



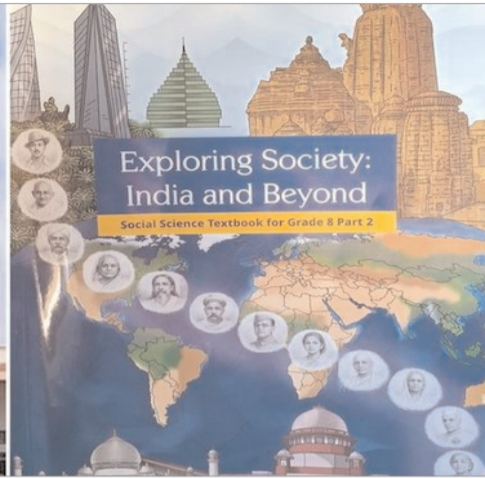
## 'Won't allow anyone to defame institution' Supreme Court on NCERT Class 8 textbook row

New Delhi(GNS): The Supreme Court on Wednesday took suo motu cognisance of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) Class 8 textbook section on corruption in the judiciary, saying it appeared to be a "calculated move".

"I will not allow anyone to defame the institution. I know how to deal with it... It seems to be a calculated move," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said after senior counsel Kapil Sibal mentioned the issue requesting him to take cognisance of the issue.

As Sibal said, "We are deeply disturbed by Class 8 students being taught that the judiciary is corrupt... This is a matter of grave concern," the CJ said, "We have already taken cognisance of the matter... We are aware of the issue and we will act," the CJ told Sibal.

Please wait for a few days. Bar and Bench all are perturbed. All high court judges are perturbed... As head of the institution, I have done my duty and I have taken cognisance. I won't say much... Law will take its own course," CJ



Kant said. Senior counsel AM Singhvi said the judiciary was selectively targeted. "It's there in other areas also but judicial corruption!" he wondered. The newly released social science textbook for Class 8 published by the NCERT has introduced a section on "Corruption in the Judiciary" and also mentions pending cases in the chapter titled "The Role

of the Judiciary in Our Society".

The Part II of the NCERT Social Science textbook for Class 8 was released on February 23 after a huge delay. The section on "Corruption in the Judiciary" stated that judges are bound by a code of conduct that governs not only their behaviour in court but also their conduct outside it.

The chapter highlighted the judiciary's internal accountability mechanisms and refers to the established procedure for receiving complaints through the Centralised Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS). According to the book, more than 1,600 complaints were received through this mechanism between 2017 and 2021.

It quoted former CJ BR Gavai, who in July 2025, said, "However, the path to rebuilding this trust lies in the swift, decisive and transparent action taken to address and resolve these issues... Transparency and accountability are democratic virtues." The chapter on judiciary also listed the approximate number of pending cases in the Supreme Court (81,000), high courts (62,40,000), and district and subordinate courts (4,70,00,000).

"While the number of pending cases shows a part of the problem, the real issue is the long time that it takes to resolve a case. In the high courts, for example, nearly three-fourths of pending cases have been unresolved for over a year, and half of them have been pending for more than three years. Some cases have remained unresolved for more than 50 years!" stated the chapter.

### Husband and wife arrested for racially abusing women in Arunachal Pradesh

New Delhi(GNS):Delhi Police on Wednesday arrested Ruby Jain and her husband, Harsh Singh, accused of making racist remarks against three women from Arunachal Pradesh. According to police, the accused were arrested under the SC/ST Act. The court has sent the couple to 14 days of judicial custody. Earlier on Tuesday, Harsh Singh told news agency, "We are ashamed. This all happened in the heat of the moment. We are fully cooperating with the Delhi Police in this matter." Meanwhile, after the video went viral, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju said that his office has been in constant contact with the victims and the Delhi Police since day one. He added that strict legal action will be taken against the accused.

Rijiju said - We take the issue of ill-treatment of people from the Northeast seriously. Rijiju said arrests have been made in the case.

### India is developing a baby BrahMos, at a cost 20 times lower: preparing for future wars, a new security formula

New Delhi(GNS):The conflicts in Russia-Ukraine and West Asia have made it clear that future wars will drag on for months and even years. Faced with this reality, India has also begun preparing. The military's focus is no longer just on expensive missiles, but on a large stockpile of their "mini-models."

The recent test of the "airborne version" of the Pinaka rocket system is being seen as part of this series. Indeed, due to its uncanny accuracy and lethality comparable to the BrahMos, it has even been dubbed the "Baby BrahMos."

Recently, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, calling this change necessary, said that if we have affordable but high-tech weapons, we will be able to push back any big enemy in a long war (high density war).

## 28-Year-Old Woman Raped By 7, Made To Transfer Rs 10,000 In Assam

Guwahati(GNS): A 28-year-old woman was gang-raped by seven men in front of her boyfriend near Silchar town in Assam's Cachar district. A police official said a complaint was filed on February 19. Two people have been arrested in the case.

Police said that after the rape, one of the accused made the woman transfer 10,000 rupees to his account. The victim's family said she was in a car with her boyfriend on a bypass road a few kilometers from Silchar city when a group of men in an SUV drove up and attacked them.

According to news agency, police initially remained silent on the matter, but on Tuesday, a journalist in Silchar was attacked by the family members of one of the accused. The incident subsequently went viral on social media.

Two identified, 5 still absconding

The victim identified two men, who were later arrested, police said, adding that efforts are underway to identify and apprehend the remaining people involved in the case. Police said a by threat to kill, 310 (2) sons), 70 (1) (gang rape) and case has been registered at (dacoity), 351 (2) (criminal other relevant sections of the Silchar Sadar police station intimidation), 61 (2) (unlawful Indian Penal Code).

## "Grandfather Attacks Granddaughter with Chisel After Catching Her Changing Clothes"

Moga(GNS):In Moga, a 60-year-old grandfather caught his 14-year-old granddaughter changing clothes in his room. The grandfather was already hiding inside and tried to rape her. Hearing the girl's screams, the mother rushed over and found the door locked from inside.

