



Kunal Ghosh Claims Attack for the Second Consecutive Day



Kolkata, Agency: TMC MLA Kunal Ghosh claimed on Sunday that his car was attacked once again in Kolkata. He stated that armed men on bikes smashed his car window and attempted to drag him out.

According to Ghosh, the attackers were carrying revolvers, prompting his security personnel to draw their weapons. Following this, he rushed to the Narkeldanga Police Station to save his life and parked his car outside the station. This marks the fourth attack on Ghosh in the last four months. Earlier on Saturday, his car was pelted with stones and eggs by a mob in Srirampur, Hooghly district, while he was on his way to Mamata Banerjee's rally, shattering the rear window.

This is Jungle Raj: Kunal Ghosh. Reacting to the incident, Kunal Ghosh said, "This is Jungle Raj. Stones and eggs were thrown at my car, and my way was blocked. There were no policemen present." He added that he was returning to Kolkata and would directly go to Lalbazar or Bhabani Bhawan to lodge a complaint.

The TMC has accused the BJP of the attack. Party leader Asit Majumdar said, "This was not a protest by common people, but a pre-planned attack by the BJP." Meanwhile, BJP MLA from Uttarpara, Dipanjan Chakraborty, claimed it was an outburst of public anger.

Zero Tolerance Policy Against Terrorism: S. Jaishankar

New York, Agency: India's External Affairs Minister



S. Jaishankar, without explicitly naming Pakistan, stated on Saturday that India's zero-tolerance policy against terrorism will continue.

He stressed that if any cross-border government is involved, it must be held accountable, calling terrorism a challenge for the entire world.

Jaishankar asserted that India will exercise its right to self-defense against terrorism, adding that terrorism and friendship cannot go hand-in-hand. Those who propagate terrorism must change their attitude. He was addressing the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

Jaishankar Backs Independent State for Palestine: Jaishankar expressed support for the creation of an independent state for Palestine, backing the Two-State Solution. The proposal envisions separate, independent nations for both Israel and Palestine, enabling the people of both nations to live in peace and security.

10 Years of Surgical Strike



New Delhi, Agency: In the 138th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat', PM Narendra Modi commemorated the completion of 10 years of the Surgical Strike. He stated on Sunday that on the night of September 28-29, 2016, the Indian Army crossed the LoC and struck terror launch pads



in Pakistan.

Modi termed it an example of India's new policy against terrorism. He noted that India has suffered the pain of terrorism for a long time, and the surgical strike was a decisive response to it.

The PM also mentioned the Balakot Air Strike and Operation Sindoor. He stated

that today's India operates on a policy of zero tolerance against terrorism. "We have made our stance clear time and again. If terrorists attack India, they will be given a befitting reply," he said.

He also recalled the 2008 Delhi serial blasts and the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, while mentioning the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

He paid tribute to the victims of the World Trade Center attack in America.

PM Modi's Message on the Census: Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the first phase of the census is almost complete across all states and Union Territories. The data of over 32 crore families has been recorded. In Uttarakhand, the census began from Mana village in Chamoli, often referred to as the first village of the country. "The census is our collective national responsibility."

PM Modi Remembers VHP Leader Ashok Singhal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi remembered former Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) International Working President Ashok Singhal. He said, "Today is the 100th birth anniversary of a great personality who dedicated his entire life to culture, society, and the nation. I am talking about the late Ashok Singhal ji. Living within society, he led the life of an ascetic. The direction and energy he provided to the Ram Janmabhoomi movement is the reason we are witnessing a grand temple in Ayodhya today."

Ready for Any Action if Pakistan Doesn't Mend Its Ways: Rajnath Singh

Terrorism and Talks Cannot Go Together, Will Not Compromise on National Security

New Delhi, Agency: Speaking on Pakistan, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh said on Sunday that if the neighboring country continues its state policy of terrorism, India is fully prepared for all kinds of actions against it.

He stated that India will not compromise on its national security under any circumstances. India has no intention of occupying any other country's land, nor does it want to threaten anyone. He made these remarks at the NDTV Defense Summit 2026 in New Delhi.



Floods and Landslides Strike Nepal Again, 6 Dead

Houses and Bridges Washed Away, Highways Closed; 1,453 Dead and Over 5,500 Missing in Last Month's Floods

Kathmandu, Agency. The situation in Nepal has deteriorated once again due to floods and landslides triggered by incessant rains, claiming 6 lives so far. In Baglung district, a house was buried under landslide debris, killing a woman and her three sons. Two people lost their lives in Palpa district.

Multiple houses and bridges have been washed away by floods and landslides, and transport has been heavily disrupted due to highway closures. Over 1,000 people have been safely evacuated from flood-affected areas in Butwal.

Earlier, the catastrophic floods in the Bhotekoshi river on August 26 had resulted in 1,453 deaths, with over 5,500 people still officially missing.

Narayani River Flowing 2 Meters Above Danger Mark

Due to continuous rainfall, water levels in several Nepali rivers are rising rapidly. The Narayani river at Devghat was flowing at 11 meters at 7:45 AM



on Sunday, which is 2 meters above the danger mark. Authorities warned that the water level could rise further.

In Butwal, around 200 families were relocated from their homes due to the flood threat. Waterlogging has caused immense hardship for residents across multiple areas, and those living in low-lying regions have been advised to remain on high alert.

Hydropower Projects Halted, Crops Damaged

The floods have also impacted electricity generation. Several hydropower

projects had to halt operations, including the 140 MW Kaligandaki, 25 MW Upper Madi, 44 MW Super Madi, 20 MW Namarjun Madi, and 40 MW Seti River projects.

Two towers of the 220 kV Kaligandaki Corridor transmission line collapsed, and transmission/distribution lines were damaged at several locations. Agricultural fields have been submerged, causing extensive crop damage.

10 Missing Following Avalanche in Manang District An avalanche struck the 7,126-meter-high Himlung Himal in the Nar-Phu area of Manang district. Following the incident, 10 people, including mountaineers and support staff, are reported missing. Rishi Bhandari, General Secretary of the Expedition Operators Association Nepal, confirmed the incident on Sunday. According to him, two of the missing individuals are associated with Imagine Nepal Pvt Ltd, and eight with Himalayan Holidays Nepal.

