

Uttarakhand HC relocation row: Bench reserves verdict

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NAINITAL

THE Uttarakhand High Court has reserved its decision on a petition challenging the administrative approval given to the land identified for the new high court complex construction. The Uttarakhand High Court is proposed to be shifted from Nainital to the Bel Baba area of Haldwani. A division bench of Justices

Manoj Kumar Tiwari and Pankaj Purohit reserved its verdict after hearing arguments from the petitioner, the state government and other parties. In his petition, advocate and activist Raman Shah questioned the identification of land near the Bel Baba Temple for the proposed high court complex. He contended that the land identified in the Nainital district magistrate's

The Uttarakhand High Court is proposed to be shifted from Nainital to the Bel Baba area of Haldwani; advocate and activist Raman Shah questioned the identification of land for the proposed complex

report is reserved forest land and its proposed use for high court construction is contrary to Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The petitioner argued that extensive plantation has been carried out on the land and

its character as forest land cannot be altered without following the procedure prescribed under law. He also requested an inquiry into the role of officials involved in identifying the land and sought appropriate action if any viola-

tion was found. Referring to the Supreme Court's order dated July 15, 2026, the petitioner submitted that de-reservation or diversion of reserved forest land requires compliance with the forest conservation laws, including approval from the Central government, and that the character of the land cannot be changed merely on a judicial order. He further claimed that the proposed site falls with-

in an elephant corridor and is an environmentally sensitive area. Construction of a major institutional complex, he argued, could have significant consequences for forests, wildlife and the surrounding ecology and therefore requires careful consideration. Another argument raised before the court concerned the objective behind the creation of Uttarakhand as a hill state. The petitioner contended



that relocation of one of the state's most important institutions from the hills to the plains should be examined in that context. If shifting

of the high court becomes necessary, he submitted, the authorities should explore a suitable location within the hill region.

Students of Kannauj school boycott classes, hold protest

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GUGARAPUR

HUNDREDS of students of a government school here boycotted classes and held a protest against the principal for alleged caste discrimination and ordering the felling of trees inside the school campus.

The students of PM Shri Composite School in Gugarapur also surrounded the vehicle of the in-charge principal at the school gate as he was leaving and raised slogans against him.

This comes amid protests by students in Unnao,

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The district basic education officer also reached the school and pacified the students and parents, following which classes resumed. Around 500 students are

enrolled at the school. District Basic Education Officer Sandeep Kumar said the complaints raised by the students and parents were being investigated.

In recent weeks, school students in many parts of UP have held protests over issues affecting their education and basic facilities.

On Wednesday, hundreds of students of Jai Prakash Narayan Sarvodaya Vidyalaya in Unnao had staged a sit-in over alleged poor-quality food, inadequate drinking water, shortage of teachers and the behaviour of the principal.

The protest briefly disrupted traffic before senior officials intervened and assured the students that their grievances would be addressed.

Pb bandh draws strong response

Markets shut, traffic hit at several places

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PATIALA/FEROZEPUR

SHOPS and markets remained shut while traffic movement was hit on the highways at many places in the state on Friday in the wake of a 'Punjab Bandh' call given by the Qaumi Insaf Morcha to press for the release of 'Bandi Singh' (Sikh prisoners).

Heavy police deployment was made at many places across Punjab, including Amritsar, Ludhiana, Mohali and Jalandhar, to maintain law and order. The call for the bandh was given from 7 am to 2 pm. Bandi Singh refers to Sikh prisoners convicted for their involvement in militancy during the Punjab insurgency of the 1990s.

Commuters, including office-goers and travellers, bore the brunt of the bandh call as they got caught up in road blockades by supporters of the Qaumi Insaf Morcha and various farmers' bodies at several places, including Patiala, Mohali and Jalandhar.

Commuters at some places were seen requesting the protesters to allow them to proceed towards their destinations as tractor-trolleys and other vehicles were parked in the



middle of roads, including state and national highways, by the agitators. Essential services such as medical emergencies, travel to airports, exams and wedding ceremonies were allowed, the Morcha leaders said. The protesters staged dharnas in Jalandhar, Ludhiana's Ladhawal, Hoshiarpur and Ferozepur to vent their anguish over the non-release of Sikh prisoners.