When the granddaughter resisted inside the room, the grandfather hacked her severely with a chisel. The mother then recording statements and assuring her life.

The mother claimed that the accused had been sexually abusing her daughter, which is why he committed this crime. The police have not yet filed a case in this matter. They are currently recording statements and assuring her life.



## Army busts terror hideout in J-K's Poonch IEDs, pistol recovered



Security forces on Wednesday unearthed a terrorist hideout in a forward village in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district and recovered a cache of arms, including two ready-to-use improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and a pistol, officials said.

The recovery was made during a joint cordon and search operation launched by the Army and the Special Operations Group (SOG) of the local police at Salani Kasblari village in the Mendhar sector.

The items, which included two grenades and 24 pistol rounds, were found hidden inside a cave.

In a post on X, the Army's White Knight Corps said, "Based on synergised intelligence inputs from own sources and police, a joint operation was launched by the troops of White Knight Corps and SOG Poonch in the Gani Forest area." "The detailed search led to the recovery of one big IED (4.5 kg), one small IED (800 grams), two Chinese grenades, one 9-mm pistol, two 9 mm rounds and 22 7.62 mm rounds were recovered from the site," it said.

## Piyush Goyal accuses Rahul Gandhi of being 'puppet of anti-India forces'

New Delhi(GNS):The war of words between the Congress and BJP over the Indo-US trade deal escalated today, with top BJP leadership accusing the Gandhi family of prioritising personal political gains over national interests. BJP chief Nitin Nabin led the attack, calling the Congress and the Gandhis "compromised" and claiming that the family has consistently played with national interests, from Jawaharlal Nehru to Rahul Gandhi. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal intensified the attack, stating that Rahul Gandhi is a puppet of anti-India forces and organisations. Goyal reiterated that farmers' interests are safe under the Indo-US trade deal and accused Rahul Gandhi of spreading lies. He also pointed out that Rahul Gandhi has travelled abroad 247 times, compromising the government's security protocol. Goyal criticised Rahul's foreign engagements, stating that he has met with known aides of George Soros, who publicly called for regime change in India, and Ilhan Omar, who works closely with Soros. He also mentioned Rahul's meeting with anti-India personalities in Ladakh and questioned whether Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi instructed the Youth Congress to stage a shirtless protest at the AI summit, where 20 world leaders gathered to celebrate India's achievements. Goyal accused the Gandhi family of compromising national interests, citing instances such as Sonia Gandhi's alleged role as a "super PM" during Manmohan Singh's tenure and Rajiv Gandhi's handling of the Bofors scandal. He also criticised Indira Gandhi's decision to return Pakistani prisoners of war in 1971 without demanding Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) back.



## Bride shot at on wedding stage by lover in Bihar's Buxar

Buxar(GNS): A bride was shot at by her alleged lover during the woman's wedding ceremony in Bihar's Buxar district, police said on Wednesday. The incident took place within Chausa police station limits of the district on Tuesday night when 18-year-old Aarti Kumari was on stage with her to-be husband. Talking to reporters, Chausa additional sta-



tion house officer Chandan Kumar said, "The incident prima facie appears to be linked to a love affair. Aarti was shot in the stomach by the accused while she was standing beside the groom on the wedding stage. Family members and locals rushed the injured bride to Sadar Hospital in Buxar. Doctors later referred her to Varanasi for advanced treatment after her condition was stated to be critical, he said.

Kumar said raids are underway to arrest the suspect.

In her statement to police, the victim identified the shooter as her neighbour, Deenbandhu.

Family members alleged that the accused was in a one-sided love with her and had earlier objected to the marriage.

## Kerala - 500,000 people received election messages on WhatsApp: High Court says this is a serious breach of privacy

CM's office accused of taking data from administrative portal

Kochi(GNS): The Kerala government has come under fire for sending election messages via WhatsApp to nearly 500,000 people, including government employees, judicial officers, and various beneficiaries. The High Court on Tuesday expressed displeasure, asking how the Chief Minister's Office obtained these mobile numbers. The court prohibited the sending of such messages until the data source is confirmed.

The High Court said the initiative lacked confidentiality and raised doubts whether data from the SPARK portal, meant for salary and administrative purposes, had been improperly transferred to the Chief Minister's Office.

The court stated that the use of administrative data for political propaganda is a serious violation of the right to privacy under Article 21 and the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. The court asked what the legal basis for the data processing was.



## From 'Kerala' to 'Keralaam': Reclamation of identity or political strategy?

**Kantilal Mandot**

An examination of the pros and cons of the name change decision, its electoral impact, and potential gains for the BJP.

The Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the proposal to change Kerala's name to "Keralaam" not just an administrative decision, but has become a subject of cultural, political, and constitutional debate. This decision is a follow-up to a resolution already passed by the state assembly. The question now is what real benefits this name change will bring to the state, what potential losses it could have, what impact it will have on electoral politics, and whether it could yield any political advantage for the Bharatiya Janata Party.

First, supporters argue that the name "Keralaam" is more in keeping with the state's linguistic and cultural identity. The state is called "Keralaam" in Malayalam, so this change strengthens local identity and self-respect. Several states in India have previously changed their names to reflect their historical or linguistic identities—such as Odisha (formerly Orissa) and Uttarakhand (formerly Uttaranchal). These examples argue that name changes are not unusual, but rather a process of identity refinement over time.

Another potential benefit is cultural branding. The name "Kerala" can connect the global identity of tourism, Ayurveda, backwaters, and traditional art forms to the local language. When a state officializes its native cultural expres-

sions, it instills a sense of pride in its citizens. This could also strengthen emotional ties among the expatriate community, especially the millions of Malayalis working in the Gulf countries. This psychological benefit may or may not translate into direct economic gains, but it could play a role in enhancing social self-confidence.

