

Racket diverting anti-cancer drugs worth Rs 9 cr busted

NEW DELHI

SEVENTEEN people have been arrested and hundreds of vials of life-saving drugs recovered by the Delhi Police's Crime Branch, busting an alleged multi-state racket involving counterfeit and illegally diverted anti-cancer medicines worth around Rs 9 crore, an

officer said on Thursday. A team of the Crime Branch recovered 588 filled anti-cancer vials, six empty vials, seven empty medicine boxes, 3,021 units of other medicines and around Rs 50 lakh in cash, he said. The recovered medicines include Darzalex, Imfinzi, Erbitux, Opdyta, Gazyva, Bavencio,

The recovered medicines include Darzalex, Imfinzi, Erbitux, Opdyta, Gazyva, Bavencio, Adcetris and Keytruda, which are predominantly used in the treatment of various types of cancers. "The syndicate had supply links across Delhi-NCR,

Mumbai, Hyderabad, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and other locations," the police officer said. The officer said the probe began on June 22 after the team received secret

inputs about the racket. Verification identified suspicious premises in East Delhi, Rohini and Mumbai. Seven teams conducted simultaneous raids on July 11 in Delhi and Navi Mumbai in coordination with the drugs department and local police. Subsequent interrogation, disclosures and searches led to the arrests of

17 accused, the officer said. Police said the syndicate obtained medicines through three channels -- counterfeit drugs bought from unauthorised sources, medicines allegedly misappropriated from hospitals meant for cancer patients, and government-supplied medicines diverted from government institutions and warehouses.



Police deny giving permission for protest at Jantar Mantar

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NEW DELHI

THE Delhi Police said on Thursday that they have not granted permission for any protest regarding reservation reforms at Jantar Mantar on August 21, terming videos circulating on social media as "false and misleading." "Prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), corresponding to the erstwhile Section 144 of the CrPC, are already in force in the New Delhi district," the Delhi Police statement read. Under the orders, protest marches, processions, demonstrations and assemblies of five or more persons are



strictly prohibited, the statement read. "Citizens have been advised not to amplify, forward or share unverified content circulating on social media. Legal action may be initiated against individuals found creating or disseminating fake news," police cautioned in the statement.

The protest was called by "Reservation Hatao Andolan", an Instagram-based page that quickly built momentum by adopting the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) protest-mobilisation tactics. The digital campaign has now called for a physical, anti-reservation protest at Jantar Mantar on Friday (August 21).

Court acquits man in fake currency case

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NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has acquitted a man accused of circulating Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) worth Rs 7.5 lakh via the Bangladesh border in the national capital, citing several material contradictions that cast strong doubts against the prosecution. Amit Bansal, Judge of the Special Exclusive Court (NIA Act), was hearing the case registered by the Delhi Police's Special Cell in 2018 under IPC Sections 489 B (using as genuine, forged or counterfeit currency-notes or bank-notes) and 489 C (possession of forged or counterfeit currency-notes or bank-notes) against the accused, Deepak Mandal, a resident of Malda in West Bengal.

According to the testimonies of witnesses, a black-coloured bag contained two polythenes that had the FICNs used by the accused, but the bag and polythenes were not seized by the prosecution, creating a material lacuna and raising a strong doubt



The court said, "It is held that the prosecution has failed to prove its case beyond reasonable doubt against the accused. The accused is thus acquitted in this case." According to the prosecution, based on a tip-off, a trap was laid on August 9, 2018, near the DTC Bus Depot in Khanpur,

and a police officer acted as a decoy customer to buy fake notes from Mandal. The police alleged that Mandal was apprehended after he handed over two wads of fake Rs 2,000

notes (totalling Rs 7.5 lakh) in exchange for a dummy wad. In its verdict, the court said according to the testimonies of witnesses, a black-coloured bag contained two polythenes

that had the FICNs used by the accused, but the bag and polythenes were not seized by the prosecution, creating a "material lacuna" and raising a "strong doubt" on its case.

Cong councillor attacked in MCD chairman's office

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NEW DELHI

A Congress councillor allegedly ran into the office of an MCD zone chairman in northeast Delhi after being attacked by a group of people, following which a scuffle broke out inside the office, causing damage to some property, officials said on Thursday. The incident took place at the office of zone Chairman and BJP leader Pankaj Luthra, who said the councillor had rushed inside while being pursued by some people. "Two people got into a scuffle. One of them, who



was a Congress councillor, rushed towards our room. We intervened and broke up the scuffle," Luthra said. He said no BJP councillor or party member was involved in the incident. A purported video of the

incident shows a chair being thrown at a person while two policemen appear to be trying to protect him. The video also shows damage to property inside the chairman's office as numerous people gather inside Luthra's room.

