

Pellet guns can't be banned as long as advisory permits use: SC

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NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Thursday said that pellet guns cannot be banned as long as the existing advisory permits their use for crowd control in exceptional circumstances by security agencies, while making it clear that allegations of specific misuse can be examined on a case-by-case basis.

The top court took note of a plea on the use of metallic pellet guns during the recent students' protests against the NEET paper leak in Delhi and asked the Centre to preserve the ammunition log of the Rapid Action Force (RAF) deployed at the Jantar Mantar.

Observing that police, as

per the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) advisory, are empowered to use pellet guns in exceptional situations, a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices Joy-malya Bagchi and V Mohana termed "vague" the prayer in the plea seeking a complete ban on such usage.

"Prayers are not to use pellet guns. In exceptional cases, police regulations permit the use of pellet guns. If you are interested in phasing out pellet guns, you will have to challenge that very provision as ultra vires to Article 21 (right to life)," Justice Bagchi said.

The bench took note of the submissions of senior advocate Vrinda Grover, appear-

'Prayers are not to use pellet guns. In exceptional cases, police regulations permit the use of pellet guns. If you are interested in phasing out pellet guns, you will have to challenge that very provision as ultra vires to Article 21 (right to life)'

ing for the petitioners, and asked the Delhi government to provide the best treatment to Prashant Kumar, Sheikh Irshad Mansoori and others who suffered pellet gun injuries during the July 20 protest here.

Former Central Information Commissioner and retired IPS officer Yashovardhan Azad and the two victims had moved the court seeking a complete ban on the use of metallic pellet guns to deal with law and order situations.

to place them on record. Singh and Mansoori reportedly suffered pellet injuries during the 'Sansad Chalo' march called by the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) on July 20.

Grover said as regards the petitioners, metallic pellets were used, and they were recovered from their bodies. "I am not saying pellet guns should not be in the armoury of the RAF or not. Here it is different. They have used metallic pellets," she said.

The bench said it was not averse to examining the use of pellets in a particular incident and the petitioners must show if it was permissible under a "graded approach". The senior lawyer said she was confining her reliefs to metallic pellets.



BJP demands Pb Edn Minister's resignation

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THE Delhi BJP on Thursday staged a protest at the AAP office near Mandi House here, demanding the resignation of the Punjab education minister over alleged exam paper leaks in the state.

The protesters, led by Delhi BJP president Harsh Malhotra, gathered near AAP headquarters at Ferozshah Road and demanded the resignation of Education minister Harjot Singh Bains and other ministers, alleging six exam paper leaks under the four-and-a-half-year-old government in the state.

AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal recently claimed that no paper leaks happened in Punjab in the past years under the party government. He, however, said that some students in an exam at two centres tried to use digital pens for cheating but were immediately caught and the paper was not leaked.

The BJP protesters, in-



cluding several party MPs, MLAs and state office bearers, alleged that papers of six exams were leaked, impacting the future of 30 lakh students in the state.

The AAP had supported

the recent Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protest held at Jantar Mantar here, which led to the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over NEET paper leak.

IYC protests police action, seeks Shah's resignation

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NEW DELHI

THE Indian Youth Congress (IYC) on Thursday staged a protest in the national capital against the alleged use of force on students during the July 20 'Sansad Chalo' march to Parliament, demanding the resignation of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Carrying the tricolour and placards reading "Amit Shah Must Resign," several IYC workers marched from Kerala House to Jantar Mantar, raising slogans against the BJP-led government and alleging police excesses against students who had participated in the march.

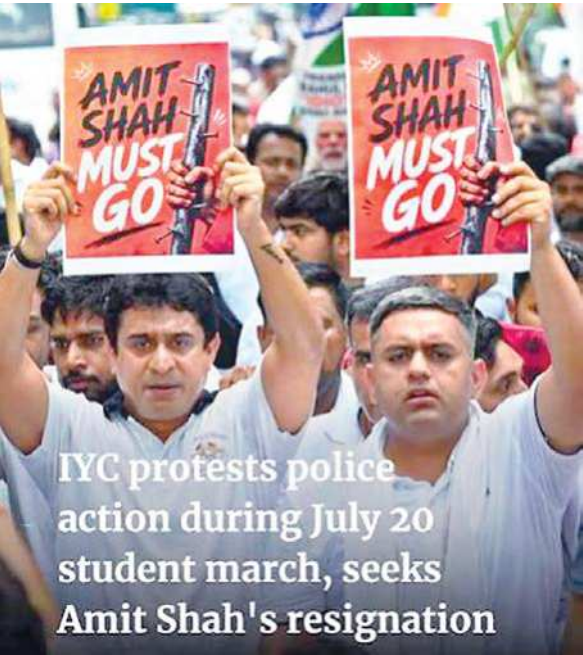
Addressing the gathering, IYC national president Uday Bhanu Chib questioned who had ordered the police

The country's Home Minister lacks the courage to come and sit in the Lok Sabha. Amit Shah must answer - who gave the order to attack the students? Union Home Minister Amit Shah

action and demanded accountability.

"The country's Home Minister lacks the courage to come and sit in the Lok Sabha. Amit Shah must answer - who gave the order to attack the students?" Chib claimed. He said the issue was not merely about students but about fixing responsibility.

"If pellet guns and lethal force were used against students on the Home Minister's orders,



responsibility must be fixed. If it happened without his knowledge, it raises serious questions about the country's internal security apparatus. In either

scenario, accountability must be established," he said.