However, this also comes with some practical challenges and potential disadvantages. The name change process would require amendments to administrative documents, educational certificates, government websites, legal records, and national and international agreements. This process consumes both time and resources. Critics say that a name change should not be a priority when the state is grappling with challenges

such as unemployment, flood management, debt burden, and infrastructure. They argue that the direct economic benefits are limited, while the administrative costs are substantial.

This decision is interesting in terms of electoral implications. Kerala has long been dominated by the Left parties and the Congress-led coalition. The BJP has so far been able to make limited inroads here. Therefore, if the name change decision proceeds with the central government's approval, the BJP could present it as a "respect for culture" and a "constitutional process." This could be an attempt to convey the message that the center is not against regional identity, but rather supports it. This could provide the BJP with an opportunity to craft a narrative that it under-

stands the aspirations of South India, not just a Hindi heartland party.

But it's also important to keep in mind that Kerala's politics is considered highly conscious and ideologically mature. Voters here don't vote solely on symbolic issues, but rather prioritize issues like social justice, education, health, and secularism. Therefore, it would be premature to assume that a mere name change will significantly alter the electoral equations. However, it could open the door for dialogue for the BJP, allowing it to appear sensitive to the state's cultural sentiments.

Considering the potential benefits for the BJP, this decision could provide it with an opportunity to increase its acceptance in South India.

### Editorial

#### On the Supreme Court and the Special Intensive Revision process

With the corrections and claims process coming to an end, the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process has seen the release of final electoral rolls except in West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh which are due soon. The net number of voters removed (with fresh additions) from the pre-SIR electoral rolls in States such as Tamil Nadu (nearly 11.5%), Gujarat (13.4%) and Chhattisgarh (11.8%) remain high. Tamil Nadu and Gujarat are, after all, net in-migrant States unlike Bihar where deletions were around 6%. The high number of deletions, and the fact that excisions are higher for female than male electors, suggests that the SIR process, as envisaged and implemented by the Election Commission of India (ECI), suffered from clear structural defects. A clear-cut assessment could have only been possible with comparison with Census figures, but due to the prolonged delay by the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Union Government, only outdated numbers from 2011 are available. The final figures of the electorate in major States where the SIR was conducted indicate that the registered adult population in the final rolls is much below the projected estimates. This again raises the question of whether the ECI should have waited for the Census before rushing the SIR — but that is now only of academic interest.

The exercise's lacunae and anomalies could have been mitigated if the Supreme Court of India had ruled on SIR's constitutionality and compelled the ECI to adopt a more robust — though slower — household-by-household count, instead of depending on an enumeration that shifts the burden onto electors to prove their eligibility. This exercise has clearly, and unduly, affected migrant voters — especially those leaving their residence for the short term and married women who have shifted residences. By letting the process to continue despite its frailties, the Court relied on the ECI's claim that concerns with omissions are overblown, given the relatively few complaints filed by political parties. But the fact that political parties participate in a zero-sum game of competition should alert to the possibility of their relative lack of agency in assisting all electors to be part of the list.



**Recently, a major terrorist plot has been uncovered in the country. Eight suspects, believed to be orchestrating a major terrorist plot at the behest of Pakistan's ISI and Bangladeshi terrorist organizations, were arrested yesterday. Their arrests have revealed significant revelations. The investigation, which began after posters with slogans like "Free Kashmir" and "Stop Genocide in Kashmir" were put up in several areas of Delhi and Kolkata over the past ten days, has now uncovered an international terrorist network. A total of eight suspects have been arrested so far in this operation: six from Tamil Nadu and two from West Bengal.**



## Terror threads from Kashmir to Kolkata, Tamil Nadu

**Manoj Kumar Agarwal**

According to investigating agencies, the suspects immediately left Delhi and Kolkata after the posters were put up and returned to their hideouts. The first arrests in this case were of two accused from Malda, whose interrogation and mobile data analysis revealed a module active in Tamil Nadu. Subsequent raids on garment units in Uthukuli (2), Palladam (3), and Thirumuruganpoondi (1) in Tiruppur district led to the arrest of six more accused. The accused arrested from Tamil Nadu have been identified as Mizanur Rahman, Mohammed Shabat, Umar, Mohammed Lathan, Mohammed Shahid, and Mohammed Ujjal. Most of them have been identified as Bangladeshi nationals and were living in India using fake Aadhaar cards and false identities. All are being brought to Delhi for questioning.

The investigation revealed that they had direct or indirect links to Pakistan's intelligence agency, the ISI, and terrorist organizations in Bangladesh. Some of the suspects had recently traveled to Bangladesh, where they came into contact with active terrorist networks.

Security agencies have made a sensational revelation about the deep penetration of the terrorist organization Lashkar-e-Taiba in Kolkata and a well-planned conspiracy. According to intelligence sources, arrested suspected terrorist Umar Farooq had made Kolkata its main operational base and was working as an active handler for Lashkar. The investigation revealed that Umar contacted Sabbir Ahmed Lone, a resident of Kashmir, in March 2025,

after which the dangerous plot to terrorize Kolkata was hatched. This network not only used Hindu names to evade security agencies but also reconnaissance of highly sensitive religious sites in the city and sent videos of these to their masters across the border. According to intelligence agencies, Umar rented a house in Kolkata on the direct instructions of his handler, Sabbir, which was being used as a safe house to carry out the conspiracy. The most shocking revelation revealed in the investigation was that the terrorists' target was a prominent temple located near the Chandni Chowk area. Umar and his associates, concealing their identities, visited the temple, made a detailed video of it, and sent it to their handler in Kashmir. The scope of the conspiracy was not limited to recce alone. Security forces have received strong inputs that this module had also begun the process of procuring explosives and modern weapons in the city. Recce was being carried out in various parts of Kolkata since December 2024, and a plan was also hatched to put up anti-national posters to destabilize the atmosphere. Umar and his gang, as part of a well-thought-out strategy, used Hindu names to arouse the suspicion of locals and the police.

