

# Three-day interim bail for Umar Khalid in UAPA case

**A bench of Justices Prathiba M Singh and Madhu Jain permitted Khalid to be released from June 1 to June 3 to enable him to meet his mother who has to undergo surgery**

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NEW DELHI

THE Delhi High Court on Friday granted three-day interim bail to activist Umar Khalid, who is in custody in a case under anti-terror law UAPA concerning the "larger conspiracy" behind

the February 2020 riots in the city's northeastern parts. A bench of Justices Prathiba M Singh and Madhu Jain permitted Khalid to be released from June 1 to June 3 to enable him to meet his mother who has to undergo a surgery. The bench noted that the

Supreme Court rejected Khalid's regular bail plea on January 5 but granted him the reprieve by taking an "empathetic view." "Taking an empathetic view, this court is inclined to grant him interim bail for three days from June 1 to June 3 to enable the appel-



lant to spend time with his mother," the court concluded. ASG S V Raju, appearing

should be permitted to visit her with a police escort.

The court was hearing Khalid's appeal against the trial court's May 19 order that dismissed his interim bail plea. He had urged the trial court to grant him 15 days' interim bail to attend a 40-day post-death ritual of his uncle and take care of his mother, who has to undergo a surgery.

The trial court, however, opined that attending the ceremony of his deceased uncle was "not that neces-

sary" and that other family members were available to take care of his mother.

Khalid was booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for being one of the "masterminds" of the February 2020 riots that had left 53 people dead and more than 700 injured.

The violence had erupted during protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019, and the National Register of Citizens (NRC). Activists Shar-

jeel Imam, Khalid Saifi and former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) councillor Tahir Husain, among others, were also booked for their alleged involvement in the larger conspiracy case, which is being investigated by the Delhi Police's Special Cell.

On September 2, 2025, a bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Shalinder Kaur had denied bail to Imam, Khalid, Miran Haider and other accused in the case. The Supreme Court upheld the order in January.

## City police steps up security arrangements ahead of Bakrid

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NEW DELHI

THE Delhi Police has stepped up security arrangements across the national capital ahead of Eid-ul-Azha (Bakrid), with intensified foot patrolling, vehicle checking, picket inspections and a series of Aman Committee meetings being conducted across multiple districts, officials said on Friday. Police said community-outreach programmes, guard briefings and coordination meetings are being organised to ensure peaceful celebrations during the festival. In Shahdara district, a meeting was held at the office



of the deputy commissioner of police (DCP), where senior officers interacted with local representatives and community members, asking them to adhere to government norms and regula-

tions. "Special emphasis was laid on three key elements -- coordination, vigilance and public participation -- to ensure that the festival is celebrated in a peaceful and harmonious atmosphere,"

a senior police officer from Shahdara said.

Officers urged residents to maintain communal harmony and immediately report any suspicious activity or rumour-mongering. In East Delhi, police have conducted interactive meetings with resident welfare associations (RWAs) and market welfare associations (MWAs) at several places as part of confidence-building measures ahead of the festival. "Station house officers (SHOs) are holding separate Aman Committee meetings, while personnel are organising Prahri meetings at multiple locations," an officer from East district said.

## Two held for running cyber fraud-cash conversion racket

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NEW DELHI

WITH the arrest of two men from Goa, the Delhi Police on Friday claimed to have busted an interstate cyber-fraud-and-cash-conversion racket. Police said transactions worth nearly Rs 40 lakh routed through the network have also been uncovered. Accused Arjun Lal Yadav (29) and Deependra Mahala (25), both residents of Rajasthan, were apprehended from South Goa's Madgaon following a multi-state operation, an officer said.

The syndicate operated across Delhi, Goa and Rajasthan, and allegedly converted proceeds of cyber fraud into physical cash through commercial establishments in Goa, he added.