Chib demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi dismiss Shah, order an independent high-level inquiry under the supervision of the Supreme Court and ensure accountability for the alleged police action.

The protest comes days after the July 20 'Sansad Chalo' march held by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), during which students attempting to march towards Parliament said that police used lathis, tear gas and pellet guns to disperse them near Jantar Mantar, leaving several protesters injured.

The Delhi Police has maintained that only minimum force was used to control the situation.

Police rejects claims of Jantar Mantar being closed for protests



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DELHI Police on Thursday dismissed social media claims alleging that the Jantar Mantar has been locked or closed for protests as "false and misleading," saying the site continues to remain available for authorised and peaceful demonstrations. In a clarification, the police said rumours circulating on various social media platforms claiming that protests were no longer allowed at Jantar Mantar were completely baseless and not supported by facts.

Jantar Mantar remains an active and authorised venue for peaceful protests in accordance

with the directions of the Supreme Court and the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by Delhi Police in compliance with the court's order, they said.

Under the existing SOP, permission can be granted for a gathering of up to 1,000 people at the protest site, subject to approval by the competent authority, they said.

The clarification comes amid social media posts claiming that the iconic protest venue had been shut for demonstrations. The police also urged citizens not to believe or circulate unverified information and advised them to rely only on official communications for authentic and accurate updates.

Life convict who jumped parole held after 15 yrs

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A life convict, who had been on the run for more than 15 years after jumping parole in a murder-cum-ransom case involving the kidnapping and killing of a 10-year-old boy, was arrested here, an officer said on Thursday.

The accused, Narender Chauhan (48), was convicted in a 2002 case registered at Shalimar Bagh police station under charges including murder, kidnapping for ransom and criminal conspiracy.

He was sentenced to life imprisonment, police said. Police said the Delhi High Court granted Chauhan one month's parole in April 2011, but he did not surrender to jail authorities after the parole period ended and remained absconding.

Acting on specific intelligence, a Delhi Police Crime



Branch team tracked him to a rented accommodation in Chhaprola village in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, and arrested him on Wednesday, they said.

According to police, Chauhan frequently changed his residence, living at various locations in Ghaziabad and Greater Noida to evade arrest. He allegedly earned his livelihood by providing tuition to children while on the run. Police said the case relates to the kidnapping of a boy, and the child was allegedly murdered after his family failed to pay a ransom of Rs 20 lakh. All the accused were later convicted in the case.

Army personnel robbery case: Hotel tout held after 8 months

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NEW DELHI

AN alleged hotel tout, accused of luring an Indian Army personnel into a robbery trap near the New Delhi Railway Station, has been arrested after evading police for nearly eight months, with all four accused in the case now in custody, police said on Thursday.

The case pertains to an incident reported on December 3, 2025, in which the serving Army personnel from Sikkim alleged that he was robbed after being lured to a budget hotel in Paharganj while waiting to board a train to Punjab.

According to the police, the victim was approached by a tout who offered him a room at a hotel for Rs 600. After checking in, the tout allegedly kept offering the services of a woman, which the soldier repeatedly declined.

"Despite his refusal, a



woman entered the room and allegedly alerted her associates. Three men then barged into the room, wrongfully confined and assaulted the Army personnel, and forced him to transfer Rs 7,500 through UPI after linking his SBI bank accounts," a senior police officer said.

The accused also searched his belongings for cash before fleeing. The victim alleged that he was threatened by the hotel manager when he informed him about the inci-

dent while checking out.

Police registered an FIR at Paharganj police station and arrested hotel manager Sohail Akhtar, waiter Chote Lal and sweeper Sanjay on December 4, 2025.

"During interrogation, the trio allegedly disclosed that travellers arriving at the railway station were lured to the hotel on the promise of cheap accommodation and later extorted on the pretext of payment for sexual services," the officer said.

Child pornography case

Delhi court says missing mobile can't shield accused from trial

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NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has upheld an order directing the framing of charges against a man accused of uploading child sexual abuse material on Facebook, saying that the non-recovery of the mobile phone allegedly used in the offence cannot be a ground to stifle a prosecution when digital evidence links the accused to the account.

Additional Sessions Judge Hargurvarinder Singh Jaggi was hearing a revision petition filed by Aditya Biswas, who challenged a trial court order directing framing of charges under Section 67B of the Information Technology Act against him.

The section deals with publishing or transmitting sexually explicit material involving children. In the order dated July 27, the court said, "The physical recovery

The case stems from an FIR registered by the South Delhi cyber police station in December 2022 following a complaint received from the National Crime Records Bureau based on a CyberTipline report generated by the US-based National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children

of a mobile phone is not an absolute sine qua non for framing a charge when the digital trail, particularly IP logs and subscriber data, securely links the transmission to the accused's control over the social media account."

The case stems from an FIR registered by the South Delhi cyber police station in December 2022 following a complaint received from

the National Crime Records Bureau based on a CyberTipline report generated by the US-based National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC).

According to the prosecution, a Facebook account named 'Neem Biswas' uploaded a 17-second video depicting a child engaged in a sexually explicit act. Investigators traced the account through an IP address and mobile number and al-

leged that Biswas had created and operated it using a friend's phone.

The accused challenged the charge-framing order, arguing that no Facebook or NCMEC official had been examined, making the CyberTipline report inadmissible hearsay. He also contended that no mobile phone was recovered from him and that the prosecution's case relied heavily on his disclosure statement.



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