

Court acquits four in acid attack case, cites 18-month delay in FIR

‘This court holds that the prosecution has miserably failed to prove the charges against any of the accused persons beyond reasonable doubt. The benefit of pervasive doubt, systemic investigative lapses, unexplained delay, and unrefuted defence evidence must inevitably extend to the accused persons’

NEW DELHI
A Delhi court has acquitted four men accused of throwing acid on a woman in Sangam

Vihar here in 2019 after finding serious gaps in the prosecution case, including an unexplained 18-month delay in registration of the FIR.

Additional Sessions Judge Hargurvarinder Singh Jaggi was hearing a case against Preet Pal, Ramesh, Suresh Chand and Bablu Kumar,



who were accused of throwing acid on the woman. “This court holds that the

persons beyond reasonable doubt. The benefit of pervasive doubt, systemic investigative lapses, unexplained delay, and unrefuted defence evidence must inevitably extend to the accused persons,” it said. The woman, Renu, had alleged that the accused arrived on two motorcycles and threw a chemical at her near a temple in Sangam Vihar on July 9, 2019. She suffered chemical burns on her back and waist. According to the prosecution, the accused had attacked

Renu and subsequently threatened her to withdraw a previous complaint against Preet Pal. The court, however, found that the FIR in the case was registered only on January 7, 2021, nearly 18 months after the alleged incident. The investigating officer also admitted that he was unaware of the reason for the delay. The court noted that the prosecution case largely rested on Renu’s testimony. During cross-examination, the girl said she had turned around after feeling a burning

sensation on her back. The court said this meant she had not actually seen who threw the liquid at her and observed that her identification of Preet Pal as the person holding the bottle was a post-facto assumption. “No specific overt act is proved against Ramesh, Suresh, or Bablu. Similarly, the charges under Sections 195A and 506 IPC lack independent corroboration and fail the standard of proof beyond reasonable doubt,” the court said.

SHAH INAUGURATES BARAPULLAH FLYOVER

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HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday launched four major road infrastructure projects worth Rs 1,941 crore in the national capital, including the long-pending Barapullah Phase 3 elevated corridor. Shah inaugurated the projects at a function in Barapullah, which was attended by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and her cabinet colleagues, and Union Minister of State for Road Transport Harsh Malhotra, among others. Speaking at the event, Gupta attributed the launch of these projects to the “power of a double-engine government”. “Only with a double-engine government can Delhi’s stalled projects be opened to the public. The Centre and the Delhi government are working together,” she said. She said her government is



planning several projects to address traffic congestion, an issue that was neglected over the last 50 years. Minister for Public Works Department Parvesh Verma, who was present, said the 11-year wait for the Barapullah flyover was finally over. “Last year, we committed that the Barapullah flyover would be over in a year and we have done it. For the last 18 months, there has been no politics of allegations or

excuses, but only work done by the government for the public,” Verma said. The Barapullah Phase 3 elevated road corridor, the biggest of the four projects, aims to provide seamless connectivity between east and south Delhi, linking Mayur Vihar Phase-1 and AIIMS through signal-free carriageways. The flyover will merge with the existing Barapullah flyover at Sarai Kale Khan, completing a stretch of

around 10 kilometres. Originally approved in 2014 and initiated in 2015, the project was initially scheduled for completion in 2017. However, it faced multiple delays and significant cost overruns, with the revised project cost escalating to approximately Rs 1,635 crore. The other projects include two new flyovers to reduce traffic congestion in south Delhi and an underpass on Outer Ring Road in north Delhi.