CJP Spokesperson Ashutosh Ranka Detained by Police in Assam

Claims Government Wants to Silence Questions on Schools and Floods; Was Slated to Attend Volunteers' Meet

Guwahati, Agency. A volunteers' meeting of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) was scheduled to take place in Guwahati, Assam, on Sunday. Prior to the meeting, party spokesperson Ashutosh Ranka and several volunteers were detained by the police.

Ranka alleged that the government is trying to prevent them from raising issues related to schools, Kaziranga, and floods. He further alleged that CJP members in Assam are being threatened.

Police Took Ranka to an Undisclosed Location: Dipke

CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke questioned the police action. In a social media post, he alleged that the Assam Police took Ranka and the CJP team to an undisclosed location while they were heading to a small volunteer meeting in Guwahati.

Earlier, Ranka had stated his intent to meet families affected by the electoral roll revision and assess the condition of government schools. He had mentioned that CJP would expand its



volunteer network in Assam and the Northeast. Activists Denied Access to Lawyers

The CJP claimed that tear gas units were deployed near the meeting venue, and the detained activists were denied access to lawyers. The organization stated it could not confirm the exact number of detained volunteers or their current whereabouts.

The CJP has demanded the immediate release of Ranka and the other detained volunteers, asserting that its campaign in Assam will continue despite the police crackdown.

Tragic Accident in Maharashtra

Gelatin Sticks Kept in Tractor Explode During Welding, Four Dead

Yavatmal, Agency.

Four people were killed and five others injured when gelatin sticks kept in a tractor trolley exploded in Yavatmal district of Maharashtra on Saturday.

The police stated that the incident took place in the Umarkhed area. According to officials, a tractor had been brought to a welding workshop on Dhanki Road for repairs.

While the welding work was underway, sparks ignited the gelatin sticks stored in the attached trolley, causing a massive explosion and subsequent fire.

An air cylinder placed near the rear tire also burst during the incident. An official from the Umarkhed police station confirmed that four individuals died from



severe burn injuries caused by the blast, while five others were injured.

Hearing the explosion, locals rushed to the scene and helped transport the injured to a nearby hospital. The injured were later referred to another medical facility for advanced treatment. Police investigations into the incident are ongoing.

Cabinet Exemption Proposed for Smaller Defense Deals

Government Considers Reducing Approval Time for Major Defense Procurements

New Delhi, Agency. To rapidly equip the armed forces with modern weaponry, the government is considering major changes to the financial powers associated with defense procurements.

The proposal aims to increase the procurement approval limits of the Defense Minister and the Finance Ministry, allowing more deals to be finalized at the ministry level without waiting for the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) nod. These include the Tejas aircraft, Prachand and Dhruv helicopters, Sukhoi aircraft and their engines, BrahMos missiles, Pinaka ammunition, ATAGS artillery, radars, and naval fleet support ships. Notably,



According to sources, discussions are underway to increase the Defense Minister's financial power from the current Rs 2,000 crore to Rs 5,000 crore, and the Finance

Ministry's limit from Rs 3,000 crore to Rs 10,000 crore.

Currently, major defense procurement proposals exceeding Rs 3,000 crore require CCS approval. The

objective of the proposed change is to cut down the time taken to acquire rapidly evolving military technologies.

Need for CCS Approval May Drop for One-Third of Major Deals

If implemented, approximately one-third of major defense deals will no longer need to be sent to the CCS.

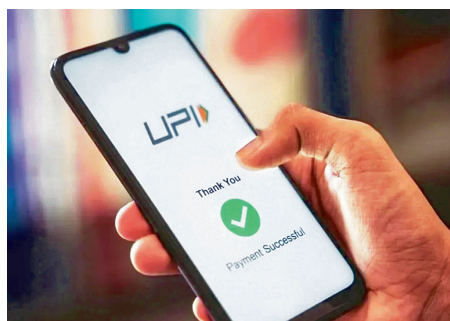
These include the Tejas aircraft, Prachand and Dhruv helicopters, Sukhoi aircraft and their engines, BrahMos missiles, Pinaka ammunition, ATAGS artillery, radars, and naval fleet support ships. Notably, the government has placed a strong emphasis on both indigenization and speed in defense procurement.

UPI Fee Row: MDR on Payments Above Rs 2,000 Reaches Supreme Court

Hearing Scheduled for Today

New Delhi, Agency. The issue of levying a Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on UPI payments exceeding Rs 2,000 has reached the Supreme Court. The top court will hear a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging the mechanism on September 28. The central government issued the relevant notification on September 14, and the MDR structure was announced on September 15. The new system is set to come into effect on October 15.

Supreme Court to Hear the PIL per transaction will apply to payments above Rs 2,000. Payments related to the stock market, securities, and mutual funds will attract an MDR of 0.02%, capped at Rs 300.



Advocate Anjan Datta filed the PIL challenging the central government's decision. The petition contests the September 14 notification and the MDR framework declared on September 15. According to the Supreme Court's September 28 cause list, the matter will

be heard by a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justice Joydip Bagchi, and Justice V. Mohana. The plea argues that the fee was implemented without adequate legal safeguards, transparency, or public consultation.

What Changes for UPI Payments Above Rs 2,000 Under the new system, a 0.4% MDR will be levied on Person-to-Merchant (P2M) UPI payments exceeding Rs 2,000. This charge is capped at a maximum of Rs 300 for transactions of Rs 75,000 or more. However, for essential sectors like railways, telecom, insurance, fuel, and agriculture, a flat MDR of Rs 5 per transaction will apply to payments above Rs 2,000. Payments related to the stock market, securities, and mutual funds will attract an MDR of 0.02%, capped at Rs 300.

CM Mann to Convene 7-Member Committee Meeting on Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Amendment Act

Meeting Scheduled for September 27 in Chandigarh to Discuss Implementation

New Delhi, Agency. Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann has convened a meeting of the seven-member coordination committee formed regarding the 'Jagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Act, 2026' on September 27. The meeting will be held at the Chief Minister's residence in Sector 2, Chandigarh, at 1:00 PM. According to information released by the Punjab government, all committee members will attend to deliberate on the Act's provisions and its implementation.

