

AI Summit protest

Court sends IYC president Chib to 4-day police custody

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NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday sent Indian Youth Congress (IYC) president Uday Bhanu Chib to four days of police custody in connection with the shirtless protest at the India AI Impact Summit at Bharat Mandapam on February 20.

Judicial Magistrate Ravi allowed four days of custody to the police to question Chib, after the investigating officer

(IO) sought seven days of custodial interrogation. "The application of the IO is partly allowed.

The accused is remanded to police custody for four days commencing from today till February 28 (inclusive). On expiry of the said period, the IO shall produce the accused before the concerned court or the concerned duty magistrate, along with a detailed remand report," the court said. It underlined that during the

custody, the IO had to abide by all constitutional and statutory safeguards, including those relating to medical examination, maintenance of the case diary and production of the accused before the court within the stipulated time.

The court also "expressly" recorded Chib's right to meet his counsel during interrogation according to Section 38 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), but clarified that such a

meeting could not hamper the legitimate needs of investigation.

The provision says, "When any person is arrested and interrogated by the police, he shall be entitled to meet an advocate of his choice during interrogation, though not throughout interrogation."

The magistrate said that the advocate's presence would be permitted at such intervals as reasonably fixed by the IO, but not throughout the interrogation and

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not in a manner that directly interfered with questioning. Besides, the presence and permission had to remain consistent with the statutory scheme and judicial pronouncements, he said. "Nothing stated in this or-

der shall be construed as an expression on the merits of the case or as a final determination of the applicability of any specific penal provision, including Section 197(1)(d) BNS (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national



integration) which shall be considered at the appropriate

stage on the basis of evidence collected," the court said.

Man engages minor sons to lift valuables from foreigners

The case came to light after an e-FIR was registered at Jama Masjid police station on January 15 on the complaint of a citizen of Uzbekistan, who had come to India for his minor daughter's cancer surgery in Gurugram. According to the complainant, he was carrying USD 7,200 in a sling bag during a visit to the Jama Masjid market with his family for sightseeing and shopping. The cash was stolen amid the crowd

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NEW DELHI

A man allegedly engaged his two sons, 13 and 15 years of age, to pick-pocket foreign tourist in the crowded Jama Masjid market, keeping the stolen goods in his possession to avoid suspicion, an official said on Tuesday. According to police, the accused would position his children in crowded marketplaces to identify and discreetly remove cash and valuables from bags of foreign tourists and shoppers.

The stolen property would then be handed over to the father, who retained



possession to protect the minors while distancing himself from the thefts, police said. "The case came to light after an e-FIR was registered at Jama Masjid police station on January 15 on the complaint of a citizen of Uzbekistan, who

had come to India for his minor daughter's cancer surgery in Gurugram," the officer said.

According to the complainant, he was carrying USD 7,200 in a sling bag during a visit to the Jama Masjid market with his

family for sightseeing and shopping. The cash was stolen amid the crowd. "A team was formed which analysed CCTV footage from multiple cameras installed in and around the market. Two juveniles -- siblings aged 13 and 15 years, residents of New Seelampur -- were identified and apprehended," the officer said. During investigation, police found that they were acting at the behest of their father, who was later arrested. Police said USD 2,500 and the complainant's ATM card were recovered from the accused father, while USD 4,000 was recovered from his residence.

AAP MP alleges sand mining in Pb

BJP demands time-bound CBI probe

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

THE Bharatiya Janata Party demanded a time-bound Central Bureau of Investigation probe into alleged irregularities in sand mining in Punjab, citing remarks made by Aam Aadmi Party Member of Parliament Kang Malvinder.

Addressing the media, BJP National Spokesperson R.P. Singh claimed that concerns raised by the ruling party's own MP had exposed what he described as a large-scale illegal sand mining racket operating under the Punjab government.

He said that when a sitting MP from the ruling party questions the functioning of the government, it can no longer be dismissed as an opposition allegation but must be treated as a serious internal charge.

Singh referred to official figures to highlight what he termed a major gap between promises and actual revenue



collections. According to him, Punjab's average annual revenue from sand mining is around ₹288 crore, whereas the AAP had, prior to the Assembly elections, projected that the state could generate ₹20,000 crore annually from the sector. He described the difference as "staggering" and said the numbers did not add up.

He further argued that

such projections had been presented to voters as concrete financial commitments rather than political slogans. Questioning the shortfall, Singh asked where the promised ₹20,000 crore had gone and whether the gap over four years—running into tens of thousands of crores—was linked to systemic corruption or illegal mining allegedly operating under political protection.



Man shot dead at wedding function; cop among 3 held

NEW DELHI: A Delhi Police head constable and two others were arrested for allegedly shooting dead a 30-year-old man following a dispute at a wedding function in north Delhi's Wazirabad area, an official said on Monday. The accused head constable, identified as Parvesh, was posted with the Traffic Unit in the northeast Circle at Bhajanpura and had joined the force in 2008, he said.

Information was received at Wazirabad police station that a man with a gunshot injury had been admitted to the Trauma Centre in Timarpur, where he was declared dead. Upon reaching the hospital, the officer found that the injured, identified as Ashish, a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Baghat district, had been brought there by his younger brother, Anuj. The doctors declared Ashish dead, police said.

