

Court denies bail to bus driver accused under MCOCA

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NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has rejected the bail application of an accused in a case registered under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), observing they did not meet the stringent twin conditions of bail under Section 21(4)(b) and (5) the Act. The conditions require the court to be satisfied that the accused is not guilty and is unlikely to commit an-

other offence while on bail. Additional Sessions Judge Sonu Agnihotri dismissed the anticipatory bail application filed by accused Riyazuddin as he found it to be "without merit". "Co-accused in their confessional statement have also disclosed the role of the accused which is admissible under MCOCA. At this stage, there is no ground for not believing that the accused is not guilty of offences as invoked against him in the

present FIR," said the court in its order dated March 14. The counsel for the accused alleged that he was falsely implicated in the present case as he had filed a complaint to the Lieutenant Governor against three corrupt police officials. He wrote against Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Yogender and constable Shokendra in 2022, and later against Sub-Inspector (SI) Sahansar Pal in 2025. He also approached the Delhi High Court seek-

ing registration of an FIR against them but the case was disposed of in 2025. According to the defence, the accused drove road transport vehicle (RTV) buses for a living and on February 1, 2022, he met with a road collision accident with a three-seater auto rickshaw (TSR). ASI Yogender and Constable Shokendra approached him shortly thereafter alleging they had received a Police Control Room (PCR)

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call regarding the accident, and warned him of being arrested and his RTV being impounded. ASI Yogender demanded Rs 5,000 as a bribe, which

was then renegotiated to Rs 2,000. The two police officials later demanded Rs 9,000 as "protection money" to avoid the RTV from being impounded.



Clash in Uttam Nagar on Holiday; 1 dead

No demolition without notice: MCD tells HC

The civic body made the statement before Justice Amit Bansal on petitions filed by Jarina, mother of Imran, one of the accused, and Shahnaz, whose children were interrogated by police, apprehending demolition of their residential premises

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NEW DELHI

THE Municipal Corporation of Delhi on Tuesday told the Delhi High Court that it will not demolish any unauthorised construction in houses belonging to certain individuals allegedly involved in a clash in Uttam Nagar on the day of Holi that left a 26-year-old man dead without issuing prior notice to them.

The civic body made the statement before Justice Amit Bansal on petitions filed by Jarina, mother of Imran, one of the accused, and Shahnaz, whose children were interrogated by police, apprehending demolition of their residential premises. In view of the stand of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), Justice Bansal



closed the proceedings on the petitions. "Senior advocate Sanjay Poddar said the MCD shall not take action against unauthorised constructions without issuing notice to the petitioners. He also submitted that any action shall be in accordance with the Supreme Court judgement (on demolitions)," the court said. The petitioners' counsel said they apprehended that the

MCD would demolish their houses without following the due process of law. Poddar said his statement was only for the residential premises in question in the case. On March 11, the court had protected the petitioners' residential premises from demolition action for a week and asked them to file a fresh plea about their grievance. Several people, including a minor, have been apprehended in connection with the death of the 26-year-old man in a clash between two neighbouring families with long-standing disputes during Holi celebrations in Uttam Nagar on March 4. On March 8, the MCD razed a part of the house belonging to the family of the accused, saying it was built on a drain. In their earlier petitions, the petitioners sought directions to protect their residential premises at JJ Colony in Uttam Nagar from "arbitrary and illegal" demolitions by the MCD. The MCD counsel had then assured the court that demolition activity in the area was not selective but was undertaken to remove encroachment by houses on a public drain, and the law did not require the civic body to provide any prior notice for it.



HC issues summons to Arnab on defamation case by Cong

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Tuesday issued summons to Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami on a defamation case by the Congress, which alleged that he had falsely claimed that the Istanbul Congress Centre in Turkiye is the office of the political party. Justice Mini Pushkarna, however, refused to order an interim injunction against the content in the matter at this stage, observing that the broadcast was published in May 2025.

The party's counsel alleged that the defendant made the false claim in the backdrop of the Pahalgam terrorist attack, and the content "continues to damage" the party's reputation. "I am asking for an injunction (in the lawsuit)... I will also ask that the content be stayed... Offending content continues to do damage. People are still talking about it.