The committee was formed to uphold



the highest standards of respect and reverence for Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji. The meeting will focus on the rules of the Act

and practical issues related to its enforcement.

Members Included in the Committee The seven-member coordination committee features Sri Akal Takht Sahib Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh, Sant Giani Harnam Singh Khalsa, Sant Baba Sewa Singh, former Justice Jaswinder Singh, former Justice Gurbir Singh, former IPS officer Jatinder Singh Aulakh, and Advocate S. Preet Inder Pal Singh. The committee is tasked with discussing the regulations of the law and overseeing matters concerning its proper execution.

Valmiki Tiger Project: Human-wildlife conflict rising with increasing tiger numbers

Dr. Arvind Nath Tiwari

Bihar's only tiger reserve, the Valmiki Tiger Reserve located in West Champaran, is today counted among the successful tiger conservation projects of the country. The number of tigers in this protected forest area connected to Nepal's Chitwan National Park has increased significantly in the last decade. This is a proof of the success of conservation, but along with this, human-tiger conflict has emerged as a serious challenge in the villages adjacent to the forest. Incidents of tiger attacks on farmers working in the fields, women going to cut

grass and villagers dependent on the forest are continuously being reported.

Tiger population over a decade According to the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the All India Tiger Estimation, the tiger population in the Valmiki Tiger Reserve has increased as follows:

Year Estimated number of tigers

The data clearly shows that the tiger population has increased sixfold in about a decade. The 2022 camera trap survey recorded 1,368 tiger images, from which 54 individual tigers were identified. This resulted in a tiger density of approximately 4.32 per 100 square kilometre-

ters, which is considered a historic achievement for Bihar.

Conservation successes and new challenges

The Valmiki Tiger Reserve covers an area of approximately 901 square kilometers and is connected to Chitwan National Park in Nepal. Tigers naturally move between the two areas. Improved security, poaching control, scientific monitoring, and the availability of adequate prey species have increased tiger numbers. However, more than 150 villages are located around the forest area. Thousands of families depend on agriculture, animal husbandry, and forest resources, which is

why tiger-human encounters are occurring more frequently than before.

Human-Tiger Conflict Situation:

In the past few years, numerous incidents of tiger attacks have been reported in Madanpur, Govardhana, Manguraha, Valmikinagar, Harnatand, Ganauli, and the Gandak Diara region. Many villagers were injured, and in some cases, even died. In recent years, attacks on women and farmers working in the fields have created an atmosphere of panic throughout the region.

However, the Forest Department or the National Tiger Conservation Authority have not released

consolidated, year-by-year, official data on total attacks, deaths, injuries, compensation paid, and pending compensation under the Valmiki Tiger Project over the past ten years. Therefore, providing estimates in these cases would not be factually appropriate. According to national guidelines, the state government provides ex-gratia assistance to the victim's family in case of death due to tiger attack. Recent cases in West Champaran have revealed that assistance of up to 10 lakh has been approved for the dependents of the deceased.

According to the Forest Department, site inspection, post-mortem report, verifi-

cation report by forest officials, and other formalities are completed before compensation is paid, which is why complaints of delays in payments have been reported in many cases. The

Forest Department's initiative,

the Valmiki Tiger Project administration, is taking several measures to reduce human-tiger conflict, including camera traps and regular patrols, deployment of rapid response teams, village microphones and warnings, awareness meetings with villagers, coordination with Nepali officials, monitoring of problematic tigers and rescue when necessary.

Editorial

On taxing foods high in fat, sugar and salt

India, which has a long history of addressing the challenges of undernutrition, has to pivot to attack the curious phenomenon of overnutrition that evolving lifestyles have now laid at its door. The recent National Family Health Survey data showed that in India, while stunting and undernutrition continue to be cause for concern, despite some gains, the sharp rise in adult overweight and obesity, besides diet-related metabolic conditions, cannot be ignored any more. Two unrelated developments have advanced the question of unhealthy diets in very pointed suggestions that would nudge consumers to make the right choices. First, a Parliamentary Standing Committee has recommended mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling indicating whether packaged food products are high in sugar, and second, a national consortium has advised the government to levy a health tax on high fat, salt and sugar foods, and enforce stricter regulations on their advertisements. The Standing Committee on Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution also made a recommendation to include the sugar content in baby foods, attacking the excess sugar consumption issue right where it begins. The consortium on adolescent nutrition, which goes by the practical name Let's Fix Our Food, is led by the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR-NIN), and comprising several other prominent institutions in India and abroad, has recommended that the government ensure a healthier school food environment, stricter regulation of marketing of unhealthy food, and front-of-pack nutrition labelling. These efforts will be among the steps to tackle the rising burden of obesity and diet-related non communicable diseases that require a comprehensive strategy helmed by the government. According to the World Health Organization, since 2017, at least 133 countries have increased or introduced a new health tax. A "junk food law" came into force in Colombia in 2023, to tackle the high consumption of packaged foods.

The pretense of saffron and the dignity of Parliament

How long will the Hindu faith be betrayed in the name of opposition to the government

Dr. Mayank Chaturvedi

India is a civilization whose self-consciousness resides in its cultural symbols, spiritual traditions, and folk beliefs. The Constitution gives India political unity, while culture provides the consciousness of self through which the nation is governed. Therefore, when 'politics' uses cultural symbols as tools for its momentary conflict, it becomes more than just a dispute of some level but a direct attack on the national consciousness. It

hasn't been long since the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP)'s Delhi agitation, where everyone witnessed how Hindu values were insulted. Hindu civilization, Sanatan culture, and countless other issues, aside from NEET, were at the center of which hatred for Hindus. No one expected that the same mud being thrown at Jantar Mantar under the guise of a student movement would be thrown against Hindu faith and symbols in Parliament by the so-called respectable MPs.

Indeed, the protest by some opposition MPs wearing saffron robes in the Parliament premises over alleged irregularities in the donations for the Ram Temple raises serious questions in this regard. In any democracy, questioning the government is the duty of the opposition, but there is a fundamental difference between fulfilling one's duty and engaging in political drama by wearing religious symbols. It

has often been observed in politics that when ideas begin to run dry, the dramatic use of symbols increases. Scenes are created in place of arguments, drama is presented in place of facts, and then an attempt is made to stir emotions, leaving the core issue-based

discussion far behind.

