



# 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 understatements. **P6**

**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. **P4**

**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. **P7**

**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. **P8**

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

**WINDOWS**

**Taxi operators to protest at Jantar Mantar on Feb 28**

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Taxi and Tourist Transport Association on Monday flagged issues ranging from alleged regulatory gaps to rising compliance costs, and announced a peaceful protest at Jantar Mantar on February 28. According to a statement released by the association, they are seeking government intervention to address what they call long-pending problems of the transport sector. Association President Sanjay Samrat said, transporters and drivers across Delhi and its neighbouring states -- Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and Punjab -- were facing increasing difficulties due to policy and enforcement-related issues.

**Four arrested for beating U'khand education director**

DEHRADUN: Police on Monday arrested four people for allegedly assaulting Uttarakhand Director of Elementary Education Ajay Nautiyal and vandalising his office in Dehradun. The incident allegedly took place in the presence of BJP MLA Umesh Sharma Kau. According to the police, the arrests were made based on eyewitness accounts and video footage of the incident that occurred on Saturday. The arrested accused have been identified as Lakshman Navani, Rakesh Thapliyal, Akshay Rana and Arvind Pundir, alias Kalli, who is a history-sheeter.

**Andhra Police arrests Bihar IG**

PATNA: An IG rank officer in Bihar was on Monday arrested by Andhra Pradesh Police in connection with a five-year-old case of alleged custodial torture of a senior Telugu Desam Party leader. Currently posted as the IG, Fire and Homeguards, Sunil Kumar Naik is a 2005 batch IPS officer, who had earlier been in Andhra Pradesh a few years ago on an inter-cadre deputation, was picked up from his official residence here.

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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, attenuat-

ing 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.

"The case dates back to October 7 last year, when a team of the crime branch acted on specific intelligence and laid a trap in Sarita Vihar. Around 6.30 pm, the team apprehended Mohammad Abid (50) and recovered 54,000 Tramadol Hydrochloride tablets, weighing 14.472 kilograms," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) Vikram Singh said in a statement.

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.

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NEW DELHI

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

**Series of bomb threats**

## Security intensified at Metro stations, prominent sites

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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.

"Our cyber teams are trying to trace the IP addresses using



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

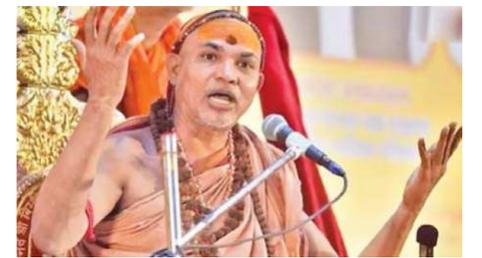
HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VARANASI

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.

## SC expunges MP HC remarks against judge

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday expunged critical observations of the Madhya Pradesh high court against a special trial court judge, saying the "hasty conclusion" accusing the judge of "intellectual dishonesty" was "totally unwarranted".

The special court, dealing with Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act cases, had convicted an accused in a sexual assault case.

The Madhya Pradesh high court had reversed the decision and made critical observations against the special judge that he exhibited a "sign of intellectual dishonesty".

The high court had said that the special judge and the public prosecutor committed a "major lapse" in doing injustice to the accused and putting him behind bars for over three years by overlooking the fact that the victim was a consenting adult.

## Shajahanpur's mosques covered for Holi

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SHAJAHANPUR

THE authorities have covered mosques and mazars along the routes of the traditional 'Juta Maar Holi' procession in Shajahanpur with tarpaulin sheets and announced enhanced security for the annual event, officials said on Monday.

'Juta Mar Holi' is a unique, centuries-old tradition celebrated in Shajahanpur on the day of Holi, when people hurl shoes and sandals at a

person dressed as a British-era 'Laat Sahab' and riding on a buffalo cart as the centrepiece, while playing with colours.

Superintendent of Police Rajesh Dwivedi said, along with the deployment of over 200 magistrates, this year's procession will see around one-and-a-half times more security personnel than last year. Four Additional Superintendents of Police, 13 Circle Officers, 310 sub-inspectors, 1,200 constables and 500 home guards will be deployed, the SSP said.



## 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.