



Lovepreet's lifts silver

Weightlifter Lovepreet Singh's Commonwealth Games record-breaking silver medal headlined an eventful day for India, while discus thrower Seema Kaliramna bagged a bronze medal and Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra, along with two compatriots

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Want to feel depressed? Watch Parliament sessions

Do you want to slip into a state of depression? The easiest way is to switch on your television and watch how increasingly unaccountable and irresponsible many of our public representatives have become. Follow it up by watching prime-time television debates

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Institutional bets on warehousing rise 53% in H1 2026

Institutional Investments in warehousing and industrial segment of Indian real estate rose 53 per cent in January-June to \$49 million, according to Vestian. US-based real estate consultant Vestian on Tuesday said in a statement that the leasing of warehousing

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Yami Gautam speaks about career struggles

Yami Gautam talked about one of the darkest times in her career, saying that she almost quit Bollywood after a few failures and then her two successful movies made her realize her stardom.

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WINDOWS

Former Army chief Gen Vishwa Nath dies at 96

NEW DELHI: Former Army chief Gen Vishwa Nath Sharma (ret'd) died on Friday at the age of 96, the Indian Army said. Gen Sharma was the Chief of the Army Staff from June 30, 1988 to June 30, 1990, and saw action as a major during the 1965 Indo-Pak War in the Lahore Sector. He commanded the Armoured Regiment and held important staff and instructional appointments. Post 1965 war, he was promoted to the rank of a brigadier. He commanded a Mountain Brigade in an insurgency-affected area and was awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) in 1977 for distinguished service, according to his profile on the Army's website.

School bus driver held for molesting 15-year-old

NOIDA: A private school bus driver here has been arrested for allegedly molesting a 15-year-old student during a sports trip to Meerut around four months ago, police said on Friday. An FIR has been registered against the driver at the Knowledge Park police station in Greater Noida, and further investigation is underway, they said. According to the police, the driver had accompanied the school's sports team, which also included girl students, to Meerut for a sports competition. Preliminary inquiry revealed that the alleged molestation occurred inside the bus while the team was returning from Meerut, the police said. "The incident took place approximately four months ago. Based on the complaint lodged by the victim, a case was registered against the bus driver under relevant legal provisions, and he has been arrested," a police spokesperson said.

Omar Abdullah, wife agree to dissolve marriage

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court informed that Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir Omar Abdullah and his estranged wife Payal Abdullah have agreed to part ways and have filed an application invoking Article 142 of the Constitution seeking dissolution of their marriage on mutual consent, reports Live Law. Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal submitted before a bench comprising Justice PS Narasimha and Justice Alok Aradhe that the parties have "embraced freedom".



Whether a word is parliamentary or unparliamentary depends on who says it

THE Hans India



Modi, Burnham push India-UK ties to new heights

► The two PMs discussed the situation in West Asia and agreed to work together towards deescalation and the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz

► We agreed to work together across sectors such as technology, innovation, defence, security, clean energy, education and people-to-people ties: Modi

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Andy Burnham vowed on Friday to take the India-UK comprehensive strategic partnership to

"new heights" and maximise the benefits of the newly operationalised trade deal during a phone conversation covering key aspects of bilateral ties. It was the first phone call between the two leaders after Burnham became the prime minister



on July 20 succeeding Keir Starmer.

The two prime ministers discussed the situation in West Asia and agreed to work closely together

towards deescalation and the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, according to a British readout. In a social media post, Modi said he congratulated Burnham on

assuming the charge of the top office and conveyed his best wishes for a successful tenure. "We agreed to work together across sectors such as technology, innovation, defence, security, clean energy, education and people-to-people ties and take the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to new heights," he said. "We will also collaborate closely to fully harness the trade and investment opportunities presented by the recently operationalized India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, for

the shared prosperity and well-being of both our people," Modi said. The mega trade pact, being billed as one of the biggest trade deals of modern times, came into effect on July 15.

The pact, firmed up in July last year after three years of negotiations, secures zero-duty market access for nearly 99 per cent of India's exports to the UK.