AAP leaders detained during protest outside Police HQ

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NEW DELHI

DELHI AAP president Saurabh Bharadwaj and MLA Jarnail Singh were detained by Delhi Police on Tuesday while protesting outside the police headquarters here, demanding an FIR against BJP’s Parvesh Verma for allegedly slapping a man on Sunday. Bharadwaj, in a post on X, said, “It’s not about one Verma slapping one 22-year-old man, it’s about this new culture of politics. Look around and identify the local goons in your colony, the people who are abusing and intimidating residents.” Police and the government should ensure justice. If the government deliberately wrongs citizens, they will take to the streets to protest peacefully and democratically seek their rights, he wrote. AAP workers and leaders, including Bharadwaj and Jarnail Singh, were detained in front of the police headquarters while demanding an FIR against Delhi PWD Minister Parvesh Verma for allegedly slapping a man on Sunday. They were later released. There was no immediate response from Delhi Police.

‘Thieves’ mobbed in Shahbad Dairy; 1 killed

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NEW DELHI

A 21-year-old man with nine previous criminal involvements died after he and his associates were allegedly thrashed by a group of people over suspicion of attempting theft in outnorth Delhi’s Shahbad Dairy area, police said on Tuesday. The deceased has been identified as Hasan Mangal. According to police, information was received around 7 am that a group of suspected thieves had been mobbed by public in Shahbad Dairy police station area. A police team reached the spot and found three people injured. They were shifted to a hospital, where Mangal was declared brought dead, while the two others are undergoing treatment, officials said. They said Mangal had nine previous criminal involvements and was designated ‘bad character’ by Narela Industrial Area police station. “According to preliminary information, around four to five suspicious people had entered the area with the intention of committing theft and were possibly trying to break open the lock of a shop. Hearing



dergoing treatment, officials said. They said Mangal had nine previous criminal involvements and was designated ‘bad character’ by Narela Industrial Area police station. “According to preliminary information, around four to five suspicious people had entered the area with the intention of committing theft and were possibly trying to break open the lock of a shop. Hearing

the noise, local residents came out and caught the suspected thieves,” a police officer said. While some of them managed to flee, three of the suspects were caught by locals, and subsequently thrashed, the officer said, adding that Mangal sustained serious injuries and later declared dead. The officer said a crime team has inspected the scene and collected evidence.

Fake detective agency website used to dupe man of Rs 1.15L

HANS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI: A mother-son duo has been arrested from Ghaziabad for allegedly running a fake detective agency website and cheating a man of Rs 1.15 lakh, police said on Tuesday. The accused have been identified as Poonam Singh (45) and her son Arnab Singh (22), both residents of

Ghaziabad, they said. The case came to light after complainant, who was looking for detective services online, came across a website, police in a statement said. The website was allegedly designed to look like a genuine detective agency’s website. The complainant was contacted through a mobile number and allegedly induced to pay Rs 1.15 lakh on the pre-

text of providing detective and investigation services, read the statement. The amount was deposited into a bank account maintained in Poonam Singh’s name and was later transferred to different bank accounts, it read. An e-FIR was subsequently registered at the Cyber Police Station in East Delhi and further investigation was taken up.

LG asks NSUT to develop tech solutions for civic challenges

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NEW DELHI

DELHI Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu, on Tuesday, directed Netaji Subhas University of Technology (NSUT) to develop technological solutions for civic challenges such as sanitation, traffic management, road conditions and flooding, and called for converting research into actionable outcomes. Chairing the sixth Court Meeting of NSUT at Lok Niwas, Sandhu said the technical university should focus on research that addresses real-world challenges faced by the city. He directed the university to coordinate with expert agencies and facilitate the MCD, NDMC, Delhi Police, Health Department, PWD and Transport Department



with technological solutions tailored to their specific requirements. The LG also stressed the need to make AI education future-ready through global collaborations, with a focus

on transformative applications, particularly AI-enabled healthcare in government hospitals. He called for skill-based courses in areas such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and digital tools to enhance employability, and urged the university to leverage international academic and industry partnerships to upgrade its capabilities and global competitiveness. Sandhu said improving NSUT’s national and global rankings should be pursued through academic rigour, research excellence and international engagement. On community engagement, the LG directed NSUT to continue activities in adopted villages focusing on employability, financial awareness and sports, particularly team games to promote teamwork.