They also took out marches on two-wheelers in cities. Shops at several places, including Sangrur, Ludhiana and Mohali, remained shut, barring medicine stores. Private schools remained shut on Friday as the Federation of Private Schools announced a holiday in view of the bandh call.

Mom run over by train while trying to save son from suicide

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BHADOHI

A 46-year-old woman was run over by a train as she tried to save her 20-year-old son attempting to die by suicide after she refused to give him money to buy liquor, police said on Friday.

The incident took place at the Indira Mill railway crossing in the Kotwali area of Bhadohi late Thursday evening, they said.

The deceased has been identified as Shiv Kumari. Her son, Vishal Rajbhar, was admitted to the district hospital with injuries and later referred to the BHU Trauma Centre in Varanasi, police said.

Kotwali SHO Shailesh Kumar Rai said Kumari, a resident of Chakbhundhar



village, had gone to a private nursing home in the city to meet her elder daughter Pushpa Rajbhar, who recently gave birth to a boy. Vishal accompanied her.

Vishal, who had already consumed alcohol, asked his mother for money at the nursing home. When she refused, an argument broke out between the two.

Vishal then threatened to jump in front of a train and

rushed out of the nursing home, with his mother following him.

Quoting eyewitnesses, Rai said Vishal stood on the railway track with a train approaching. However, Kumari reached there and pushed her son away from the tracks, but got hit by the train herself in the process.

She died on the spot, while Vishal was left injured in the incident, police said.

MP CM orders suspension of cop amid charges of coercion, fraud

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL/KATNI

MADHYA Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Friday ordered immediate suspension of Katni City Superintendent of Police (SP) Neha Pachisia after a case was registered against her for allegedly indulging in coercion and fraud for purchasing land in the district. CM Yadav directed the state Chief Secretary to issue immediate suspension orders.

The CM made it clear that negligence, pressure or abuse of power at any level will not be tolerated in matters related to law and order. A fair investigation and strict action against the culprits will be ensured, an official said.

The Madhya Pradesh High Court recently dismissed



CSP Pachisia's petition and denied her interim relief, after which the police department also took a strict legal stance against her, the official said. Katni's Superintendent of Police Abhinav Vishwakarma said, "Based on a complaint from the Bho-

pal Vigilance Branch and the instructions of the Jabalpur Zone, a case was registered against the CSP and other accused at the Kuthla police station in Katni on charges of fraud, coercion, and criminal conspiracy." The entire matter relates

to a transaction involving land owned by one Ramesh Lodhi that falls under the Kuthla police station limits. A departmental investigation found that the actual value of this land, according to government guidelines, was Rs 82,86,930. But by allegedly abusing the police machinery and her position, the CSP coerced the Lodhi family to sell the land at only Rs 18,20,000 in the name of Maruf Ahmed Hanafi. The documents showed a payment of Rs 15 lakh by cheque and Rs 3.20 lakh in cash, the official said.

An in-depth investigation conducted by Jabalpur's Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Anu Beniwal found that Hanafi, in whose name the land was bought, did not have funds in his bank for the purchase.

Three workers, including a Nepali killed in mishap

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MATHURA

THREE workers, including a Nepali national, were killed and several injured when the shuttering of a multi-storey building where construction was underway collapsed in Vrindavan here on Friday, police said. Shuttering is a temporary support structure used to hold wet concrete in place until it hardens and gains enough strength to support itself. The incident occurred around 7 am at the Omaxe Mall construction site in the Rukmani Vihar area under the Vrindavan Kotwali police station limits when workers were pouring concrete for a projecting slab on the fourth floor, Omaxe General Manager R K Jain said.

Several workers were trapped under the debris after the shuttering collapsed, triggering panic at the site. Police and fire brigade personnel, with the help of locals, launched a rescue operation and pulled out the injured workers before shifting them to different hospitals.