The British readout said Burnham began the conversation by reflecting on the strength of the UK-India partnership and the significant impact it has had on

local communities across the UK. "The prime minister set out his ambitions to further enhance the UK-India relationship, including through the UK-India Vision 2035 framework and strong people-to-people links," it said. Burnham praised the contribution Indian communities in the UK make to the fabric of UK society, with Modi noting the links between the two leaders' own home cities of Manchester and Ahmedabad, in Gujarat, which he called the "Manchester of India", it said.

IB officer murder case

Former AAP councillor Tahir, 4 others get lifer

Delhi CM welcomes life sentences in Ankit Sharma murder case; slams AAP; 'Sense of justice' but fight not over, Ankit Sharma's family seeks 'rarest of rare' punishment

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Friday sentenced former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain and four others to life imprisonment for the murder of IB officer Ankit Sharma during the 2020 Delhi riots. Additional Sessions Judge Praveen Singh pronounced the sentence to all five accused after hearing arguments on the quantum and said that the prosecution was not able to prove that the convicts are not beyond



reformation. The judgement was pronounced in the physical presence of Hussain and others amid tight security. The courtroom was packed with lawyers and senior Delhi Police officials including Crime Branch's Joint Commissioner and DCP.

Earlier, Delhi Police had sought death penalty for all five accused, saying they fell to the "level of being animals" while relentlessly assaulting Sharma. Special public prosecutor Madhukar Pandey had submitted that Sharma was brutally killed and was not shown any mercy by the convicts, so they should not be given any leniency. Those who are asking for mercy today should have shown mercy themselves. No mercy was

shown from anyone's side. No one even took Ankit to the hospital. They are asking for mercy after committing such a brutal murder, Pandey had said.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta welcomed the court's decision sentencing Hussain and five others to life imprisonment and accused the AAP leadership of backing Hussain despite his arrest.

"Today, the people of Delhi demand answers from the Aam Aadmi Party. Tahir Hussain was arrested on charges of murder, yet even after that, Mr Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia stood in his support! They kept trying relentlessly to save him! Why? Will Mr Kejriwal tell the people of Delhi? Was it under their patronage that people like Tahir Hussain conspired to incite riots?" she said in a post on X.

"After almost six years of fighting this case, our family finally feels that we have received a sense of justice, but we will fight for death penalty," Ankit's brother Ankur Sharma told PTI.

10 killed in Bhiwandi building collapse

HANS NEWS SERVICE
THANE

At least 10 people were killed and three others injured after a four-storey residential building, tagged as 'dangerous' in 2020 by the local civic body and currently undergoing repairs illegally, collapsed in Bhiwandi town of Maharashtra's Thane district, officials said on Friday. Hectic efforts were on to rescue three other residents believed to be still trapped under the rubble, several hours after the collapse, they said. A portion of

the Kohinoor Building in the Balaji Nagar area of the powerloom town, around 50km from Mumbai, came crashing down at 11.20 pm on Thursday. Rescue workers from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Thane Disaster Response Force (TDRF), and the municipal fire brigade pulled out ten bodies as heavy machinery and sniffer dogs were deployed to look for survivors under the debris of the four-storey structure, said the officials of the district disaster management cell. The structure comprised 48 rooms, 12

on each floor. Around 9 pm on Thursday, residents heard "loud cracking sounds" emanating from the building, an official said. Fearing the worst, locals immediately helped evacuate many families to other locations.

However, while some occupants were still making their way out, the 'B' wing of the building caved in, he said. The officials said five of the deceased were identified as Shamim Shaikh (32), Ranjeet Singh (45), Miraj Rasul Shaikh (34), Santosh Kumar Pandey (42) and Shamim Ansari (30).

DU prof sent into forced retirement for sexual abuse

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

A faculty member of the Delhi University's Department of Political Science has been given compulsory retirement following the recommendations of the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) over an alleged sexual harassment complaint, officials said on Friday.

The recommendations were accepted by the university's Executive Council (EC) at its meeting held on Thursday, an official said.

"Following an ICC recommendation, the profes-



sor's penalty was compulsory retirement. The original complaint pertained to a student allegedly being harassed," the official told PTI.

According to the official, the complaint is at least a year old, and the ICC report was cleared and accepted by the EC during Thursday's meeting.

"The university has a zero-tolerance policy towards sexual harassment and will continue to implement measures aimed at ensuring a safe and secure environment for students and staff," the official said.