Placing a donation box in the Parliament premises, wearing saffron robes, and presenting this attire as a symbol of alleged corruption are examples of this trend. If any trust, institution, or system is suspected of financial irregularities, it will be resolved through investigation, evidence, and legal process. Questions can be asked in Parliament, documents can be presented, and investigations can be demanded. But no, the so-called respectable MPs wanted to make the monastic garb part of a political drama, and so they did!

A question should also be asked of the opposition. If the principle of equality is paramount in democracy, should the same political experiment be carried out with the most sacred religious attire of any other religion? If the answer is negative, why are the standards different for Hindus and non-Hindus? How did the so-called MPs forget that the true meaning of secularism is equal respect for all faiths, not selective sensitivity.

Because no one has the courage to stage such a drama wearing the robes of a church-based system—a nun or a pastor? Is it possible to stage such a drama in Parliament wearing a kurta-pajama and a net cap? Are crimes not decreasing among Christians and Islam? Are all the people in the country's second and third largest populations honest?

The Bishop Franco Mulakkal case, the Malankara Orthodox Church blackmail case, the Father Robin case and its harsh attitude, Father Arleno de Mello and Father Victor Rodriguez, are just a few of the many major incidents linked to the Church and mission-

aries. Islam and the Muslim community are also experiencing numerous serious cases of corruption related to madrasas, mosques, clerics, and Waqf Boards, including sexual exploitation, rape, and widespread land disputes. So, will these so-called enlightened MPs make them symbols

It's important to understand that the significance of saffron wasn't determined by any political party. This significance is the result of thousands of years of austerity and spiritual practice in Hindu Sanatan Dharma. The first mantra of the Rigveda is dedicated to Agni. This same fire, whose flame is saffron, has become a symbol of purification, dedication, and penance in Indian thought. The Upanishads equate the sanyasi with fire. It is said that one undergoes self-mortification and brings light to society. Therefore, wearing saffron robes is a pledge to renounce one's ego and dedicate oneself to the welfare of the people.

In the Anushasana Parva of the Mahabharata, renunciation is described as the highest state of self-control. Traditionally, a person who embraces renunciation symbolically ends their worldly life. After that, they gain the right to wear saffron. Therefore, in Indian society, saffron robes can never be a costume for any performance; it is a public vow of renunciation.

This is why the reverence for saffron in the Indian psyche is not only religious but also cultural. From Lord Shri Ram's flag to Arjuna's monkey flag, from Adi Shankaracharya's Digvijay to Swami Vivekananda's World Religion Conference, from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's Zaripatka to Guru Gobind Singh's

Nishan Sahib, the saffron color has been the flag of Indian self-confidence, self-strength, and self-sacrifice. This is India's civilizational memory, which will endure forever, as long as even a single adherent of the eternal Hindu religion remains alive on this earth.

In fact, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and several saints have strongly objected to this demonstration today for this very reason. The core of their objection is that if a religious symbol is used for satire or political accusations, it will affect the faith of millions of people. And this is true, and we have numerous examples of this before us today. The political dramatization of religious symbols naturally gives rise to controversy.

It would have been better if, instead of pretending to be saffron in this way, the so-called MPs had first attempted to understand the meaning of the saffron robe. It's still not time yet; they should understand its significance. They should remember it during the most difficult moments of Indian history. During foreign invasions, this saffron flag became a symbol of resistance. On numerous occasions, monks fought to protect society and culture, and a large number of them also became martyrs. Therefore, this color represents both devotion and sacrifice.

It's also worth noting that numerous streams, such as the saffron robes of Buddhist monks, the traditions of Jain ascetics, and the saffron emblem of the Sikh faith, all reinforce the prestige of this color in the Indian spiritual tradition. This means that it is not a symbol of any one organization, sect, or political ideology, but rather a shared heritage of the entire Indian spiritual tradition.

Women in the family should also get adequate opportunities to fulfill their dreams

Krishna Mohan Jha

Recently, in the concluding session of the "Yuganukul Matritva" program organized under the auspices of Vishwa Mangalya Sabha, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat delivered a comprehensive lecture focused entirely on the topic of motherhood. The RSS chief specifically emphasized that motherhood has been the foundation of creation since ancient times, and that without motherhood, creation, development, and sustenance are impossible. A person's first guru is their mother, who not only inculcates values but also guides their thoughts. A mother also provides emotional support throughout their lives. Mohan Bhagwat stated that motherhood and family have long

been a topic of contemplation in the Indian tradition. Swami Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi, and Rabindranath Tagore have expressed significant views on this subject.

The RSS chief further stated that devoting time to family and maintaining communication is a paramount need today. It is the responsibility of parents to satisfy their children's curiosity, and therefore, they should constantly expand their own knowledge. Parents must model their own behavior for their children, as children tend to imitate their elders.

Bhagwat stated that many discussions in society are based on misconceptions. The misconception about Indian culture is spread, claiming that our traditions are

wrong, whereas the reality is that our cultural foundation is very strong and evident. Bhagwat stated that we must move forward with faith in our history, knowledge, and traditions.

Describing unity in diversity as the core message of Indian culture, the RSS chief emphasized that living in India should be in accordance with Indian culture and values. In his speech, Bhagwat emphasized the need to strengthen society and the family system based on an Indian perspective, rather than blindly imitating the values of other countries. It is noteworthy that RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, in his lectures, always highlights the contribution of women in nation building and lays special emphasis on the fact that women empowerment is

extremely essential for the progress of the nation. Recently, in his address given at the closing ceremony of the program "Yuganukul Matritva" organized under the aegis of Vishwa Mangalya Sabha in New Delhi, he reiterated his view and said that for women empowerment, it is necessary to create awareness among men as well and it should start from the family. Bhagwat said that just because women are capable, all the responsibility of the family should not be put on them, rather the family should work like a team in which the responsibility of every member of the family should be fixed. Bhagwat further clarified his point, stating that families should ensure that women have adequate opportunities to fulfill their aspirations while fulfilling

their family responsibilities. Families should ask themselves what opportunities they can provide to women to fulfill their dreams.