"The investigation began after a complainant reported that his mobile phone was compromised during what appeared to be a routine software or system update. Criminals subsequently gained unauthorised access to the accounts linked to the complainant and his mother's bank accounts and siphoned off Rs 1.5 lakh within minutes," the officer said.

The victim got a complaint lodged through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal, following which an FIR was registered at the Cyber police station of Outernorth district. During investigation, police traced Rs 98,000 of the defrauded money to a fuel station located in Vasco in South Goa. Police said the accused allegedly ran a structured cash-conversion racket through a dedicated phone number active on social-media platforms.

## DU hostlers observe nightlong sit-in over lack of water, forced eviction

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NEW DELHI

STUDENTS living in the University Hostel for Women (UHW) of the Delhi University (DU) staged an overnight sit-in over a lack of water supply and "extortion" by the administration, according to a Left-backed student group.

The All India Students' Association (AISA) also alleged "forced eviction" of students. "For over a week,

these students have been pushed to the brink.

While they are in the middle of semester examinations and preparing for NET exams, the administration has declared a virtual red alert, shutting down the water supply across two full blocks and stripping the reading room of basic chairs," the group said in the statement. The students' protest started around 9.30 pm on Thursday and continued till early Friday.

AISA alleged that assurances given by the hostel provost to restore amenities and extend the residency deadline were not fulfilled. However, in the morning, the administration issued a signed mandate granting an unconditional extension to residents till June 30 and a written guarantee that all infrastructural demands, including reading room chairs and mess coolers, will be met without any further delay, the group said.

## Court acquits 5 men accused in bank dacoity-cum-murder case

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NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has acquitted five men accused in a 2018 dacoity-cum-murder case at a Corporation Bank branch, saying the prosecution failed to establish their involvement beyond a reasonable doubt after key eyewitnesses and bank staff failed to identify them during the trial. Additional Sessions Judge Sumit Dass was hearing the case against Sachin (son of Satpal), Sachin (son of Inderjeet), Vicky alias Pushkar, Parvesh and Pawan

Pandey, who were accused of looting the branch at Kheda Dabar in south-west Delhi and killing its cashier in 2018. In the order dated May 19, the court said, "The accused persons in the present case have been able to create doubt upon the story of the prosecution, for which benefit has to be given to them.

Accordingly, the accused are entitled to the benefit of doubt." According to the prosecution, the accused were involved in the incident at Corporation Bank's Kheda Dabar

branch on October 12, 2018, where armed men allegedly stormed the bank, snatched the security guard's weapon, looted around Rs 3 lakh and opened fire, killing cashier Santosh Kumar. Witnesses said the assailants fled on motorcycles after the robbery. An FIR was registered at the Chawla police station under charges including dacoity, murder and offences under the Arms Act. During the trial, several bank officials, customers and the security guard confirmed that a dacoity and killing had taken place.

## SC grants interim bail to two Delhi riots accused

**Refers question of law to larger bench on whether prolonged incarceration and delay in trial can override the statutory restrictions on bail under anti-terror laws such as UAPA**

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NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Friday granted interim bail of six months to two Delhi riots accused while referring to a larger bench the question of law on whether prolonged incarceration and delay in trial can override the statutory restrictions on bail.

A bench of Justices Arvind Kumar and P B Varale refused to comment on the recent verdict given by a bench headed by Justice B V Nagarathna in which it criticised the January 5 verdict denying bail to activists Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam. While justifying denial of bail to activists Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam earlier this year, saying it was done not because Article 21 was considered subordinate but considering their role and accused-based evaluation.

A bench of Justice Arvind Kumar and PV Varale



granted interim bail of six months to Saifi and Ahmad, and imposed certain conditions on them including that they will not speak to media or make social media posts about the case.

The Delhi Police has sought reference of the question of law to a larger bench on whether prolonged incarceration and delay in trial can override the statutory

restrictions on bail under

anti-terror laws such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA).

