

# Triple talaq case triggers row over non-use of UCC provisions

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HARIDWAR

POLICE in Uttarakhand's Haridwar district have registered a case against a man for allegedly giving triple talaq to his wife over dowry in the Bugawala area, but the case has sparked a controversy as it was not filed under the state's Uniform Civil Code (UCC) law.

According to police sources, the Uttarakhand police currently appear unable to enforce the UCC law in some cases due

**Uttarakhand police currently appear unable to enforce the UCC law in some cases due to delays in software updates to the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems; legal experts say the case falls under the category of a cognisable offence and should be registered under Section 32 of the UCC**

to delays in software updates to the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS). Legal experts say the

case falls under the category of a cognisable offence and should be registered under Section 32 of the UCC.

Shaheen, a resident of Bandarjud village in the Bugawala area, filed a police complaint against her husband and his family, accusing them of harassing her for dowry, pronouncing triple talaq and pressuring her to undergo 'halala' for remarriage. In her complaint, Shaheen said she was married to Danish two and a half years ago and that within a few days of the marriage she began facing physical and mental harassment for dowry.

According to the complain-



ant, when the alleged atrocities by her husband and in-laws

crossed all limits, she informed her parents. When her parents

approached her husband to resolve the matter, he allegedly pronounced triple talaq and threw her out of the house. The complainant alleged that when a settlement was later discussed, a condition of halala was placed before her for remarriage, after which she approached the police.

Haridwar Rural Superintendent of Police Shekhar Chand Suiyal said that after receiving Shaheen's complaint on April 4, the police registered a case under Sections 3 and 4 of the

Dowry Prohibition Act, Sections 115(2) and 85 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, and Sections 3 and 4 of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019, and began an investigation.

Asked why the case was not registered under the UCC, Suiyal said that sometimes cases cannot be registered under the law due to issues with the CCTNS portal. He added that the investigating officer is probing the matter and UCC provisions will be added if applicable.

## Har govt suspends 2 IAS officers

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CHANDIGARH

THE Haryana government has suspended two officers of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) with immediate effect. In two separate orders issued on Wednesday, the government placed Ram Kumar Singh and Pardeep Kumar under suspension with immediate effect.

While no reason was given for their suspension, sources said the action was linked to the ongoing probe into the Rs 590-crore IDFC First Bank fraud case. During



the suspension period, both officers -- promoted from the state civil service and belonging to the 2012 and 2011 batches respectively --

will have their headquarters at the office of the chief secretary to the Government of Haryana (Services-I Branch) in Chandigarh.

They will be entitled to subsistence allowance in accordance with Rule 4 of the All India Service (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1969. Singh had served as commissioner of the Panchkula Municipal Corporation between July 2025 and January 2026, while Kumar was member secretary of the Haryana State Pollution Control Board from August 31, 2022, to December 10, 2025.

Before the suspension, Singh was posted as special secretary of the Revenue and Disaster Management

Department and additional CEO of Panchkula Metropolitan Development Authority, while Kumar was posted as the director of the State Transport and special secretary of the Transport Department before his suspension. Haryana's State Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (SV&ACB) has been conducting investigations into the IDFC First Bank fraud case. It has so far arrested several people, including bank employees, private individuals, and government officials.

## Cong orchestrating hijack of local body polls in HP

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SHIMLA

HIMACHAL Pradesh BJP president Rajeev Bindal on Thursday accused Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu-led Congress government of systematically undermining democracy and orchestrating an attempt to hijack panchayati raj and urban local body elections in the state. In a statement, he said that for two years, the Congress government made relentless efforts to delay the elections, even taking the matter to the Supreme Court.

After the apex court clearly directed that the elections should be conducted before May 31, 2026, the state government has now resorted to "a new phase of manipulation and malpractice" by arbitrarily altering the reservation status of local bodies, he said.

The BJP has been alleging that the chief minister is changing the reservation status of local bodies to accommodate people of his choice. Bindal said that it is for the



first time in the state's history that the reservation roster is being altered arbitrarily and repeatedly: one day, a panchayat is reserved for scheduled castes, the next day, it is declared unreserved and then reserved for women.