To avoid radar. Intelligence officials believe that if this module had not been exposed in time, Kolkata could have witnessed a major terrorist tragedy. Currently, security agencies are working to uncover other links in this network based on information gathered from Aum.

The police are working to connect them and identify local individuals in the metropolis who were provid-

ing logistics and other support. The Special Task Force (STF) has arrested an accused who activated Indian SIM cards using someone else's Aadhaar card and sent their OTPs to Pakistan. The accused, arrested from Baharampur in Murshidabad, is named Suman Sheikh. He came into contact with Pakistani handlers while working in Pune. Investigations have revealed that Suman purchased pre-activated SIM cards using fake Aadhaar cards and sent their numbers and WhatsApp OTPs across the border, receiving payment in cryptocurrency. These SIM cards are suspected to be used for espionage or cyber fraud. According to police sources, the Pakistani intelligence agency, ISI, may be behind this network.

It should be noted that a stir erupted in Ashintola village of Gopalpur Gram Panchayat under the Manikchak police station in Malda district when security agencies arrested a young man named Umar Farooq on suspicion of links to a banned terrorist organization, Lashkar-e-Taiba. The arrest of this young man, who had studied up to the 6th grade, not only created a sensation in the area but also raised serious questions about the existence of active terrorist modules in the state. However, the most shocking aspect of this entire case is the stark contradictions in the statements given by Umar Farooq's family members. In her statement, Umar Farooq's mother, on the one hand, has cited her son's naiveté, while on the other, she has hinted at a serious involvement, albeit unintentional. She claims that Umar is completely illiterate and has no understanding of any organiza-

tion's ideology. According to the mother, it is possible that he put up some posters out of greed for money, but he had no idea that they belonged to a militant organization. She claimed that her son could never knowingly engage in any anti-national activity. Meanwhile, Omar's wife completely rejected her mother-in-law's claims, calling her husband innocent and the victim of a conspiracy. She stated that Omar had been supporting his family by working as a laborer in Kolkata for years, and that they had never noticed any suspicious changes in his behavior or any contact with any unknown individuals. Agencies are currently closely examining these contradictory claims by Omar and the family. They are trying to determine whether he was working as a sleeper cell for a terrorist module under the guise of a laborer in Kolkata. Officials believe that these discrepancies in the family's statements may be an attempt to conceal a larger truth. Currently, through interrogation and technical evidence, efforts are being made to clarify Omar's actual role and whose instructions he was working under. The purpose of these posters was to influence the social narrative and create instability in India. Investigating agencies are currently investigating whether the accused had links to any local modules or other organizations in India. Initial inputs suggest that additional individuals may be involved in this network, and the search for them is ongoing. With the arrest of eight suspects, security agencies are considering this a significant breakthrough in a major organized terrorist conspiracy operating in India.

## Pastor Loren is furious, will President Trump improve?

**Sanat Jain**

Loren Livingston, senior pastor of Central Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, has strongly objected to the language and public conduct of US President Donald Trump. In a recent sermon, he stated that a person holding the highest office in the country should use restrained, polite, and dignified language. He stated that leadership is not solely determined by policies and decisions. Rather, a person's character, behavior, and speech are crucial. Behind every successful person, their character, behavior, and words are crucial. In the US, President Donald Trump is facing widespread opposition, both in politics and religious circles. Pastor Livingston stated that the use of

offensive and indecent language in public life sends a negative message to society. Citing the Bible, he said, "Words come from the abundance and sensitivity of the heart." He offered a lesson to President Donald Trump, explaining that a person's language reflects their inner thoughts and character values. If a leader's speech is harsh and offensive, it reveals their inner perspective. He clarified that political ideology and Christian faith cannot be considered synonymous. Donald Trump's self-description of himself as "conservative," "pro-life," or "supporter of the biblical family" does not make him a true Christian. He also expressed strong displeasure at the tendency to divide religion along racial lines. He stated that within the Christian communi-

ty, there are no separate identities such as white and black. He stated that faith in Jesus Christ, without any discrimination, is what makes a true Christian. Christ is in everyone, and there is only one Christ. Following his statement, debates on political, religious, social, and political issues have intensified in America. The pastor's statement has sparked a strong reaction in America. Following this statement, anger against Trump is being felt from the Congress to the streets.

This has led to a rapid reaction among American citizens and religious supporters. Americans are considering the pastor's statement as an important admonition to protect moral values. The way President Trump is treating citizens of different states has divided

American society into many segments, as if everyone is pitted against each other. This is completely incompatible with American culture and social order. The animosity being spread within Christianity has no place in a free and democratic country like America. People are suffering from inflation and unemployment. They lack homes and food. More than half of the American population is struggling to make ends meet. In such a situation, the people of America are no longer able to tolerate President Donald Trump's arrogance, ever-increasing taxes, and government and administrative repression. The abusive language he uses and the threats he makes at every turn have put America in such a predicament. There seems to be

no way out. In such a situation, the pastor's statement about how the president should behave with ordinary citizens is the need of the hour. If Donald Trump fails to understand the pastor's advice, it may be difficult for him to remain in office. Actions have reactions. Trump supporters are criticizing the pastor's statement and trying to defend Trump. Both Trump supporters and critics are considering it a political comment. However, the outspokenness and anger with which the pastor has advised Trump, while defending the religious side, is resonating with American politicians and the general public. When even prominent religious leaders stand against the government, it is not easy to maintain power in such a situation.

# Police Probe 'Larger And Well-Planned Conspiracy'

**New Delhi, (GNS):** With the arrest of Indian Youth Congress president Uday Bhanu Chib on Monday night over a protest at the AI summit at Bharat Mandapam on Feb 20, Delhi Police has widened the ambit of its investigation as it moves to probe a "larger and well-planned conspiracy" that allegedly aimed at spreading unrest during the high-profile event. The case will now be investigated by the crime branch.