The bench justified the denial of bail to Khalid and Imam in the Delhi riots case, saying it was based on an accused-based evaluation, role ascribed to them and not that Article 21 was considered subordinate.

The bench granted interim bail to two Delhi riot accused Abdul Khalid Saifi and Tas-

eem Ahmad for six months, subject to certain conditions. It said that the prosecution may seek cancellation of bail for the two if the conditions imposed by the courts are violated.

The bench directed that the matter be placed before Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant for the constitution of an appropriate bench for an authoritative pronouncement on the question of law.

## Police busts illegal forex trading call centre, 6 held

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NEW DELHI

THE Delhi Police has busted an illegal forex trading call centre operating from Indore in Madhya Pradesh and arrested six people allegedly involved in duping victims across the country through fake online investment schemes, an official said on Friday.

According to the police, the accused allegedly ran a sophisticated fraud operation using a fake trading platform to lure people into investing in forex and online trading products by showing fabricated profits and trading gains. Police said the syndicate cheated victims out of around Rs 1 crore by con-



vincing them to invest in gold, silver, Nifty, Bank Nifty, and cryptocurrency-linked assets.

"The operation was unearthed during an investigation into a complaint filed on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP), who alleged that a woman induced him to invest in forex trading," the officer said. Police said the victim was repeatedly persuad-

ed to transfer money under various pretexts, including leverage charges, GST, penalties, TDS and account unlocking fees. During the investigation, it was found that the complainant had transferred more than Rs 10.5 lakh into multiple bank accounts allegedly operated by the fraudsters, they said.

"A team carried out technical surveillance, mobile track-

ing, IMEI analysis and scrutiny of financial transactions before tracing the network to Indore," the officer said. Based on inputs and local intelligence, police conducted a raid at the scamster's place in Indore's RNT Marg, where they allegedly found a fully operational illegal call centre. Police said 41 people, including 35 tele-callers, were present at the office and were actively contacting potential victims and persuading them to invest money through the fake trading platform.

The six arrested accused were identified as Kartik Aggarwal, alleged mastermind and owner of the operation; Raja Aggarwal, co-owner of the call centre; and team leaders Harsh Keshre, Nikhil Bhalse, Deepak Umath and Vipin Yadav. "The syndicate used fake identities, mule bank accounts, fake SIM cards and layered banking channels to evade detection," the officer said.

## Digital push to tendering: Govt signs SBI pact for 'e-Pay' platform

PURNA SINGH  
NEW DELHI

**With the rollout of the e-Pay solution, the entire payment mechanism will be digitised, reducing paperwork and manual intervention while ensuring faster and more transparent transactions for stakeholders participating in government tenders**

the implementation of a new digital payment platform called 'e-Pay'.

The new system is designed to strengthen transparency, improve efficiency and promote ease of doing business in government procurement processes. It will offer enhanced e-banking services, seamless digital

payment support and comprehensive Management Information System (MIS) assistance for procurement-related operations.

At present, the e-tendering ecosystem largely depends on manual payment methods and physical processing systems. With the rollout of the e-Pay so-

lution, the entire payment mechanism will be digitised, reducing paperwork and manual intervention while ensuring faster and more transparent transactions for stakeholders participating in government tenders.

As part of the reform measures, the IT Department has also integrated



the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) feature into the Delhi Government eProcurement Portal.

The digital integration

will allow bidders to make and verify payments online with real-time transaction confirmation, significantly reducing delays and admin-

istrative hurdles. The new mechanism will also eliminate the need for bidders to submit physical demand drafts, making the tendering

process fully paperless and more convenient for businesses and contractors.

Under the partnership, SBI will assist the Delhi e-Governance Society in managing secure online payment services connected to the Delhi Government's e-tendering ecosystem. The MoU was formally signed by the Director of DeGS and SBI's Deputy General Manager.

Delhi Information Technology Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh said the initiative reflects the government's focus on strengthening digital governance and improving public service delivery through technology-driven reforms.

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