital would be approved for Karwar in the next state budget.

He made the announcement after inaugurating several development projects, including the new 450-bed multi-specialty hospital block constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 200 crore within the Karwar Institute of Medical Sciences premises, organised jointly by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, and the Public Works Department.

Reflecting on the medical college's inception in 2016 during his earlier tenure as Chief Minister, he said the initiative aimed at establishing a medical college in every district. Previously, locals had to seek advanced care in distant cities like



Udupi, Mangaluru, and Hubballi. "The new hospital marks a major step forward," he said.

Siddaramaiah emphasised the government's commitment to providing super-specialty hospitals in every district for the benefit of the poor. He confirmed plans for a dedicated cancer unit in Karwar and said the priority remains ensuring all essential medical services are available at district headquarters. Karnataka already operates 22 government medical colleges, with upcoming institutions in Kolar, Puttur, and Vijayapura. Addressing opposi-

tion claims that guarantee schemes have left no funds for development, the Chief Minister countered that progress remains steady. He disclosed that Rs. 2,954 crore has been allocated to guarantee schemes in Uttara Kannada so far, with the total statewide spend reaching approximately Rs. 1,18,000 crore.

He accused the previous BJP regime of ignoring Karwar's needs, including leaving bridge projects incomplete. His government, he said, has given top priority to finishing the bridge linking Ulga and Keravadi villages.

## Sarita Yolma makes history on India's oldest toy train

NEW JALPAIGURI

SARITA Yolma knew it was a big day for her as she wore her railway train ticket examiner's uniform.

On her way to New Jalpaiguri railway station from her home in Siliguri, West Bengal, a road distance of half an hour which takes an hour because of the traffic, she could feel the tension. Her husband was beside her to provide

As Sarita entered the railway carriage at 10 am, she became the first woman ticket collector to be posted on the 145-year-old toy train; started in 1881, the train connected the beautiful, small and quiet hill station and was an engineering marvel



support. Retired from the railways a year ago, he was dropping her to the New Jalpaiguri station as she was about to make her way into railway history.

At the station, the famous Darjeeling Toy Train was at the platform. Sarita Yolma was welcomed by the train staff. Her husband introduced them because the personnel had worked with him in the past on the same sector in the

engineering department.

As Sarita entered the railway carriage at 10 am, she became the first woman ticket collector to be posted on the 145-year-old toy train.

"I was nervous and excited. I was responsible for so many passengers on a historic route," says Sarita Yolma who joined the Indian Railways in the early 1990s. She waved from the train door as the train pulled out slowly and

then took out her tablet to check the passengers' tickets.

The Darjeeling Toy Train has UNESCO World Heritage status. The two-carriage train runs from New Jalpaiguri to Darjeeling and back, covering a distance of around 88 kms in about 6-and-a-half hours.

Started in 1881, the train connected the beautiful, small and quiet hill station and was an engineering marvel.