Sources said Chib was questioned about the identities of the other accused and the source of the "politically charged" T-shirts displayed during the protest, which witnessed anti-PM slogans and a shirtless demonstration.

However, Chib allegedly remained uncooperative and evasive during his interrogation, leading to his arrest. He will be interrogated during four days of custody to determine who gave the final go-ahead for the protest.

Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, special commission-

er of police (crime) Devesh Chandra Srivastava said the conspiracy aimed at attempting to breach the security cordon in front of dignitaries, representatives and visitors at the international event. The individuals were quickly brought under control, although some police personnel sustained injuries while restraining them.

An FIR was registered under multiple sections, including criminal conspiracy, promoting enmity, hatred or disharmony, com-

mon intention and making imputations or assertions prejudicial to national integration. Two more sections - 191(1) (rioting) and 192 (provocation to riot) - were later added.

"During investigation, several individuals were identified on CCTV footage from the venue and surrounding areas," Srivastava said. "It was also found out that they had received assistance from others to carry out the act, and subsequent arrests were made."

Earlier, seven Indian Youth

Congress workers, including three from Gwalior - Jitendra Yadav, Raj Gujjar, and Vimal Ajay Kumar - were arrested for the protest. Additionally, the organisation's Uttar Pradesh general secretary Ritik, alias Monty Shukla was detained from Lalitpur.

With Chib now in custody, the total number of people held in connection with the case has risen to eight. In anticipation of possible unrest following his arrest, police have heightened security across key locations in the capital. A senior officer said that considering the multi-state nature of the case, financial and logistical networks linking the accused, and the extensive investigation required, the matter has been transferred to the crime branch's inter-state cell, adding that conclusive evidence has been collected. All accused remain in custody, and raids are ongoing in other states to uncover the full extent of the "conspiracy", the officer said.

# CM lays foundation stone for 49 projects worth 264cr in Mundka



**New Delhi, (GNS):** Chief minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday laid the foundation stone for 49 development projects worth Rs 264 crore in Mundka, asserting that rural Delhi is now on the govt's development agenda.

Addressing a gathering in Mundka Assembly constituency, Gupta said the projects would improve road connectivity, drinking water supply and sewerage infrastructure. "These initiatives will bring urban-

standard amenities to rural Delhi," she said. The chief minister added that in the past year, development works worth nearly Rs 1,600 crore were initiated across rural areas. A dedicated Rs 1,000 crore allocation was also made for village development.

The works were approved under the Delhi Gramin Vikas Board, Chief Minister's Development Fund and MLA Local Area Development Fund, among other heads.

# Delhi Samaypur Badli murder

Woman, three daughters found dead at home; husband on run



**NEW DELHI, (GNS):** A woman and her three minor daughters were found murdered at their home in Outer Delhi's Samaypur Badli on Wednesday morning. Police have launched a manhunt for the woman's husband, who is suspected of being involved in the killings and has been missing since the incident came to light.

The deceased, a resident of Siraspur village, lived with her husband and their three daughters, aged five, four, and three, in a ground-floor room in Chandan Park near Sarvodaya Vidyalaya. Her husband,

Munchan Kewat, worked as a vegetable seller at Azadpur Mandi.

The crime was reported around 8.20 am after neighbours alerted the police. A team from the local police station rushed to the house and found the bodies of the woman and her daughters lying on the floor. All four victims had their throats slit with a sharp-edged weapon.

Preliminary investigations suggest that the victims may have been attacked while they were asleep. "We suspect they may have been killed while they were sleeping," a senior police officer said.

# Court convicts man of unnatural sex, murder of 11-yr-old

**New Delhi, (GNS):** A court has convicted a man of unnatural sex, aggravated penetrative sexual assault and murder of an 11-and-a-half-year-old child, holding that the injury inflicted was "sufficient in all circumstances to cause death even of a matured person, and in the case of a minor child, the death becomes even more certain".

Convicting the accused under Indian Penal Code and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, judge Amit Sahrawat underscored that the prosecution had established a complete and coherent chain of circumstances pointing unerringly towards the guilt of the accused. After examining medical and forensic evidence, the court held that the case stood proved as "there is no missing link in the said chain of events". It observed that when all facts were considered together, "the only hypothesis which could be drawn is that



accused took away deceased, committed penetrative sexual assault and, thereafter, caused death of deceased child".

According to the prosecution led by Aaditya Kumar, the child had gone missing on Jan 2, 2019, after his father returned home around 6pm. During the search, the father met the accused, Karamvir Singh, who joined the efforts, and an FIR under kidnapping was registered at 9.30pm.

The next morning, Singh claimed that he had "magical powers" and revealed a location near the Narela railway line. Acting on his directions, the family found the child's body in a dilapidated building. CCTV footage later showed the accused taking the child from a confectioner's shop towards Narela railway station.

He was arrested and led police to recover bloodstained clothes and a knife. The foren-

sic report confirmed the presence of the child's blood on his jacket, towel, underwear and the recovered knife, while his semen was detected on her clothes and anal swabs.

Rejecting the defence's attempt to attribute the accused's knowledge to supernatural means, the court held that "there is nothing such like magical powers and all these are superstitious facts which have no relevance in law". Judge Sahrawat also questioned the logic of the claim, observing that if he already knew the location, there was no reason for him to join the search party in the first place.

On the defence's argument that the victim's father was an "interested witness", the court disagreed. "A father who has lost his child shall always try to ensure justice for his deceased child. It is not convincing that a father shall be interested in false implication of any person by letting the real culprit to go free," it said.

# Trials In 9 NE Riots Murder Cases In Final Stage: Police

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Delhi Police on Tuesday said the trials in nine of the 53 murder cases registered in connection with the 2020 Northeast Delhi riots have reached their final stages, indicating that several serious prosecutions arising out of the violence are approaching judicial closure.

Apart from the 53 murder cases, the crime branch is investigating 12 cases considered to be sensitive.

