

Unemployed wife not idle, unjust to disregard her labour: HC

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NEW DELHI

DISPELLING the "myth" of an "idle wife", the Delhi High Court has said that a homemaker's labour enables the earning spouse to function effectively, and it was "unjust" to disregard her contributions while deciding maintenance.

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma observed that a wife's non-employment cannot be equated with idleness or deliberate

dependence, and when determining maintenance, the law must recognise not only financial earnings but also the economic value of her contributions to the home and domestic relationship during the subsistence of marriage. "The assumption that a non-earning spouse is 'idle' reflects a misunderstanding of domestic contributions. To describe non-employment as idleness is easy; to recognise the labour involved in sustaining a household is far more

difficult," the court in its judgment passed on February 16. "A homemaker does not sit idle; she performs labour that enables the earning spouse to function effectively. To disregard this contribution while adjudicating claims of maintenance would be unrealistic and unjust.

"This court is, therefore, unable to agree with any view that equates non-employment of a wife with idleness or deliberate dependence on the husband,"

it said. The court made the observations while dealing with the grant of maintenance to an estranged wife under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act. A magisterial court had refused to grant interim maintenance to the woman on the grounds that she was able-bodied and well-educated but had chosen not to seek employment. No relief was granted to the wife by the appellate court. The parties married in 2012, and it was alleged

- The assumption that a non-earning spouse is 'idle' reflects a misunderstanding of domestic contributions. To describe non-employment as idleness is easy; to recognise the labour involved in sustaining a household is far more difficult
- The court made the observations while dealing with the grant of maintenance to an estranged wife under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act. A magisterial court had refused to grant interim maintenance to the woman

that the husband deserted the wife and their minor son in 2020. The husband claimed before the high court that the wife cannot

sit "idle" and claim maintenance when she was capable of earning, and that he was meeting the educational expenses of their minor child.



The court said the capacity to earn and actual earnings were distinct concepts, and as per settled law, mere capacity to earn was not a ground to deny maintenance.

"Women who can and are

willing to work should be encouraged, but the denial of maintenance on the sole ground that she is capable of earning and should not remain dependent upon her husband was a flawed approach," the court said.

Factory owner stabbed to death in Narela; 3 held

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A 28-year-old factory owner was stabbed to death by a group of men following a work-related dispute in Delhi's Narela Industrial Area, an official said on Monday. The incident took place around 8.30 pm on February 20 when Ravi, co-owner of a unit named Chaudhary Enterprises, was leaving his factory on a motorcycle.

Police said both were intercepted by a group of assailants who attacked Ravi with knives, inflicting multiple stab wounds on his neck, shoulder and back. He was rushed to a hospital in Narela, where doctors declared him dead.

"Following a complaint lodged by the brother of the deceased an FIR was registered and a team was formed. During investigation, police found that a day before the murder, Ravi had an altercation with a



labourer, identified as Rahid alias Rahil, over work-related instructions," the officer said. During the argument, Ravi had slapped Rahid, which is believed to have triggered the conspiracy, police said.

Nursing a grudge over the incident, Rahid allegedly conspired with his associates to eliminate the factory owner. "The team identified and tracked the suspects. On February 22, police apprehended three people -- Ritik (18), Abhay (19), and a 17-year-old juvenile," the officer said. Two knives allegedly used in the murder were recovered from the possession of the accused, along with two motorcycles. Police said efforts are underway to apprehend the remaining accused involved in the conspiracy.

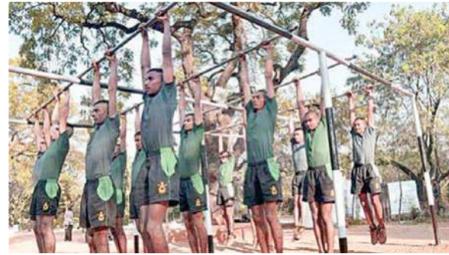
20% posts of male constables in police reserved for ex-Agniveers

At present, there are 42,451 sanctioned posts of male constables (Executive) in the Delhi Police. Constables are appointed through a direct recruitment process, and the age limit for the same is 18 to 25 years

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LIEUTENANT Governor V K Saxena on Monday announced 20 per cent reservation for Ex-agniveers in Delhi Police male constable recruitment with exemption from the physical efficiency test and three years of relaxation in the prescribed upper age limit. The Agniveer scheme was launched in 2022 for the recruitment of Indian youths to serve in the Armed Forces.