In his statement to police, Anuj said he, along with his brother and other acquaintances, had come to attend the wedding of a neighbour in Wazirabad. Ashish was working as a Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) in the Enforcement Department, he said.

Anuj alleged that Parvesh, who is also from their native village, attended the function along with his brother Sandeep and brothers-in-law, Vipin and Vikash.



group of three. "We will get four gharials to our existing fleet of three to increase our gharial numbers for visitors," he added.

Fight over cricket leaves teen dead

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NEW DELHI

A cricket fight turned fatal in west Delhi's Tilak Nagar area with the death of a 15-year-old boy in a scuffle with three juveniles, police said on Tuesday. A verbal fight broke out on Monday between a 12-year-old boy and the 15-year-old victim over a game of cricket in a local park. "The argument soon escalated into a physical fight between the two.

After the scuffle, the 12-year-old returned home and narrated the incident



and family members, where he was declared dead. "We have registered an FIR in connection with the incident at Tilak Nagar Police Station and all three juveniles have been apprehended. Further legal proceedings are underway in accordance with provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act," the officer said.

The victim had three brothers. His father works as a tea vendor in the locality. Later that day, the boy's family members went to the Tilak Nagar Police Station and demanded action against the accused.

Over 1,000 doc posts vacant; 480 posts referred to JKPS

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JAMMU

MORE than 1,000 posts of doctors are currently vacant across Jammu and Kashmir, according to figures shared by the Health and Medical Education Department. Kashmir division accounts for 797 of these vacancies -- comprising 24 senior consultants, 253 consultants, 458 medical officers and 62 dental surgeons -- while Jammu division has 288 vacant consultant posts as on February 2026. "The districts of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are not facing

an acute shortage of specialists. In order to overcome shortage of doctors in peripheral and remote areas, the government has recently referred 480 posts of medical officers to the J-K Public Service Commission for selection of suitable candidate," the medical and health department said.

It said the department is monitoring issues related to the referral of direct recruitment vacancies as well as the filling up of promotion-quota posts on a priority basis, and necessary steps for filling up these vacancies have been taken from time to time.

Animal swap: Zoo to get tiger, send white tigress to Patna

SHRUTI BHARDWAJ
NEW DELHI

THE National Zoological Park (NZP) will receive a tiger from Patna Zoo, and will send a white tigress along with several other species under an animal exchange scheme aimed at promoting breeding, an

official said. Delhi Zoo Director Sanjeet Kumar (IFS) told PTI that the exchange has been designed to address both breeding requirements and the need to diversify species within the zoo. He said the zoo will receive four gharials, four grey wolves two males and two females - and two

barn owls from Patna Zoo in March. In return, the zoo will send a group of animals that includes Sangai deer (also known as Manipur deer), a tigress, painted storks, white pelicans, and black bucks.

Explaining the rationale behind the exchange, Kumar said the zoo currently

has only one female wolf, which limits the scope for a sustainable breeding programme. "The main objective of this exchange is to develop a healthy breeding environment and also to add more species to our collection," he said. Kumar said that NZP currently houses 13 tigers

and cubs. Of these, seven are Royal Bengal tigers, and six are white tigers. He said the number of female tigers is higher, while most of the males are old, as at present, there are only four male tigers. On the aquatic side, Kumar said the zoo will receive four gharials, which will be added to its existing

Completing one year in office

Delhi Assembly showcases digital shift, green milestones

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

COMPLETING one year in office, Delhi Legislative Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta outlined a wide-ranging transformation agenda undertaken over the past twelve months, describing the period as one marked by institutional reform, technological advancement and a renewed focus on transparency and citizen engagement.

Addressing the media at the Assembly complex, Gupta said the anniversary was

Having assumed office on February 24, 2025, the Speaker Vijender Gupta says the Assembly has undergone structural and functional changes aimed at aligning it with contemporary governance standards

both a review of progress and a reaffirmation of commitment to building a modern, accountable and environmentally responsible legislature. Having assumed office

on February 24, 2025, the Speaker said the Assembly has undergone structural and functional changes aimed at aligning it with contemporary governance standards. Among



the most significant achievements was the transition to a completely paperless system through the adoption of the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA). The fully digital session conducted on August 4, 2025, marked a historic shift in legislative operations, replacing traditional paperwork with secure digital processes and improving efficiency and record management.

On sustainability, the Assembly emerged as the country's first legislature to operate entirely on solar energy following the commissioning of

a 500-kilowatt rooftop solar power plant. The initiative has reduced the institution's carbon footprint and is projected to save nearly ₹1.75 crore annually in electricity expenses. Building on this success, Gupta announced plans to enhance solar capacity by an additional 300 kilowatts and expand the green area within the Assembly premises from 20 percent to 40 percent, reinforcing a long-term environmental commitment.

In the realm of governance oversight, the Assembly strengthened implementa-

tion of the APMS portal, enabling systematic and real-time tracking of audit observations and Action Taken Notes across departments. Gupta also highlighted a proposal for a National Legislative Index to evaluate lawmakers' performance, stating that the idea has received positive encouragement at the national level. To promote excellence in parliamentary conduct, the Assembly is set to introduce a "Best MLA Award," with detailed guidelines expected during the forthcoming Budget session.

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