Of the nine murder cases that are in their concluding phase before courts, four are at the stage of recording the statements of the accused, a critical step in the trial process, while the remaining have progressed to the stage of final arguments, where the prosecution and defence present their concluding submissions in court.

In addition, 11 cases being probed by the Northeast district police have also entered



the final stages of trial. Among these, two cases are on the verge of judgment and are expected to see verdicts soon. Seven of the cases are at the stage when statements of the accused are being recorded, while two have advanced to the phase of final arguments.

In the communal clashes in

northeast Delhi in Feb 2020 at least 53 people were killed and 581 were injured. Among them were 108 police personnel deployed to control the situation and restore order.

Police data shows that 242 cases related to the riots are under trial in various courts. Of these, 212 cases are under

Northeast district police, while 29 are being handled by the crime branch. One case remains under investigation by the special cell.

Official figures also show that 16 riot-related cases have resulted in discharge orders from the courts. Proceedings in two cases have abated following the death of the accused, while one case has been quashed.

Overall, 758 cases were registered in connection with the riots, of which 692 were investigated by police. Investigating agencies filed 416 chargesheets. Of these, 46 were filed by the crime branch and 369 by the local police, while one pertains to the special cell.

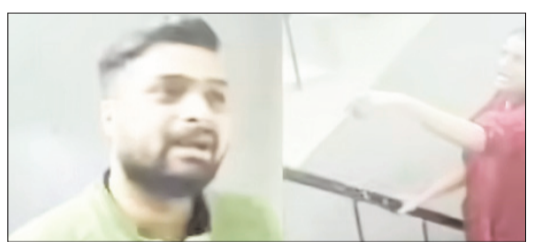
In total, 2,639 people were arrested in connection with the riots. Of them, 2,189 were arrested by the local police, 429 by the crime branch, and 21 by the special cell.

# Delhi Police record statements after 3 women racially abused by couple: 'Ashamed, heat of the moment'

**NEW DELHI, (GNS):** Delhi Police has recorded statements of both sides in connection with the alleged racial abuse of three women from Arunachal Pradesh by a couple in south Delhi's Malviya Nagar. They will also send the videos for forensic analysis to determine if there was any tampering.

According to police, the incident took place around 3.30pm on Friday, when the women were getting electrical installation work done at their rented accommodation, and some dust allegedly fell on the premises of the couple living on the floor below, leading to an argument. The incident came to light after a video of the altercation surfaced on social media on Sunday.

The complainants, one of whom is a UPSC aspirant, alleged that the couple had made derogatory and racial-



ly offensive remarks, insulted their modesty and issued threats. No physical injuries were reported, said a police officer. A case was registered against the couple at Malviya Nagar police station under sections 79 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman), 351 (criminal intimidation), 3(5) (common intention) and 196 (promoting enmity between different groups on the ground of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc, and doing acts prejudicial to the maintenance of harmony) of BNS.

# Dusu president's security 'brandishes gun', university orders probe

**NEW DELHI, (GNS):** Delhi University has constituted an inquiry committee after a written complaint from residents of Gwyer Hall - DU's oldest men's hostel - alleged that private security personnel hired by Dusu president Aryan Maan entered the hostel premises with a gun, threatened students and created a disturbance during a scuffle over mess coupons on Monday night.

The five-member panel, comprising the warden of men's hostels among others, is headed by DU Proctor Manoj Kumar. The complaint, signed by the hostel administration and forwarded to the proctor, states: "The Gwyer Hall hostel was illegally occupied by Dusu office-bearers, along with their friends, who have repeatedly caused disturbances."

It said the administration has decid-



ed to vacate the rooms "with immediate effect", failing which they would be sealed and legal action initiated. The occupants were given time till 5.30pm on Feb 24.

The complaint added: "We strongly condemn the act of entering the hostel with a gun, threatening and abusing stu-

dents, and mistreating hostel staff (mess worker and security personnel). We request that a committee be formed with immediate effect to address this issue." According to residents, three Dusu office-bearers reside at Gwyer Hall - president Aryan Maan, vice-president Rahul Jhansla Yadav and secretary Kunal Choudhary Bidhuri.

Residents alleged that some people accompanying Maan, including his security personnel, frequently used the hostel mess without taking coupons. On Monday night, an argument allegedly broke out between a mess worker and some of Maan's associates over coupons. During the altercation, residents claimed that one of them took away the entire coupon booklet, escalating tensions and triggering protests by hostel students. Videos circulating on social media showed a large

crowd raising slogans and demanding action.

Maan denied his security personnel were involved in the scuffle or were residing in the hostel. "It was a small issue. We didn't refuse to take coupons. A slight argument happened when the mess worker said people eat for free using Dusu's name and refused to give food to my guests. One of them took the coupon booklet in the heat of the moment," he said.

Termining the episode "politically motivated" and denying any unauthorised stay, he said Dusu office-bearers have been allotted rooms at the hostel with the vice-chancellor's approval. "We stay with due approvals," he said, adding his security personnel do not stay in the hostel premises and remain in their vehicle when he enters the campus. He further alleged that the hostel administration was attempting to target

him and using the incident as a pretext to vacate Dusu office-bearers from the hostel premises. Hostel authorities, however, described the occupation as "unauthorised" in the complaint and warned they would seal the rooms if the vacating order was not complied with. There was no immediate response from the hostel provost.

DU proctor Manoj Kumar said the administration intervened and the matter was resolved amicably. "It was a small argument which led to the issue," he said. On the allegation regarding a firearm, he said he wasn't aware of any such incident and was looking into the matter. He confirmed Dusu office-bearers have official allotment at Gwyer Hall with special approval from the VC. Maan is the son of Haryana-based liquor businessman Sikandar Maan. Sources said security cover has been provided in view of his safety.