"This is not an electoral process, this is Congress's 'suitability' model, where rules are not followed but tailored to suit political convenience," he alleged. The state BJP chief said that such actions are in direct violation of the spirit of the Panchayati Raj Act and Article 243D of the Constitution, which mandates a transparent and structured process for reservation and roster determination, instead of arbitrary alterations to manipulate electoral outcomes.

## Cong councillor refuses to sing Vande Mataram, triggers row

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
INDORE

A controversy has erupted after a woman councillor of Congress refused to sing Vande Mataram, citing Islamic beliefs, during a discussion on the Indore Municipal Corporation's budget. The refusal by Fauzia Sheikh Alim to sing the national song on Wednesday prompted councillors from the ruling BJP to rush to the chairman's podium and raise slogans. Amid the uproar, Chairman Munnalal Yadav directed Alim to leave the House.

The Congress councillor later told reporters that her religion does not allow her to sing 'Vande Mataram' - a Sanskrit phrase meaning "I bow to thee, Mother". Alim said she enjoys religious freedom under the Constitution, and no one can force her to sing Vande Mataram.

As the controversy escalated, Alim said she respects the national song and will continue to do so. She said that she had stood up to speak at the municipal corporation meeting to raise the issue of contaminated drinking water, but in an attempt to distract the House from the more fundamental issues, BJP councillors asked her to sing Vande Mataram first. Mayor Pushyamitra Bhargava described the Congress councillor's refusal to sing Vande Mataram as unfortunate and alleged that she deliberately arrives late to the municipal corporation meeting so as not to participate in the mass singing of the national song. Mu-



nicipal Corporation Leader of the Opposition and Congress councillor Chintu Chouksey distanced himself from the controversy, stating that the party has no concern with Alim's "personal opinion" on Vande Mataram.

"Vande Mataram is ingrained in every citizen of India. Singing the national song should be mandatory for every citizen," he added. Written in 1875 and later included in Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's novel "Anandamath" (1882), 'Vande Mataram' became a rallying cry during the freedom movement. Vande Mataram was first published in the literary magazine "Bangadarshan" as part of Chatterjee's Anandamath.



## 3 MORE CHILDREN DIE IN RAJ'S SALUMBER

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JAIPUR

THREE more children have died in Rajasthan's Salumber, with authorities saying their deaths are not connected with the "mysterious" deaths of five children earlier this month. The fresh deaths took place in the last two days in the Jhallara and Lasadiya areas in the district and have been attributed to vomiting and diarrhoea.

Chief Medical and Health Officer Mahendra Kumar Parmar said, Raunak -- aged four-and-a-half years -- a resident of Amloda village in Jhallara, was brought dead to the hospital on Tuesday. A two-month-old infant, Banshi, from Kalibheet village and Divyansh Patel, aged two years from Mandli village, died on Wednesday after suffering from fever, vomiting and

diarrhoea, the officer said.

"Five deaths reported earlier are mysterious. We are yet to receive sample reports. The three deaths reported have other causes," Parmar said. Medical teams from Jaipur and Udaipur have been deployed in the affected villages and have so far surveyed over 500 families. Around 20 children with mild fever symptoms have been identified and provided medication, the officer said.

The district administration and health department are on alert, and samples are being examined to ascertain the cause of the illness. Earlier, five children, including two siblings, had died between April 1 and 6 in Lalpura and Ghata villages of the Lasadiya area. Further investigation is underway to determine the exact cause, officials added.



## Registration for Amarnath Yatra to begin from April 15

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JAMMU

THE advance registration for the annual Amarnath Yatra will commence from April 15 across 554 designated bank branches in the country, with the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) issuing a detailed step-by-step procedure for pilgrims. Officials said that the registration and issuance of yatra permits will be conducted on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to a fixed daily quota for each route at every designated branch.

As per the guidelines, only pilgrims aged between 13 and 70 years will be eligible for registration, while women with more than six weeks of pregnancy will not be permitted to undertake the pilgrimage, even if they possess the mandatory health certificate. For the 2026 yatra, registration will be carried out in real time through Aadhaar-based biometric eKYC authentication, and permits will be generated online through the official portal of the Shrine Board, guidelines said.

"In case of technical issues in biometric authentication, a provision for manual data entry with webcam-based photo capture has been kept as a fallback option," the guidelines read. Pilgrims will be required to submit a valid Compulsory Health Certificate (CHC), issued on or after April 8, 2026, by an authorised doctor or medical institution, along with the prescribed fee of Rs 150 per permit. For this process, the board has issued the list of doctors and institutions authorised to issue compulsory health certificates in 37 states and union territories, it said.