Under the University Grants Commission (UGC) regulations and the provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, Internal Complaints Committees are empowered to inquire into complaints of sexual harassment and recommend action to the competent authority.



Trump mulls \$100K fee for students keen to work in US

TEXAS: The United States is planning to impose a \$1,00,000 fee on visas issued to international students for working in the US after graduation from an American university, The Wall Street Journal reported.

The Trump administration move comes after a US court struck down a proposal to levy a \$1,00,000 fee on H-1B visas.

According to The Wall Street Journal, the Department of Homeland Security is mulling the high fee on Optional Practical Training (OPT) visas which are an extension of F-1 visas issued to students.

The OPT programme allows foreign graduates to work for one to three years on their student visas in areas directly related to their studies.

Roughly 4,19,000 foreigners were working on OPT in 2024, the latest year for which data are available.

Tech companies, which conduct most of the recruitments from US universities, opposed the \$1,00,000 fee on H-1B visas.

A DHS spokeswoman said in a statement: "No policies should be considered final until formally announced. At DHS we are always having conversations about how to use all tools in our arsenal to protect the integrity of our legal immigration system."

In addition to the H-1B and student visas, officials at the State Department are also weighing attaching a \$1,00,000 bond on applicants for green cards outside the US, redeemable only after they move to the US and become citizens.

Cabinet extends PM-KISAN for 5 yrs

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Union Cabinet on Friday approved extension of the PM-KISAN scheme for the next five years till the 2030-31 fiscal with an outlay of Rs 3,15,614 crore. Launched on February 24, 2019, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is a centrally sponsored scheme aimed at providing assured income support to farmers nationwide. Under the scheme, each eligible farmer family receives annual financial assistance of Rs 6,000.

This is disbursed in three equal instalments of Rs 2,000 through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism into Aadhaar-seeded bank accounts. Briefing media, Information & Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the Cabinet has extended the PM-KISAN scheme for five years till 2030-31. The total outlay stands at Rs 3,15,614 crore.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the Union Cabinet's decision, saying it will help farmers meet their needs



related to seeds, fertilisers, and farming while improving their economic condition. Modi also welcomed the Cabinet's approval of the expanded Khelo India Scheme and the enhanced budget for Assistance to the National Sports Federations (ANSFs), with a combined outlay of Rs 36,441 crore over the next five years. "We are committed to the empowerment and pros-

perity of our farmer brothers and sisters across the country. In this direction, today approval has been given to extend the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme until 2030-31. This will not only help farmers meet their needs related to seeds, fertilisers, and farming, but also improve their economic condition," he said in a post on X in Hindi.

Opposition MPs enact donation theft at Parliament complex

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

A saffron-clad Independent MP Pappu Yadav along with other Opposition MPs enacted 'theft' of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya in Parliament complex on Friday.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi were part of the protest against the theft of donations, as well as police crackdown

As part of a skit, the MPs, including Rahul Gandhi, put money inside the boxes, as Yadav slipped money into his pockets to symbolise the alleged theft at the Ram Temple; VHP, seers condemn Oppn's saffron-robe protest outside Parliament, seek MPs' expulsion

against student agitators during their July 20 march to Parliament.

The Indian National Development Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) MPs demanded



Home Minister Amit Shah's resignation and questioned his absence from House proceedings. Protesting in front

of Makar Dwar of Parliament, the lawmakers raised such slogans as 'Amit Shah istifa do', 'Amit Shah sadan

mein aao' and 'chadhawa chor, gaddi chorh'.

The MPs kept donation boxes in front of the Makar Dwar steps and Independent MP Rajesh Ranjan, known as Pappu Yadav, dressed in saffron, sat with the boxes.

As part of a skit, the MPs, including Rahul Gandhi, put money inside the boxes, as Yadav slipped money into his pockets to symbolise the alleged theft at the Ram Temple.

The VHP condemned a

"skit" to highlight the alleged theft of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya, claiming the demonstration insulted Hindu religious sentiments. Several prominent seers and office-bearers associated with the Ram temple and Ayodhya's religious institutions also hit out at the protest and demanded the expulsion of the MPs involved, and urged President Droupadi Murmu and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to cancel their membership.