# For Indian medical students in Iran amid escalating tensions, it's matter of life or exam

**NEW DELHI, (GNS):** Following the Centre's advisory asking Indian nationals to leave Iran amid escalating tensions and the possibility of a US strike, hundreds of Indian medical students find themselves torn between returning home for safety and facing academic setbacks if they miss crucial examinations scheduled in early March, mandatory for the continuation of their degrees. Estimates from student groups suggest that 1,000-1,500 Indian students are currently in Iran for medical education, with a significant number at key institutions like Tehran University of Medical Sciences.

According to several students, the basic sciences (Olum-e-Paye) examination and pre-internship test - both mandatory govt assessments in Iran's medical education system - are set for



March 5. These exams determine whether students can progress from pre-clinical study to clinical training and hospital postings, and are held only twice a year. Missing them could mean losing up to six months of academic progress, as the next cycle will only take place in the second half of the year, significantly delaying their five-and-a-half-year medical degree.

The students have also highlighted that this is the second time they are grappling with such uncertainty. Many faced disruptions when the Israel-Iran conflict flared last year, leaving them in an increasingly anxious academic environment. Students have urged the Indian govt to intervene and take up the matter with Iranian authorities to explore the possibility of postponing the exams or offering alternative arrangements.

For many, the decision to leave has been fraught with anxiety over the impact on their careers. Faizan Nabi, a medical student who returned to India a few days ago, said he left due to growing apprehensions over safety but remains deeply concerned about his academic future.

"I returned a few days ago because of the fear and uncertainty around the escalating situation. But right now, semester exams are going on in universities. Plus, there are the Olum-e-Paye - the comprehensive basic sciences exam - and the pre-internship exam. These are nationwide, central assessments. Missing them means losing six months of study," he told Media, highlighting the career-related stress students are facing.

# LG approves 272 additional posts in revenue dept

**New Delhi, (GNS):** LG VK Saxena approved the creation of 272 additional posts in the revenue department following the increase in the number of revenue districts and sub-divisions in the national capital.

The newly sanctioned posts include two district magistrates, two additional district magistrates, eight sub-divisional magistrates, six sub-registrars, 16 tehsildars, 22 naib tehsildars, 42 Senior assistants, 42 junior assistants, and 52 multi-tasking staff, along with several posts in the Accounts, Planning, DSS, and Steno cadres. Before the creation of 2 new districts, the Revenue Department had 1,553 sanctioned posts across 11 districts. With the addition of 272 posts, the total number of sanctioned posts in 13 districts increased to 1,825.

The govt, through an earlier cabinet decision, approved the



reorganisation of revenue districts in Govt of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) from 11 to 13 districts. The decision also provided for an increase in sub-divisions from 33 to 39 and the establishment of 39 sub-registrar offices, making revenue districts co-terminus with MCD Zones, NDMC, and Cantonment bard.

The approval for additional posts is expected to strengthen field-level administration, address staff shortages, and improve service delivery, particularly in a department that has an extensive public interface, said officials.

# Court directs Shikhar's ex-wife to return 5.7cr



**New Delhi, (GNS):** A court has ordered the former wife of cricketer Shikhar Dhawan to return approximately Rs 5.7 crore, holding that orders passed by an Australian family court under the concept of "property settlement" are contrary to Indian law and unenforceable in India.

Family court judge Devender Kumar Garg also directed that she couldn't demand Rs 16.9 crore as awarded by the Australian court. The judge observed that the concept of "property settlement" under Family Law Act 1975 was alien to Indian matrimonial law, including Hindu Marriage Act 1955. The court said that

under the Australian law, all properties of the husband were brought into a "marital pool" and the court might award up to 60% of total properties in India and abroad to the wife. In Dhawan's case, the Australian court invoked Section 79 of the 1975 Act to direct payment of AU \$8,12,397.50 from the sale of property.

The judge noted that the former wife didn't appear before the court. He recorded that the Australian court had directed Dhawan to pay sale proceeds of two properties in Australia under "interim property settlement", which the cricketer claimed he hadn't consented to.

# How Digital Twin Tech May Mean Fewer And Shorter Power Cuts

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Delhi govt is planning to expand the use of digital twin technology in the power distribution sector, which would allow operators to detect possible fault scenarios before taking field-level action.

The first large-scale rollout of the technology is already under way in west Delhi's Janakpuri, where BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL) has deployed a real-time Digital Twin of its electricity distribution network.

A digital twin is essentially a virtual, continuously updated replica of a physical network. In Janakpuri, it mirrors substations, feeders, transformers and even consumer meters. The platform integrates SCADA controls, GIS mapping, IoT sensors, smart meters and enterprise systems into a single digital dashboard. Engineers can see real-time electricity flows, monitor equipment health and simulate possible fault scenarios before taking field-level action. Power minister Ashish Sood said: "We are trying this technology and till now it has proved to be efficient. We will use it in other places as well, and since this is a costly affair, we will also seek the Centre's help."

The system was also showcased at the recently concluded AI Impact Summit at



Bharat Mandapam, offering a live demonstration of how artificial intelligence is being used to monitor and manage power supply. A senior official said that, unlike conventional systems that respond after a breakdown, the digital twin uses AI-driven analytics to predict potential failures. It can flag abnormal load patterns, detect stress on transformers and enable automated fault isolation through remote switching. This reduces outage duration and minimises the need for manual intervention, he said.

Like Google Maps, the digital twin creates a dynamic, interactive map of the

electricity network that updates in real time. It displays live power flows, equipment status and fault locations across substations, feeders and transformers. Engineers can zoom in from a city-level view to a specific transformer or even a consumer meter.

For consumers, the impact is expected to be visible in the form of fewer and shorter power cuts, quicker restoration during faults and improved voltage stability during peak demand periods. The system also enables better load forecasting, helping the utility prepare in advance for summer demand spikes, he said.

By identifying unusual consumption patterns at feeder and meter levels, it can also help curb power theft and reduce technical losses. Once completed, Janakpuri could become Delhi's first fully digitised and live-monitored power distribution zone, he said.