This is possible only if all family members prioritize each other. The RSS chief stated that a person can experience peace and contentment only when they have the opportunity to pursue work of their choice. The RSS chief called for creating an environment in society where women receive the respect and support they deserve. Bhagwat stated that just as in earlier times, women played a key role in household finances and important decisions, and families operated through mutual consultation, a similar spirit of partnership needs to be cultivated today.

Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah inaugurated laid the foundation stone and launched various railway projects in Sabarmati

India's first LNG -powered train flagged off

WAG-12 Sabarmati Locomotive Maintenance Shed, built at a cost of 700 crore, dedicated to the nation

Inauguration of automatic signaling system on Sabarmati-Sanand-Jakhwara and Sabarmati-Kalol-Bhandu Motidau railway sections.

Foundation stone laid for indigenous ' Kavach ' system on Ahmedabad-Palanpur and Ahmedabad-Samakhiali railway sections

Foundation stone laid for doubling of Sabarmati-Sarkhej railway line

Ahmedabad : The Honorable Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, today inaugurated, laid the foundation stone, and launched several important railway projects at Sabarmati . These projects will provide new impetus to rail safety, operational efficiency , freight transportation , environmental protection, and regional connectivity.

On this occasion, Honorable Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah flagged off the WAG-12 Sabarmati Locomotive Maintenance Shed developed at a cost of 700 crore . Along with this , the automatic block signaling system was inaugurated on 122.57 km of Sabarmati-Sanand-Jakhwara and Sabarmati-Kalol-Bhandu Motidau rail section and the Kavach system on a total of 404 km on Ahmedabad-Palanpur and Ahmedabad-Samakhiali rail section and the foundation stone was laid for the doubling of Sabarmati-Sarkhej rail line. India's first LNG powered train was also flagged off on this occasion.

On this occasion, Minister Shri Amit Shah said that various important Indian Railways projects were inaugurated, laid the foundation stone, and launched today at Sabarmati. Some of these projects relate to environmental protection, some to passenger amenities, and some to passenger safety. Connectivity is being provided from Sabarmati station to the Metro Rail, the State Transport Bus Stand, and future high-speed rail services.

Shri Amit Shah said that the

WAG-12 locomotive maintenance shed has been constructed at Sabarmati at a cost of 700 crore . The WAG-12 is a high-capacity electric freight locomotive with a twin-section capacity of 12,000 horsepower. Its high capacity will make the operation of heavy and long freight trains more efficient. He said that while previously two locomotives were required for heavy freight trains , a high-capacity locomotive like the WAG-12 will increase the efficiency of freight transportation. This will strengthen the freight capacity in the country and benefit the industrial and commercial sectors of the country, including Gujarat.

Describing the launch of India's first LNG-powered train as a significant achievement, Shri Amit Shah said that it is a crucial step towards environmental protection. LNG -based rail transport will promote energy efficiency and help make Indian Railways more environmentally friendly in the future. He said that Indian Railways is continuously adopting new technologies to protect the environment and promote clean energy.

Referring to the modernization and technological transformation of Indian Railways since 2014 , Shri Amit Shah said that several important initiatives have been launched such as the Dedicated Freight Corridor, Rapid Rail System , modern and premium railway stations, and new generation rail services . Referring to the successful trial of the first long-haul double-stack container train from JNPT Mumbai to Vadodara, he said that double-stack freight trains can significantly increase



the freight transportation capacity on the existing rail tracks. He also mentioned the work being done to develop approximately 11,000 kilometers of rail corridors into a four-lane network , which will further strengthen freight and passenger transportation capacity in the future.

Referring to the introduction of hydrogen trains in Indian Railways, he said that the country is moving forward towards adopting new energy-based rail technologies. He also highlighted the progress made in the field of bio-toilets, LHB coaches and indigenous locomotive manufacturing. He said that in line with the spirit of ' Make in India ' and ' Atmanirbhar Bharat ' , indigenous technology and production capacity is being continuously enhanced in the Railways. He informed that about 94 percent of the cost of modern locomotives is being manufactured in the country and work is being done towards taking this to 100 percent in the future.

Referring to the rapid progress made in electrification of Indian Railways, Shri Amit Shah said that while approximately 75 kilometers of railway track were electrified in a year in 2010-11, approximately 7,188 kilometers of railway track will be electrified in 2023-24 . He said that approximately 99.6 percent of the Indian Railways network has been electrified and the

27, the railway budget for Gujarat has increased to 17,366 crore. He said that the development of railway infrastructure in Gujarat has gained momentum on a large scale and continuous work is being done in the areas of new railway lines , doubling , electrification , modern signaling , freight transportation and passenger facilities. He said that these projects will further strengthen Gujarat's connectivity, industrial development , freight transportation capacity and passenger facilities.

On this occasion, Divisional Railway Manager, Ahmedabad, Mr. Ved Prakash, said that Indian Railways is witnessing a new era of change and innovation. He noted that Vande Bharat trains, built with indigenous technology, are operating in the country , Nam Bharat trains are providing new impetus to inter-city connectivity, and Indian Railways is also moving forward with new technologies such as hydrogen trains.

He said that as the next important step in this journey of development, India's first LNG -powered train was dedicated to the nation today by the Honorable Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah. He expressed his gratitude to the Honorable Home Minister for this.

Mr. Ved Prakash said that the inauguration of the state-of-the-art maintenance shed at Sabarmati, developed at a cost of approximately 700 crore for the WAG-12, one of the world's most powerful electric freight locomotives, will also provide a new boost to Indian Railways' freight infrastructure. The WAG-12 locomotive's high capacity will enable efficient operation of double-stack containers and long, heavy freight trains. This will help in more efficiently transporting Gujarat's agricultural and industrial products to various parts of the country and international markets.

He stated that building new rail lines alone is not sufficient to handle more trains , but a modern and

efficient signaling system is also essential.

To this end, automatic block signaling has been implemented on 122.57 kilometers of the Sabarmati-Sanand-Jakhwara and Sabarmati-Kalol-Bhandu Motidau sections. This will increase the section's capacity while maintaining a safe distance between trains, enabling the safe and smooth operation of more trains.