They have admitted it is false," the counsel submitted. "Let's see. May 15, 2025, was the broadcast... I will give you a short date," Justice Pushkarna said. T

'Bigger tragedy averted; students use Roop Nagar bridge daily'

Authorities say the bridge had already been declared unsafe and closed for public movement. Despite barricades, the bridge continued to be used regularly due to the lack of a convenient alternative route. It connected Gur Mandi to Roop Nagar and served as a crucial shortcut, reducing travel time by nearly 30 minutes as well as the distance by at least one kilometre for students heading to the nearby government schools



woman, believed to be around 50 years old and suspected to be a beggar, was present near one end of the bridge when it collapsed. Her body was later recovered from the drain by rescue personnel.

Personnel from the Delhi Fire Service (DFS), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and Delhi Police carried out a coordinated rescue operation. Multiple fire tenders were deployed, and the area was cordoned off to prevent further accidents. Officials said the bridge fell under the jurisdiction of the irrigation and flood control department and had been declared unsafe earlier.

Barricades had been put in place to restrict public movement, they added. However, locals and students alleged that the warnings were routinely ignored as the bridge remained a vital link for daily commuters, especially schoolchildren. Zoya, a class 8 student who attends school from 7.30 am to 2 pm, said the bridge had been in a visibly dangerous condition for some time before the collapse.

"A portion of it had begun to sink and tilt to one side, especially from the direction where the water flows, making it uneven and unstable.

We avoided holding the railing because the netting was torn, and it felt even more unsafe to rely on it," she said. She added that there was barely enough space for two to three children at a time to enter from the Roop Nagar side on their way to school, leading

to crowding during peak hours. A group of students echoed similar concerns, saying the structure would shake whenever people stood on it, creating fear among those crossing daily.

"It used to wobble when we stood on it. We had to walk very carefully, but even holding onto the railing felt unsafe because the mesh was broken. We were scared we might fall," they said. Residents said the timing of the collapse likely prevented a much larger disaster, as the bridge sees its highest footfall during early morning hours when students rush to school. "Had it collapsed even an hour earlier, the consequences could have been very deadly," a local resident said, adding that hundreds of students use the bridge between 7 am and 8.30 am every day.

Visuals from the scene showed the iron structure collapse into the drain, with parts of it submerged in water and twisted metal scattered around. Authorities said efforts are underway to ascertain the identity of the deceased woman. A detailed inspection will also be carried out to determine the exact cause of the collapse.

Police said the area has been secured and movement restricted, while officials from the department concerned are expected to assess the site and plan further action. Locals demanded immediate construction of a safe alternative route. Police said further action will be taken after a technical assessment of the site.

Man held for illegal sale of LPG; 62 cylinders seized

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NEW DELHI

A 28-year-old man was arrested for allegedly selling LPG cylinders illegally in southeast Delhi's Jamia Nagar area, with police recovering 62 cylinders and a vehicle used for transportation, an official said on Tuesday.

The accused, identified as Shahnawaz, was caught during routine patrolling on Monday in Yamuna Pusta area, he said. Police said a team spotted Shahnawaz standing near a tempo loaded with LPG cylinders and selling them in the area.

On being questioned, he failed to produce any valid licence or authorisation for the sale of cylinders. A total of 62 LPG cylinders -- 48 filled and 14 used -- were recovered from the vehicle, which was also impounded, police said. During preliminary enquiry, the accused revealed that he was selling LPG cylinders to local resi-



dents without issuing any receipts to earn higher profits.

He also disclosed that he was working in connivance with another person, identified as Mukesh, who arranged the cylinders, a senior police official said. A case was registered under the Essential Commodities Act and relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the accused was arrested.

"During interrogation, Shahnawaz told police that the cylinders were sourced from near an Indane gas agency in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, through his associate. The cylinders were allegedly loaded into the tempo at a secluded location before being transported to Delhi for illegal sale," the official said.

Cong rolls out talent hunt drive to recruit youth for key party roles

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

THE Delhi Congress on Tuesday has launched its version of the 'National Talent Hunt' programme, aiming to bring in fresh and capable individuals to strengthen the party's organisational and communication structure. The initiative was introduced at the state party office, with leaders calling on young and ideologically aligned individuals to apply.

State Congress president Devender Yadav said the application process has begun and will continue until April 15, with submissions to be made online. He noted that the programme is designed to identify individuals who wish to contribute to the party's vision and are willing to take on roles such as researchers,

spokespersons and media representatives.