Parallel physical upgrades are under way. In parts of the division, around 2.5 km of overhead cables were shifted underground, nearly 400 metering installations were upgraded, and 17 smart feeder pillars were installed to enable faster fault detection. Older oil-filled transformers were replaced with dry-type units to improve safety.

# Delhi gets first green waste processing plant near ITO

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Public Works Department on Monday inaugurated Delhi's first green waste processing plant to scientifically handle horticulture waste generated along city roads.

PWD minister Parvesh Verma launched the facility near ITO, asserting that it is the city's first dedicated plant for processing green waste collected from PWD-maintained stretches. The plant will convert branches, shrubs and other pruning waste into compost for reuse in landscaping and plantation work.

Calling it a long-awaited initiative, the minister said that despite maintaining thousands of kilometres of roads and green belts, the department earlier did not have any green waste processing plant. "Delhi now has a dedicated infrastructure to scientifically process horticulture waste instead of dumping it."

Govt officials said the move addressed repeated complaints from residents welfare associations and schools about heaps of pruned branches and fallen trees lying along roadsides for days, leading to foul smells, blocked footpaths and inconvenience to commuters.

Similar facilities have been completed



at Patparganj Industrial Area, Secretariat Nursery, Mukarba Chowk Nursery, Lajwanti Nursery in west Delhi, Sukhdev Vihar and RK Puram, while six more are planned in the next phase. The long-term plan, officials said, is to set up at least one facility in every district to ensure decentralised waste management.

The compost generated at the plants will be reused by PWD's horticulture wing for maintaining central verges, roadside plantations and gardens.

# Bike-borne men fire at car of Lawrence's lawyer near Kashmere Gate; one injured

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Unidentified men fired multiple shots at a car in which Lawrence Bishnoi's lawyer's husband and his associates were travelling on Tuesday night, police said. The firing happened around 10.15pm near the Marghat Wale Hanuman Temple, which is near Kashmere Gate.

One of the occupants, a man identified as Sandeep by police, suffered a gunshot wound in the shoulder. Sources said the shooters, who could be of a rival group, tailed the car and fired at least four rounds.

Police said CCTV footage of the shooting is being analysed. The special cell and crime branch are probing the matter. Five people were in the vehicle at the time of the firing. Among them was Deepak Khatri, whose wife is Lawrence's lawyer. She was not in the car.

# Transplant of 32 trees for airport work gets go-ahead

**New Delhi, (GNS):** Delhi forest department has granted permission for the transplantation of 32 trees for the expansion of the apron facilities at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport, while prohibiting any tree-felling, according to an official order.

The permission was granted on Jan 22 under the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994, for expansion of the airport's apron Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) area.

Though the applicant initially sought permission to cut or transplant 34 trees, the forest department allowed the transplantation of 32 trees, prohibiting any tree-felling in the area. It also directed compensatory plantation of 320 saplings.

"The compensatory plantation site proposed was inspected by the concerned field staff and was found suitable and sufficient to plant 320 tree saplings," said the order, adding that saplings will be maintained for



seven years.

"Each tree planted or transplanted will be geo-tagged, and the details of the plantation carried out will be uploaded on the portal of the forest department. Yearly progress of plantation (geo-referenced photographs with date) will be uploaded against the concerned tree-felling permission by the agency carrying out the plantation," said the order. It added that the applicant deposited Rs 18.24 lakh for carrying out the transplantation and maintenance.

# AI protest: Youth Congress chief Uday Bhanu Chib sent to 4-day police custody

**NEW DELHI, (GNS):** A Delhi court has sent Youth Congress president Uday Bhanu Chib to police custody for four days. Police arrested him on Monday night accusing him of being the "mastermind" of a shirtless protest at the India AI Impact Summit.

The police asked for 7 days to question him. Judicial Magistrate Ravi, however, said that was "excessive" and granted custody till Feb 28. The court said "phrases such as 'sovereignty of the State' or 'national security' cannot, by themselves, justify prolonged police custody".

The court ruled that "a shorter period of police custody" would be enough for the investigation while also protecting the accused man's rights.

The judge also said Chib can meet his counsel during questioning, as allowed under the law, as long as it does not interfere with the investigation.



Also in a separate order on the accused's application for a copy of the FIR, Judge Ravi allowed the plea, observing that the "applicant cannot prepare defence without foundational document, causing irreparable prejudice."

The court held that withholding the FIR violated Section 230 of the BNSS and the safeguards under Article 21 of the Constitution. It added that giving a copy would not harm the investigation, especially now that the case has moved to the Crime Branch.

The investigating officer had withheld the FIR copy on the ground that it was a sensitive matter, a justification the court found untenable.

According to Delhi Police, Chib was the "main conspirator and mastermind" behind the February 20 protest at Bharat Mandapam. They say anti-national slogans were raised and an attempt was made to create a riot-like situation. Police claimed that, in conspiracy with Shree Krishna Hari, Kundan Yadav, Narsimha Yadav, Ajay Kumar Yadav and others, he obstructed and assaulted police officials on duty.

Public Prosecutor Atul Srivastav argued that although Chib was not "physically present at the spot, he was in constant communication and monitoring developments". He submitted that custodial interrogation was necessary to unravel the conspiracy, analyse digital evidence, trace funding for the protest,

T-shirts and logistics, and recover remaining material.

While Chib's counsel opposed the claim, the court disagreed. "The material placed so far, prima facie indicate that the role attributed to the present accused is that of a person who operated from behind the scenes by giving directions and monitoring the protest," Judge Ravi stated. It further observed that "at the stage of remand, such material cannot be discarded merely on the ground that the accused was not physically present at the place of occurrence," adding that conspiracy and abetment can be executed even from a distance.

At the AI Impact Summit on Feb 20, several men allegedly entered the venue wearing T-shirts bearing images of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump, along with slogans against the government and the India-US trade deal.