"Delhi LG, VK Saxena has approved an amendment in Rule 9 of Delhi Police (Appointment & Recruitment) Rules, 1980, to incorporate



provisions for recruitment of ex-Agniveers as male constable (Executive)," an official statement said.

"Ex-Agniveers will get 20 per cent reservation in recruitment to the post of constables in Delhi Police. They will also get exemption from the Physical Efficiency Test and three years

of relaxation in the prescribed upper age limit," the statement said.

"Further, age relaxation of five years beyond the prescribed upper age limit of 25 years will be given to the candidates of the first batch of the Agniveer scheme," the statement added.

According to officials,

after this amendment, a large number of ex-Agniveers will be eligible for appointment as constables in the Delhi Police. At present, there are 42,451 sanctioned posts of male constables (Executive) in the Delhi Police. Constables are appointed through a direct recruitment process, and the age limit for the same is 18 to 25 years.

The new provisions will ensure that ex-Agniveers have a smoother transition into law enforcement roles, recognising their four-year service in the armed forces. They will get a better chance to serve the society due to their prior training and experience, the statement added.

Bomb threats to Secretariat, Red Fort turn out to be hoax

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NEW DELHI

MULTIPLE institutions, including the Delhi Secretariat, Delhi Assembly, Red Fort and two schools in the national capital, received bomb threats via email on Monday, which were later declared a "hoax", officials said.

An official of the Delhi Fire Services confirmed that Delhi Secretariat, Delhi Army Public School in Dhaura Kuan and Air Force Bal Bharti School on Lodhi Road received bomb threats. The threat emails were also received on the official ID of the Delhi Assembly and its Speaker at 8 am, reportedly from the Khalistan National Army, sources said.

The threatening emails mention "Delhi banega Khalistan" (Delhi will become Khalistan) and read that there will be blasts in Delhi Army School, Red Fort and Metros in the next three days. The emails claimed a blast at the Delhi Army



school at 1.11 pm, Vidhan Sabha at 3.11 pm and Red Fort at 9.11 am, they said. After receiving the threatening emails, the administrations of both schools informed authorities in the morning, a senior police officer said. "As a precautionary measure, the premises were evacuated, and thorough search operations are being carried out.

However, after nothing suspicious was found, it was declared a hoax," the officer said.

An Aam Aadmi Party leader and former MLA, Dilip K Pandey, in a post on X said, "Today, I received a bomb threat on my personal email ID, and since the matter was related to public safety, I have immediately forwarded the email to Delhi Police."

Global meet on technical textiles



The PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), in collaboration with The Technological Institute of Textile & Sciences (TITS), Bhiwani, is set to host the International Conference on Technical Textiles from February 28 to March 1, 2026. Conference will be graced by the Union Minister of Textiles Giriraj Singh

Shirtless protest: Police nabs Youth Cong worker in Gwalior

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DELHI Police has made the fifth arrest in connection with the shirtless protest by the Indian Youth Congress workers at the AI Impact Summit here last week, an official said on Monday. The accused, identified as Jitendra Yadav, was apprehended for Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh, taking the total number of arrests in the case to five, police said.

On Friday, a group of Indian Youth Congress (IYC) workers staged a dra-



matic shirtless protest at an exhibition hall during the AI Impact Summit at the Bharat Mandapam, walking around holding T-shirts with slogans against the government and the India-US trade deal printed on them, before being whisked away by security personnel present at the venue. Delhi Police arrested four IYC

workers on the day of the protest, with officials saying a wider conspiracy angle in the matter was under investigation.

The issue triggered a political slugfest with the BJP calling it a "shameful act to tarnish India's image on the global stage", and the IYC defending it as a "peaceful" demonstration aimed at safeguarding national interests. According to police, the IYC workers on Friday entered the lobby area of Hall No. 5 and raised slogans after removing the T-shirts worn under their shirts.