The DRM stated that Kavach is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection system , certified to meet Safety Integrity Level-4 standards. The Kavach system is being implemented on a total of 404 kilometers of rail tracks in the Ahmedabad division at a cost of approximately 411 crore. This includes the 157-kilometer Ahmedabad-Palanpur section and the 247-kilometer Ahmedabad-Samakhiali section.

He said that the doubling of the Sabarmati-Sarkhej section will further strengthen the region's rail capacity and connectivity. Given the growing passenger and freight needs, this project will be crucial for the Ahmedabad region's rail network.

Presence of distinguished guests

On this occasion, Honorable Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Bhupendra Patel , Honorable Deputy Chief Minister Shri Harsh Sanghvi, Honorable State Minister Smt. Darshanaben Vaghela , Honorable MP Shri Hasmukhbhai Patel , Honorable Mayor Shri Hiteshbhai Barot , Honorable MLAs Shri Harshadbhai Patel , Shri Amitbhai Shah , Shri Amitbhai Thacker , Shri Jitendrabhai Patel , Shri Kaushikbhai Jain , Shri Dinesh Kushwaha , Smt. Payalben Kukrani , Smt. Kanchanben Radhadiya , Shri Amulbhai Bhatt , Shri Babubhai Patel and Shri Hasmukhbhai Patel along with other dignitaries were present.

Doi Maach to Lahsuni Kadhi: How culinary diversity shaped food historian's taste of India

New Delhi, Agency: Pushpesh Pant recalls the time when a coffee house served masala dosa for 27 paise at Connaught Place and draws the link between momos and migration Multi-tasking came easily to Pushpesh Pant. A generation of JNU students of international affairs would remember his lectures on diplomacy. Along with writer Krishna Sobti, Pant was also the principal researcher for Ramesh Sippy's iconic television series, 'Buniyaad'. The unassuming director of 'Sholay' would visit Pant's home, borrow John Updike's short stories collection. The JNU professor would also translate Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's speeches from English to Hindi. "I would feel self-important," he recalls.

That's until chef Jiggs Kalra, whom he knew since his days of freelancing for Media would tell him that unlike the USA, nobody remembered a speech-writer in India. "He said, 'Why don't you do something that you are remembered for? Why don't you write on a subject that everybody is interested in?'," says Pant, while Khampa, an extra-large but immensely friendly German Shepherd rests at his feet, and toffee-nosed Luna, a grey Persian Cat, ignores all at his Dwarka residence.

The food for thought brewed into a transformative moment for Pant. Childhood had drilled in him a taste for diverse cuisines. But as an academic, he also saw food through the looking glass of culture and class, where caste and community reflected their personalities through their culi-



nary fare. Which is why his switch from diplomatic desk to dinner table has produced a smorgasbord of food histories and television shows, notably 'Raja, Rasoi aur Anya Kahanian', which gave commoners an insight into royal kitchens.

Now, approaching 80, Pant still speaks with the speed of a Swiggy delivery guy trying to

beat a deadline while he explains how his earliest lessons in life and food were homemade. Mostly home-schooled by his mother, he grew up in the restorative hill settlement of Mukteshwar, where his father served as a doctor in the Imperial (now Indian) Veterinary Research Institute. "He had a Bengali

roommate during his years at Lucknow's King George's Medical College. He could speak and abuse in Bengali," Pant smiles. In the city of nawabs, his father also developed a fondness for kebabs and kormas.

His mother, Jayanti, was born in Saurashtra, went to schools in Allahabad, Varanasi and Shillong, and studied at Santiniketan. Her father served for the Rampur 'riyasat' and in Mysore familiarising her with a range of culinary traditions. "My mother was a vegetarian, but she would cook non-veg," Pant says.

The home kitchen would produce a gastronomic version of mini India smelling as much of "sambar" as "shami kabab". "My father would say, today I feel like a Gujarati, make me some lahsuni kadhi". Another

No valid PUC, no relief:
Delhi to begin enforcement drive from Oct 1

New Delhi, Agency: Delhi govt will launch a special enforcement drive against vehicles without valid Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificates from Oct 1, chief minister Rekha Gupta announced Saturday. Vehicles found operating without valid PUC certificates will face challans and penalties under the law.

"Work will also be undertaken to strengthen the monitoring and functioning of PUC centres through technology," Gupta said, adding that the system of PUC centres in the capital would be made more effective and reliable. A PUC certificate certifies that a vehicle's tailpipe emissions are within the limits prescribed under motor vehicle rules. Vehicles are tested at authorised PUC centres, largely located at petrol pumps, and certificates are issued if emissions meet the prescribed standards.

Under Rule 115(7) of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, every motor vehicle must carry a valid PUC certificate after one year from the date of its first registration.

Delhiites get one more month to fix SIR issues

New Delhi, Agency: Election Commission of India (ECI) Saturday extended the deadline for filing claims and objections and submission of Form-6 for re-inclusion into the electoral roll under Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Delhi by a month, till Oct 30. The deadline for disposal of SIR notices and claims and objections has also been extended till Nov 30. The final electoral roll will now be published on Dec 4 instead of Nov 4.

In a press statement, ECI stated that the dates were extended following a request from Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Delhi. The decision was taken due to multiple reasons, including tepid response for re-inclusion, some "server issues delaying the processing of applications" and booth-level officers (BLOs) requesting more time for dealing with high workload, said Delhi election officials.

The deadline for filing claims and objections was earlier Sept 30 and the last date for disposal was Oct 29. The extension comes nearly a month after the draft electoral roll was published on Aug 31, leaving out around 47.6 lakh registered voters from Delhi's roll of about 1.5 crore. The draft roll contains around 97.5 lakh electors, out of which nearly 33 lakh people have been identified for issuance of SIR notices over logical discrepancies in their details such as spelling mismatches, less than nine months' difference between dates of birth of with the 2002 SIR.

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Media recently reported that only a fraction of those left out in the draft roll had submitted Form 6 seeking re-inclusion. According to

the latest figures, 1,21,224 Form 6 applications were received between Aug 31 and Sept 24, which also include first-timers.

Form 6 is submitted for including an eligible Indian's name in the electoral roll. The district-wise data showed that South East recorded 11,864 Form 6 applications during the period, while West received 14,838. North West recorded 12,527 applications, East 12,094, North East 11,191 and South West 10,429. The 47.6 lakh voters and 1.4 lakh as duplicate entries.