HC imposes Rs 1L cost on lawyer for ‘moving car virtual appearance’

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Delhi High Court has imposed a cost of Rs 1 lakh on a lawyer for appearing virtually before it from a moving car, holding that the lawyer’s conduct was in violation of the rules. Justice Om Prakash Shukla said while the convenience offered by virtual hearings was appreciated, it could not be at the cost of the court’s decorum or causing disturbance in the conduct of judicial proceedings. “When this court has to deal with more than 70 matters in a day, background noise and movement during the hearing are disruptive for this court to proceed,” said the judge in the order passed on September 28. “In view of the aforesaid, a cost of Rs 1 lakh is imposed upon learned Counsel for the



Decree Holder, payable to Delhi High Court Legal Services Committee within one week from today,” the court ordered. In its order, the court observed that under the high court’s Electronic Evidence and Video Conferencing Rules, an endeavour has to be made by advocates not to join proceedings from

vehicles except in exceptional circumstances and with permission. Justice Shukla underscored that such a requirement was not merely procedural and to ensure that even when lawyers appear virtually, they do so from an environment conducive to the proper functioning of the court.

2 armed men held after gunfight with police

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE police have arrested two alleged armed criminals after a brief gunfight in which seven rounds were fired in the Paharganj area in Delhi, and the suspects sustained bullet injuries to their legs, officials said on Tuesday. The accused, identified as Akash alias Matthi (27) and Mukesh alias Chinu (35) were taken to a hospital. According to the police, the accused fired four rounds at the police team on the stretch from Chemsford Road towards Reservation Road in Paharganj. “The police team fired three rounds in retaliation. One bullet passed close to the head of head constable Mohit, while another hit the bulletproof jacket of head constable Rajvir,” a senior police officer said. Two illegal firearms -- a pistol and a country-made pistol, each



loaded with two live cartridges -- and a stolen motorcycle were recovered from them. Police found the motorcycle stolen in a case registered at Subzi Mandi police station on August 31. “Teams from the Special Staff and Central had been working to identify those involved in a firing incident during a Baba Ramdev Ji procession in the Nabi Karim-Sadar Bazar area on September 13. During the incident, members of the alleged Vikas Kalia group opened fire near Ram Kumar Marg, with one bullet hitting a person in the left hand,” the officer said.

Patanjali’s botanical drive: 1,000 specimens preserved

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HARIDWAR

THE Patanjali Research Foundation (PRF) is expanding its botanical research and conservation efforts across India, with scientists documenting plant diversity in several states and preserving specimens for future research. PRF scientists have recorded more than 100 new plant records from different regions, including Haryana, Uttarakhand,

PRF scientists conducted a detailed survey of the flora at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, documenting 620 plant species. Two books—Flora of Rashtrapati Bhavan and Medicinal Plants of Rashtrapati Bhavan—were released by President Droupadi Murmu in November 2025

Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and West Bengal. More than 1,000 plant specimens have been preserved in the Patanjali herbarium. PRF scientists conducted

a detailed survey of the flora at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, documenting 620 plant species. Two books—Flora of Rashtrapati Bhavan and Medicinal Plants of Rashtrapati Bhavan—were

released by President Droupadi Murmu in November 2025. A checklist of Delhi’s flora was also published. PRF’s botanical work has contributed to identifying and documenting new plant



Acharya Balkrishna, General Secretary of Patanjali Yogpeeth, searching for plants.

diversity, including Campanula densiciliata. Surveys have also covered Himalayan and northeastern regions, including Arunachal Pradesh. Work on Flora of Haridwar is currently underway. Under Acharya Balkrishna’s guidance, PRF scientists have been conducting plant surveys across diverse ecosystems. Their work includes documenting plants used by tribal communities and surveys along the Ganga under the Namami Gange

programme, from Gomukh to Gangasagar. PRF says its botanical research is aimed not only at scientific documentation but also at biodiversity conservation, medicinal plant identification, environmental studies and creating a knowledge base for future generations. The foundation has also contributed plant records to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew’s digital databases, extending the reach of its botanical documentation beyond India.