One of the deceased, identified as Shivram (42), a Nepali national, died on the spot. Two other workers, whose identities are yet to be ascertained, succumbed to their injuries during treatment at the district hospital, police said. Dr Bhudev Prasad, in-charge of the Rapid Response Team of the Chief Medical Officer's (CMO) office, said the two unidentified deceased workers were aged around 35-40. Another worker, Dildar Singh (40), a resident of West Bengal, was admitted to a hospital in Vrindavan in critical condition, he said. Several other workers are undergoing treatment at different hospitals.

Northern command hosts veterans' conclave

HANS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU

THE Northern Command of the Indian Army hosted a veterans' conclave bringing together key stakeholders from various wings of central government and formations across the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to strengthen welfare and rehabilitation measures for veterans, officials said.

The conclave involving stakeholders from the department of ex-servicemen welfare, Ministry of Defence, adjutant general's branch of the Army headquarters, the Jammu and Kashmir government and formations across UTs of J&K and Ladakh, focused on contemporary challenges faced by veterans, Veer Naris and dependents, with deliberations covering healthcare delivery, outreach and awareness, skill development and institutional support, they said.

The participants in two days conclave



on August 19 to 20 also discussed measures to enhance coordination among various departments and streamline administrative procedures to ensure more efficient delivery of welfare schemes and services to the veteran community.

Addressing the stakeholders, Army Commander, Northern Command, Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, called for a collabo-

rative approach involving all concerned agencies at every level to ensure the well-being of the veteran fraternity.

Secretary, Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, Ministry of Defence, Sukriti Likhri, who attended the conclave virtually, reiterated the government's commitment towards the welfare of veterans across J&K and Ladakh.

Man held for filming women in washroom

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHADOHI

A 32-year-old man was arrested here for allegedly recording videos and photographs of female students at a digital library through a hole in a washroom wall, police said on Friday. The accused, identified as Ravi Shankar Gupta, was arrested after library operator Bharthari Bind lodged a complaint at the Gyanpur police station late Thursday night, SHO Sacchidanand Pandey said.

According to the police, Bind has been running the library for several years in a building owned by Gupta's father near the Lal Nagar toll plaza on National Highway 19.

The washroom used by female students was adjacent to a room belonging to the building owner's family. "On Thursday afternoon, some students noticed a small hole in the washroom wall and alerted others.

They allegedly looked through the hole and saw Gupta in the adjoining room," Pandey said. The students allegedly took his mobile



phone and found a large number of objectionable photographs and videos of female students stored in its gallery, police said.

The mobile phone has been seized and sent for forensic examination to determine whether the videos were shared or uploaded on social media platforms or websites, they said. A case has been registered under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Information Technology Act, they added.

UP, Japan's Yamanashi begin a new era of industrial partnership: Yogi

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LUCKNOW

UTTAR Pradesh and Japan's Yamanashi province have begun a new era of partnership, with discussions between the two sides now translating into a "strong business partnership" and new investment opportunities, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Friday.

Addressing the Uttar Pradesh-Japan Investment Summit 2026 here in the

presence of Yamanashi Governor Kotaro Nagasaki, Deputy Governor Junichi Ishidera and a Japanese delegation of senior officials and industry representatives, Adityanath began his address by greeting the guests in Japanese, saying, "Konichiwa minasan" (hello/namaste).

"Only a few days ago, we took a resolve on Japanese soil. Today, here in Lucknow, we are seeing that resolve take concrete shape.

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Our discussions in Japan are now transforming into a strong business partnership and creating new opportunities for investment, industry and employment in Uttar Pradesh," he said.

Adityanath thanked Nagasaki and his team for their role in initiating a new chapter in ties between Uttar Pradesh and Yamanashi, saying the partnership would also strengthen

India-Japan relations.

The chief minister said Japan had demonstrated to the world that despite limited resources, discipline, will-power, high quality standards, innovation and a "nation first" approach could overcome any challenge. He said Japan had established itself as a major economic and industrial power, with a global reputation in automobiles, electronics, robotics, high-quality manufacturing, cleanliness and

collective responsibility.

Referring to Japanese concepts such as "Kaizen", "Monozukuri" and "Wa" (social harmony), Adityanath said these values were reflected in the country's administration, industry, education and social life. He cited Japan's Shinkansen bullet train as an example of the country's approach, saying its technical efficiency, punctuality, safety and reliability reflected an emphasis on precision and speed.