The councillor involved in the incident was identified as Congress's Hazi Zarif. When contacted by PTI, Zarif did not comment on the incident. However, one of his associates alleged that he had been attacked by members of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). "He was attacked by AAP members," the associate alleged. The allegations could not be independently verified. The incident comes amid allegations that some industrial units linked to AAP members were sealed by Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) for violating environmental laws.

Police arrest interstate arms smuggler, recover 10 firearms

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NEW DELHI

AN interstate arms smuggler was arrested by the Delhi Police Special Cell, and 10 illegal firearms were recovered from his possession, an officer said on Thursday. The accused, Prem Singh Rathod, 33, was allegedly working as a carrier for an arms syndicate operating from Burhanpur in Madhya Pradesh. He was supplying firearms to criminal gangs and prospective buyers in Delhi-NCR and other states, he said. Rathod was arrest-



ed on August 8 near Shankar Vihar Bus Stand on National Highway-48 while he was on his way to deliver a consignment of weapons, he said, adding that fire-

arms were recovered during his search. The recovered weapons include a 9-mm Zigana pistol, four 7.65-mm semi-automatic pistols and five (dot)315-bore single-shot pistols, police said. A team developed intelligence about the syndicate and laid a trap after receiving specific information about the movement of the consignment, said the police officer. An FIR was registered at the Special Cell police station, and further investigation is underway. During interrogation, Rathod disclosed that he had been working as an arms carrier for the syndicate for about a year.

Live-in relationship akin to marriage: HC

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NEW DELHI

THE Delhi High Court has said that a live-in relationship between consenting adults is akin to marriage and neither parents nor friends can interfere with their choice or threaten their life. Justice Saurabh Banerjee granted police protection to a live-in couple facing threats from the girl's family, and said the couple, being consenting adults, had "all rights to choose and reside" with a partner of their choice without interference from anyone. The judge, in an order passed on August 13 on the couple's petition, observed that marriages are recognised irrespective of the caste, creed, colour, religion or faith of the consenting adults, and curtailing their fundamental rights, which are guaranteed under the Constitution, by "societal morals and prejudices" was a deprivation of one's very individualistic



identity. "Since the petitioners have willingly, consensually and with utmost responsibility chosen to enter into a live-in relationship with each other, nobody, be it their parents/ relatives/ friends, have a right and/ or authority to cause any hinderance and/ or interfere with their choice thereof, much less threaten their life and/ or liberty," the court said. "The petitioners herein are though in a live-in relationship, are not legally married to each, however, being consenting adults, the same is akin to marriage," it stated.

2047 plan proposes treatment of 22 drains to rejuvenate Yamuna

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NEW DELHI

THE proposed Master Plan for Delhi-2047 envisages intercepting and treating all 22 drains discharging into the Yamuna through sewage treatment, constructed wetlands and bio-remediation as part of a series of measures aimed at rejuvenating the river and its floodplains. The plan, which was unveiled on Thursday, also proposes restoring the intercepted drain corridors and seamlessly integrating them with green spaces and floodplains to create continuous ecological corridors. It strictly prohibits the discharge of untreated or unregulated sewage, wastewater, industrial effluents and solid waste into the Yamuna and other water bodies.

Restricting social media for children Centre's domain: HC

A bench of Justices V Kameswar Rao and Manmeet P S Arora refused to entertain a PIL seeking to restrict the use of social media by children and asked the central government to consider it as a representation



A bench of Justices V Kameswar Rao and Manmeet P S Arora refused to entertain a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking to restrict the use of social media by children and asked the central government to consider it as a representation. The bench, however, re-

fused to set a timeline for the authorities to complete the exercise. "Your views would be taken into consideration by the respondents. The stakeholders have to be consulted. "Their views have to be taken and then it is in the realm of a policy. It is not for a court to give a direction

that you should ban this, or that you should ban that. Let them look into it and then pass an order," the bench told the petitioner's lawyer. The petitioner sought a direction to the Centre to consider enacting a law or guidelines to "restrict" the use of social media by children under the age of 13 years. It also prayed for a framework to "regulate" social media content for children aged 13-16 years. Central Government Counsel Nidhi Raman said the issue of restricting or regulating the use of social media was a policy issue which has to be considered by the Centre as it may require enactment of a new law.

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