Arrest Abhijeet Dipke immediately': Social media influencer files complaint against CJP founder

New Delhi, (GNS): Social media influencer Faizan Ansari on Tuesday said he has filed a written complaint with the Delhi Police against Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke, alleging that men linked to the party attacked him in Maharashtra.

Ansari claimed he has evidence to support his allegations and urged the police to arrest Dipke immediately. "Today, I have filed a written complaint against Abhijeet

Dipke, the founder of the CJP party, with the Delhi DCP, because I have proof that his men attacked me. I was attacked in Pune and in Aurangabad. There are already 2 cases filed on that," Ansari told Media. He also praised the Delhi government and police for detaining activist Sonam Wangchuk during the recent protests, claiming the move prevented the law and order situation in the national capital from worsening.



"I want the Delhi police to immediately arrest Dipke. Moreover, I salute the Delhi CM and the police for detaining Sonam Wangchuk at the

right time, due to which the atmosphere in Delhi was saved from deteriorating. Dipke is doing everything for his own benefit," Ansari added

"Moreover, I salute the Delhi CM and the police for detaining Sonam Wangchuk at the right time, due to which the atmosphere in Delhi was saved from deteriorating. Dipke is doing everything for his own benefit," Ansari alleged. Earlier on Monday, Dipke had rejected comparisons between the CJP-led protests over alleged recruitment and examination irregularities and anti-government movements in Bangladesh and Nepal.

For some, LSR's renovated hostel means more than just accommodation

New Delhi, (GNS): Lady Shri Ram College's residence hall has reopened after four years of renovation, bringing 100 upgraded rooms back into use for around 150 students. The reopening has opened doors to students whose lives are shaped by financial hardship, disability and long commutes. The college, which receives around 700 hostel applications from first-year students each year, has also expanded accommodation for second- and third-year students with disabilities. Among them is second-year political science student Kafi Chaudhary, an acid attack survivor who spent her first year in a paying guest accommodation. Visually impaired after the attack, she said the move had eased her financial and emotional burden. When Kafi walked into her hostel room this week, it was "a huge relief financially. Beyond that, the hostel facilities are far better than what I had in a paying guest accommodation," she said. Now, settled into her room, Kafi can focus on pursuing her long-held dream of becoming an IAS officer. "It feels great. The food is almost

like home, and the facilities are really good. What stands out is how accessible the hostel is for persons with disabilities. There are ramps throughout the building, and room numbers are in Braille," she said. Her journey to Delhi University has been marked by extraordinary resilience. In 2011, during Holi celebrations, Kafi was attacked with acid when she was three years old. The assault left her blind and set her on a long road of medical treatment and reconstructive surgeries. "I underwent some treatment immediately after the attack, but the doctors told me that further reconstructive procedures could only be done after I turned 18. Now that I'm 18, I've undergone two minor surgeries this year, but it's still a long journey ahead," she said. Yet, neither the attack nor the years of treatment changed the future Kafi sees for herself. The dream she spoke about as a schoolgirl -- to study at Delhi University and one day become an IAS officer -- remained intact. The journey, however, has been about more than rebuilding her physical health.

Brij Bhushan acquitted in sexual harassment case

New Delhi, (GNS): A Delhi court Monday acquitted BJP ex-MP and former Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in the sexual harassment case filed by women wrestlers. Suspended WFI assistant secretary Vinod Tomar was also acquitted.

Additional chief judicial magistrate Ashwini Panwar pronounced the verdict during in-camera proceedings. The detailed order is awaited.

The trial concluded nearly three years after Delhi Police filed its chargesheet against Singh, during which the court examined 32 prosecution witnesses. Of the six complainants, two later turned hostile, while charges were not framed in relation to the allegations of the third complainant. Public prosecutor Manish Rawat told Media,



"We will get the judgment tomorrow. We will examine it and take appropriate steps before higher courts accordingly." The case arose from complaints by several women wrestlers alleging Singh sexually harassed them between 2016 and 2019 at WFI office, his official residence and on foreign trips. The charges triggered months-long protests in New Delhi in 2023 by prominent wrestlers, including Sakshi Malik, Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia and Sangeeta Phogat, demanding Singh's arrest. Brij Bhushan acquitted in

sexual harassment case 'Complainants repeatedly changed their statements' Following SC's intervention in May 2023, Delhi Police registered an FIR against Singh. The Union sports ministry constituted an oversight committee to conduct an internal probe. On June 15, 2023, police filed a chargesheet against Singh under sections 354 (assault or criminal force to a woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 354A (sexual harassment, including sexually coloured remarks), 354D (stalking) and 506(1) (criminal intimidation) of IPC. Tomar was booked under Section 109 (abetment). On May 10, 2024, the trial court framed charges of sexual harassment and outraging the modesty of women against Singh in connection with the complaints of five women wrestlers, while dis-

charging him in the complaint of the sixth wrestler. Tomar was charged under section 506(1) for alleged criminal intimidation in connection with one complainant and discharged from the remaining allegations. In May 2025, another Delhi court accepted a closure report filed by police in the complaint of a wrestler who was a minor when she made the allegations, after cops said they found "no corroborative evidence". During the in-camera trial, the defence argued the complainants repeatedly changed their statements by altering the dates and locations of the alleged incidents, also highlighting the delay in lodging the complaints, arguing that some allegations related to incidents that were seven to eight years old. The prosecution, however,

MCD to Set Up Seven Dialysis Centres in Delhi Under PPP Model

New Delhi, (GNS): Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will set up dialysis centres at seven of its hospitals under a public-private partnership (PPP) model, with up to 70 dialysis machines to be installed across the facilities, officials said.

Officials said the initiative aims to make regular dialysis more accessible and affordable for kidney patients, many of whom require treatment two or three times a week on an ongoing basis. "Under the proposed arrangement, patients will not be charged more than govt rate under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), while beneficiaries covered under the scheme will receive treatment completely cashless," said officials.

The seven centres will be set up at Swami Dayanand Hospital in Dilshad Garden, Balak Ram Hospital in Timarpur, UPHC Fatehpur Beri, Mata Gujri Hospital in Tilak Nagar, Purnima Sethi Multi Speciality Hospital in Kalkaji, Hindu Rao Hospital in Malka Ganj, and Veer Savarkar Arogya Sansthan in Karawal Nagar. Each centre can have up to 10 machines.