## 'Nasha Mukh Abhiyaan': J&K LG reviews readiness

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JAMMU

JAMMU and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to review the preparedness for the upcoming 100-day intensive campaign under the Nasha Mukh Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan, a Raj Bhawan spokesperson said. The campaign, aimed at eradicating drug abuse from the Union Territory, will be marked by a series of awareness programmes, he said.

The LG will flag off a mega "padyatra" from M A Stadium in Jammu, on April 11, followed by a similar large-scale launch in Srinagar during the first week of May.

Also, the LG will participate in padyatras in Kathua and Rajouri. "The influx of drugs to the UT is part of a larger international conspiracy to jeopardise the future of the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. Every section of society must join this fight against the drug menace," the LG said. He directed continuous and intensive drives to dismantle drug trafficking networks.

## 315 lakes vanished, 203 shrunk in Jammu

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU

THE Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has flagged alarming degradation of lakes in Jammu and Kashmir, revealing that 518 out of 697 natural lakes -- over 74 per cent -- in the Union territory have either disappeared or decreased in size since 1967, leading to significant ecological imbalance and loss of biodiversity.

As per the CAG report on the conservation of lakes in Union territory for the year ended March 31, 2024, out of



the total 697 lakes with a total area of 28,990 hectares, as many as 315 lakes covering

1,537.07 hectares have disappeared, while the area of 203 lakes shrank by 1,314.19

hectares.

"There was a total decrease and disappearance of an area of 2,851.26 hectares in 518 lakes," the report stated. The CAG strongly recommended a series of measures for effective conservation and management of lakes in Jammu and Kashmir, stressing the need for a structured and time-bound approach.

It said this large-scale shrinkage has resulted in loss of flora and fauna, disruption of ecological services, and adverse impacts on water, food and biodiversity. It also said the reduction in lake

area has contributed to climate insecurity and was one of the factors behind the devastating Jammu and Kashmir floods in September 2014, highlighting that lakes act as natural flood buffers.

Jammu and Kashmir, endowed with 697 natural lakes spread across 20 districts in two divisions, holds immense ecological and socio-economic significance, it said. These include 185 major lakes larger than five hectares, such as the Wular Lake, the largest freshwater lake in India, along with several other prominent water bodies.

## Pb parents to get SMS alerts on their children's school attendance, absence

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH

PARENTS will now receive daily SMS alerts regarding their children's school attendance as the Punjab government on Thursday rolled out a state-wide attendance-tracking system under its Mission Samrath 4.0, a flagship foundational learning programme. Declaring it as the next big leap in Punjab's 'Sikhya Kranti', Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains said the state, already ranked number one in the PARAKH (Performance Assess-

ment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) survey, is now moving from recognition to results by tightening classroom accountability and scaling proven teaching practices.

He underscored that the state government raised the education budget to Rs 19,279 crore in 2026-27 from Rs 12,657 crore in 2021-22, ensuring funds reach classrooms rather than remain stuck in files, driving visible transformation from basic infrastructure to measurable learning outcomes across

government schools. Bains noted that the state government has introduced the attendance-tracking system as part of Mission Samrath 2026-27.

"Parents will receive daily SMS alerts on their child's attendance, with notifications for every absence, aiming to boost regular attendance, learning continuity and classroom engagement. Any child absent for seven days will trigger a district-level parent contact, while absence beyond 15 days will be flagged to state headquarters. This will ensure both

learning continuity and child safety," he informed.

Emphasising the impact of the programme, the minister stated, "Mission Samrath has transformed classroom dynamics. This phase focuses on enhancing teaching quality and accountability through attendance tracking, improved monitoring and sharing the best practices. Our goal is to ensure that every child achieves strong foundational learning." He further underlined improvements in school infrastructure under the Bhagwat Mann government, stating

**Any child absent for seven days will trigger a district-level parent contact, while absence beyond 15 days will be flagged to state headquarters. This will ensure both learning continuity and child safety: Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains**

that every senior secondary school with more than 500 students now has a



dedicated campus manager, while schools with over 100

students have been provided security guards and sanita-

tion staff, once unavailable facilities