RCF, Kapurthala champions



The league phase of the 83rd All India Railway Men's Hockey Championship, organized at Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala, concluded successfully. A total of nine railway teams from across the country participated in the championship, and high-quality hockey was witnessed during the league matches. In this prestigious national-level hockey tournament, several Olympians and international-level players showcased their exceptional sporting talent. The final match of the league phase was played today between RCF, Kapurthala and Banaras Locomotive Works, Banaras, in which the RCF team registered a 7-0 victory. Ajay Nandan, General Manager, RCF, visited the venue and watched the match

22 hours on, firefighters continue Op to douse flames

NEW DELHI: A massive fire that broke out in a cloth shop in northeast Delhi's Old Seelampur area on Sunday evening is still raging after 22 hours, with multiple fire tenders deployed to douse the

flames, an official of the Delhi Fire Services said on Monday. No casualty has been reported, and the cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained. According to the DFS, a call regarding the blaze was re-

ceived at 4.22 pm on Sunday after the fire erupted around 4 pm. "The flames quickly spread to adjoining establishments in the congested market, prompting a large-scale firefighting operation,"

the officer said. The fire spread to multiple shops due to the proximity of structures and the presence of combustible materials, the officer added. "More than 50 fire tenders were deployed

during the peak of the operation. At present, around 15 fire tenders are still at the spot to completely extinguish the blaze. If needed be, more vehicles will be rushed to the spot," he said.

Delhi plans system-driven auto-appeal mechanism under RTS Act

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

THE Delhi government on Monday has initiated steps to introduce a system-driven Auto-Appeal Mechanism under the Delhi Right of Citizens to Time-Bound Delivery of Services Act, 2011. A review meeting chaired by IT Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh was held at the Delhi Secretariat to examine statutory amendments and technical upgrades required for the reform.

The proposed initiative aligns with the Cabinet Secretariat's Deregulation Exercise - Phase II, which encourages states to undertake regulatory and procedural reforms to strengthen ease of doing business and ensure efficient time-bound public

Currently, 537 services are notified under the Act and monitored through the e-SLA portal. Under the present system, applicants must manually initiate an appeal if a service is delayed. Accountability is triggered only after prescribed timelines are breached and subsequent inquiries are conducted

service delivery systems. During the meeting, the existing framework of the Delhi RTS Act was reviewed. Currently, 537 services are notified under the Act and monitored through the e-SLA portal. Under the present system, applicants must manually initiate an appeal if a service is delayed. Accountability is triggered only after prescribed timelines are breached and subsequent

inquiries are conducted. The proposed reform seeks to automate this process. Once the prescribed service timeline, or Service Level Agreement (SLA), expires, the system would automatically file an appeal without requiring any action from the applicant. The mechanism would also enable structured and time-bound escalation to higher authorities, supported by



real-time dashboards and transparent monitoring tools.

The Haryana Right to Service framework, particularly its Auto-Appeal System, was discussed as a reference model. Haryana's system provides automatic escalation, clearly defined penalty provisions and continuous digital oversight until resolution. Officials deliberated

on adapting similar features within Delhi's statutory and administrative structure.

The minister directed the department to conduct a comprehensive study of best practices adopted by other states before finalising the framework, with the aim of ensuring that Delhi's model is legally sound, technologically advanced and administratively effective.

PROTEST AGAINST VC TURNS VIOLENT IN JNU

Student groups trade barbs, authorities vow crackdown; ABVP accuses Left groups of instigating violence after late-night clash at JNU

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

SEVERAL students were injured in a late-night clash between two student groups at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, with the Left groups and the ABVP accusing each other of unleashing the violence, and authorities vowing to crack down on any unruly behaviour on campus. Tensions flared on the campus of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) after a protest against the vice-chancellor turned violent around 1.30 am on Monday.

The Left-backed Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) had called for an equality march 'Samta Juloos' towards the East Gate on Sunday night, demanding the resignation of Vice Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit and the revocation of a rustication order.

While the protesters alleged that the administration did not engage with them and instead allowed the ABVP members to confront them, the Right-wing student body blamed the Left groups for instigating the violence.

Pandit recently triggered a row after she said



in an interview that communities "cannot progress by being permanently a victim or playing the victim card", with the JNUSU terming the remarks "casteist" and "insensitive" to marginalised communities. Videos shared by the rival student bodies purportedly showed masked people hurling stones and roaming with sticks on the campus. Sharing a video showing a few people hurling stones on the campus, Left-affiliated student groups alleged that ABVP members started stone pelting when they gathered for a protest. The ABVP also shared videos showing masked people walking inside the campus before the violence broke out.

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