Party leaders said the move is part of a wider strategy to revitalise the organisation by involving energetic and committed people. Interested candidates can access application details through the party's official social media channels and website, where a QR code has been provided to simplify the process. A screening committee will evaluate the applications, shortlist candidates and conduct interviews before assigning responsibilities.

Originally introduced at the national level, the talent hunt programme has already been implemented in several states and is now being expanded to Delhi. The initiative is intended to create a pool of trained individuals who can effectively represent the party's views and engage

with the public on various platforms.

The selection process will be conducted in stages, starting with application submission, followed by screening and shortlisting. Candidates who clear these stages will be invited for interviews, where they will be assessed on their understanding of issues, communication abilities and alignment with the party's ideology.

Those selected will undergo structured training through workshops, where they will be prepared for roles in media engagement and public communication. The programme also aims to build a strong team of spokespersons and panelists who can articulate the party's stance in debates and discussions, while contributing to strengthening its presence at the grassroots and public levels.

Court convicts man of heroin trafficking

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NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has convicted a man in a narcotics case involving recovery of commercial quantity of heroin, saying the prosecution has proved the chain of evidence and recovery beyond reasonable doubt. Special Judge (NDPS) Harvinder Singh Johal was hearing a case against Mohit Kumar who was accused under Section 29 (criminal conspiracy) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. Kumar was accused of procuring heroin from Uttar Pradesh and

supplying the substance in Delhi.

He was arrested on September 15, 2017 by the Delhi Police's Crime Branch based on a tip-off. Another person was also arrested along with Mohit, who died during the trial.

According to the prosecution, Kumar was found in possession of a commercial quantity of heroin, packed in small packets for distribution. During the trial, the defence raised objections regarding alleged procedural lapses, including non-compliance with provisions related to sampling and handling of seized contraband.

LG plans to develop city as global capital

NEW DELHI: Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and her Cabinet colleagues called on Lt Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu at Lok Niwas on Monday, and shared with him ongoing initiatives of the Delhi government aimed at achieving the Centre's Viksit Bharat vision.

The LG underlined the key challenges and opportunities and the collective resolve to develop Delhi as a global capital aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, Lok Niwas said in a post on X. Senior officers of the Delhi government, including Chief Secretary Rajeev Shar-



ma, also met Sandhu. The LG reviewed key governance and administrative matters concerning Delhi with the officers, the Lok Niwas said. The LG, in a meeting with the Police Commissioner and Special Commissioners of Delhi Police, appreciated their efforts and the challenges involved towards policing in the national capital. He encouraged them to further enhance policing to

ensure safe and secure Delhi as per the city's status as the country's national capital, the Lok Niwas said in another post on X.

Within a week after taking charge as the Delhi Lt Governor, Sandhu has been holding a series of meetings with top officers of different departments, discussing with them governance and development related matters.

He also delivered a keynote address on the role of technology in nation building, at National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) Global Confluence 2026 held in the city.

DELHI Police have arrested three members of a robbery gang who posed as government officials to cheat and rob unsuspecting passengers near the New Delhi railway station, officials said on Tuesday. The accused have been identified as Krishan Kumar (50), an auto driver from Fatehpur Beri in Delhi, Ravi Kumar (50) from Agra, and Rahul Gupta (32), also from Fatehpur Beri, they said.

Police said the gang targeted passengers waiting for public transport near the New Delhi railway station and adjoining areas, posing as officials conducting "security verification". Krishan would pick up victims in his auto, Rahul would pose as a co-passenger to gain their trust, while Ravi Kumar, the alleged mastermind, would pose as a government official and carry out the fake verification, police said.

On the pretext of checking, the accused would take cash and ATM cards from the victims, obtain the PIN and replace the original cards with duplicate ones placed inside



an envelope, which the victims were asked to open only after reaching home.

The gang would then withdraw money using the stolen cards, police said. The matter came to light on March 12 when a PCR call was received at the Kamla Market police station reporting a robbery.

The complainant, a resident of Faridabad, told police that he reached Delhi from Darbhanga in Bihar and was waiting for a bus near the Tagore Road cut when an auto driver approached him and offered a ride to Badarpur. During the journey, two more persons boarded the auto, one of whom introduced himself as a government official and began checking the complainant's belongings on the pretext of security verification, a senior police officer said.

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