Once fully operational, these machines are expected to provide around 42,000 dialysis sessions a year, assuming two shifts of operation. Officials estimate that around 350 patients could receive regular dialysis at any given time, with each machine serving around four to six patients requiring two to three sessions a week. While the project is at the tendering stage, under the arrangement, the private partner will bear the entire cost of dialysis and operation of the centres.

Govt forms committees for Durga Puja, Rameela & Chhath puja ahead of festivities

New Delhi, (GNS): With Durga gearing up for three major festivals - Rameela, Durga Puja and Chhath Puja - the govt has started preparations for security, traffic, sanitation, medical services and electricity arrangements. Delhi govt will also build temporary immersion ponds for Durga Puja idols.

The govt has constituted three separate special committees on the directions of chief minister Rekha Gupta to review and coordinate preparations for the festivals.

The Rameela committee will be headed by Social Welfare Minister Ravindra Indraj Singh, with MLAs Ashok Goel, Anil Kumar Sharma, Shyam Sharma, Sanjay Goel and Sandeep Sehrawat as members. It will facilitate necessary NOCs for fogging and uninterrupted power supply.

DU allows 2 off campus colleges to admit UG students on Class 12 merit as fear of empty seats lingers

New Delhi, (GNS): Two off-campus Delhi University colleges - Aditi Mahavidyalaya and Bhagini Nivedita College - have opened admissions based on Class 12 marks, even as the university's undergraduate admissions are currently being conducted through Common University Entrance Test (CUET) scores, prompting criticism from a section of teachers who say the move has effectively created a parallel admission route during the ongoing admission cycle.

Unlike the centralised Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS) process, the two colleges have reverted to the pre-

CUET admission model by issuing application forms directly, inviting students to apply to the colleges, and preparing their own merit lists based on Class 12 scores. The Class 12 admissions will run simultaneously with the ongoing CUET-CSAS admission process. No cut-off lists will be issued.

Bhagini Nivedita College has asked applicants to download admission forms from its website and submit them physically by Aug 5, with the merit list to be displayed the same evening, while documentation and fee payment will continue till Aug 7. Aditi Mahavidyalaya has also invited direct

applications, with registrations closing Monday and the merit list scheduled to be released the same day.

Traditionally, DU permits admissions based on Class 12 merit only after all rounds of CSAS, including mop-up, are exhausted and vacancies still remain. While the two colleges were also permitted to admit students on the basis of Class 12 merit last year as well, that relaxation came only after all regular CSAS admission rounds had concluded and seats still remained vacant. This year, however, admissions have been opened while DU's centralised CUET admission process is still underway.

DU Registrar

Vikas Gupta said the relaxation was granted in view of the chronic vacancies in the two colleges. "Both persistently struggled to fill their seats over the past few years.

They are located in relatively far-flung areas and many students who initially take admission later withdraw, leading to substantial vacancies. The colleges approached DU seeking permission to admit students on the basis of Class 12 merit, and considering their unique circumstances, the university allowed it," Gupta told Media. DU was not considering this a policy shift, he clarified.

Private school in Rohini gets govt notice for 'flouting' norms

New Delhi, (GNS): In another crackdown on private schools allegedly flouting norms, Delhi govt has issued a show-cause notice to a private school in Rohini, asking why its management should not be taken over under the Delhi School Education Act (DSEA), 1973.

The directorate of education (DoE) said the action follows a joint surprise inspection by officials from the education, revenue and other govt departments. According to the notice, the school's responses to the inspection findings were found to be "evasive" and "unsatisfactory", indicating a persistent pattern of non-compliance. Education minister Ashish Sood said govt had a zero-tolerance policy towards this. "Strict

action will be taken against managements that defy laws and exploit students or parents. Financial irregularities, commercial misuse of premises and playing with the safety of students will not be tolerated at any cost," he added. The notice cites a range of alleged violations, including obstruction of the inspection by refusing to share statutory documents and preventing officials from interacting privately with students. It also points to alleged fire and safety lapses, unauthorised structural modifications, financial irregularities, commercial use of school premises, unauthorised fee hikes and capitation fee collection, irregular staff appointments and deficiencies in basic student facilities.

They were brought back from brink

New Delhi, (GNS): Modern medicine is about restoring lives, not merely saving them. From conducting robotic brain surgeries and life-saving lung transplants to diagnosing rare diseases, doctors are using cutting-edge technology, multidisciplinary expertise and clinical judgement to tackle conditions once considered untreatable. Media tracks the progress of some of these survivors. A second shot

at childhood For a decade, a single mother lived with one hope: that her daughter might one day live a life free of epileptic seizures. The 12-year-old had battled drug-resistant epilepsy since suffering a severe stroke at the age of nine months. Born with congenital heart disease and dilated cardiomyopathy, she endured one to two seizures every day despite years of treat-



ment. Conventional brain surgery was considered too risky because of her fragile heart. A second shot at childhood

Determined to find a solution, her mother secured financial assistance through the Kerala chief minister's relief

fund and travelled 2,500 km to AIIMS Delhi in April 2024. After evaluation, a multidisciplinary team led by Prof Manjari Tripathi, head of neurology, opted for robotic thermocoagulative hemispherectomy (ROTCH), an ultra-minimally invasive technique developed at AIIMS. Instead of opening the skull, the procedure disconnects the damaged half of the brain through tiny key-

hole pathways, reducing blood loss and surgical trauma.

The surgery took a dramatic turn when the girl suffered a cardiac arrest on the operating table. Doctors revived her after nearly 30 minutes before completing the operation. During follow-up, doctors detected a chronic subdural haematoma, a complication that usually requires open brain surgery.

DU Law Students In Judicial Custody for Stalking

New Delhi, (GNS): Abhinav and Abhimanyu, two of the three students of Delhi University's Faculty of Law, accused of stalking and harassing two women students in north Delhi's Mukherjee Nagar Wednesday night, were sent to judicial custody of 14 days after they were arrested Saturday. A senior police officer said that after two days, a judicial test identification parade will be held.