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IMD study, heat waves becoming more-stronger and frequent in India

New Delhi(GNS): Heat waves in India are becoming longer, stronger and more frequent. A new study by researchers from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Institute of Climate Studies examined how the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) influences extreme temperature events across the country and intensifies heatwave conditions during El Niño years. The researchers analysed data spanning over 59 years (1961-2020) and found that severe heatwaves were more prominent - longer and hotter - during El Niño years. According to the study, ENSO strongly influences extreme temperatures in India. During El Niño events, the country experiences significantly higher maximum temperatures, longer-lasting heatwaves and a higher frequency of extremely hot days. The study identified 17 El Niño years between 1961 and 2020 - 1963, 1965, 1966, 1969, 1972, 1982, 1983, 1987, 1991, 1992, 1997, 1998, 2002, 2010, 2015, 2016 and 2019. Out of these, 11 years recorded heatwave spells lasting more than 15 days. During April, May and June, the sun's position over the region increases temperatures across India, especially over central, northwestern and northern parts. The study noted that warmer air from desert regions, carried by changing wind patterns, further raises temperatures. This leads to the formation of climatological low-pressure heat zones and the resulting rising air motion transfers heat to upper atmospheric levels, sometimes triggering strong convective activity. In contrast, during December to February, the sun shifts to the Southern Hemisphere, leading to lower temperatures. Western disturbances also bring substantial snowfall and rainfall to hilly regions and adjoining plains. The core heatwave zone in India includes Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Telangana, along with the meteorological subdivisions of Marathwada, Vidarbha, Maharashtra and coastal Andhra Pradesh.

Jamiat chief Arshad Madani wants cow to be declared 'national animal'

New Delhi (GNS): It would be a matter of delight if the cow is declared a "national animal", said Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind president Maulana Syed Arshad Madani on Wednesday, while holding the polarising politics around the sacred animal as the "root cause" behind incidents of hate-filled rants and attacks against the minority community.

Venting his concern over the 'politics of hatred' and rising incidents of lynching against Muslims, apparently at the hands of cow vigilantes, Madani said the declaration of the sacred cow as the "national animal" will bring a lasting solution to the problem.

Taking to his social media handle on X, the Jamiat chief also wondered over what was preventing the government from bringing a resolution to this effect.

He said that the majority community doesn't merely consider the cow as sacred but also considers it as their mother and demanded, "mob lynchings in the name of the cow, the killing of innocent people, hate politics, and this game of defaming Muslims must now come to an end."

He said that no human life should be lost due to politics in the name of religion and pressed for bringing a permanent resolution to the politics of communal divide and hatred.

Madani also sought to draw attention to different yardsticks in different states on beef and alleged that those with significant Muslim population see repeated instances of attacks on the minorities, while there are many other places where beef is sold openly.



"This is not devotion but a double standard and political manoeuvring," he stated.

Madani, also the Vice President of All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), further went on to question the 'double standards' of certain BJP leaders and ministers, who have purportedly admitted on camera about consuming beef and claimed that those behind the mob violence in the name of cow protection remain silent on the issue.

He suggested that the cow be given the status of "national animal", reasoning that this would bring an end to the problems for once and all.

"Whatever law is enacted for this purpose should be applied uniformly across all states of the country without any discrimination," he further demanded in his long post on X.

Twisha Sharma died by suicide: Bhopal top cop as 'dowry death' probe continues

Bhopal (GNS): The Police Commissioner of Bhopal, Sanjay Kumar, on Wednesday, confirmed that Noida woman Twisha Sharma's death was a case of suicide, confirming that the post-mortem report explicitly states the cause of death as hanging. The development came after Twisha's family members alleged foul play, saying that she was in severe distress in her matrimonial home and wanted to leave Bhopal and come back to Noida. While emphasising that the police are investigating the case strictly from a suicide angle, the Commissioner noted that the ongoing probe would now focus on determining the specific circumstances



that drove her to take such an extreme step. On May 12, Twisha was found hanging from an exercise rod installed on the terrace of her Bhopal matrimonial home. The death triggered a massive controversy as her family members accused her husband and the in-laws of prolonged mental and physical abuse and dowry harassment. Twisha was married to Samarth Singh, son of retired sessions judge Giribala Singh, in December 2025 after the two met through a dating application in 2024. Singh has been absconding for the eighth day since Twisha died. The case gained further attention after Twisha's father alleged that the accused family was

using its legal background and influence to secure relief from the courts. Refuting the allegations of external pressure, the commissioner further mentioned that the police are acting independently and swiftly. He pointed out that while Police Headquarters guidelines allow up to one month to register a first information report (FIR) in such cases, the department registered the FIR within just two days. Regarding a procedural issue where the forensic science laboratory (FSL) seized the ligature material and sent it to AIIMS after the post-mortem, the Commissioner assured that a separate enquiry is underway to investigate why that occurred. He added, however, that the forensic report on the ligature material has been received and matches the findings of the post-mortem report perfectly. Kumar also stated that the police have no objections if a second post-mortem is requested by the family. Meanwhile, multiple police teams are actively conducting raids to apprehend the accused, Samarth. Acknowledging the delay in the arrest, the Commissioner remarked that sometimes major criminals are caught quickly while lesser offenders take longer, but expressed confidence that Samarth will be in police custody soon.

Repeated anticipatory bail pleas reduce legal process to 'mere gamble': SC

New Delhi (GNS): The Supreme Court has set aside an order of the Madras High Court granting anticipatory bail to a man and his wife, accused of cheating his 75-year-old mother in a multi-crore property transaction case, observing that repeated bail pleas filed in quick succession reduce the legal process to a 'mere gamble' and amount to abuse of process. A bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and K. Vinod Chandran allowed an appeal filed by the complainant Vasantha, challenging the Madras High Court order granting anticipatory bail to her son Karthikeyan Manikandan and daughter-in-law Vasupradha.

HC asks govt to examine if Dhurandhar revealed secrets

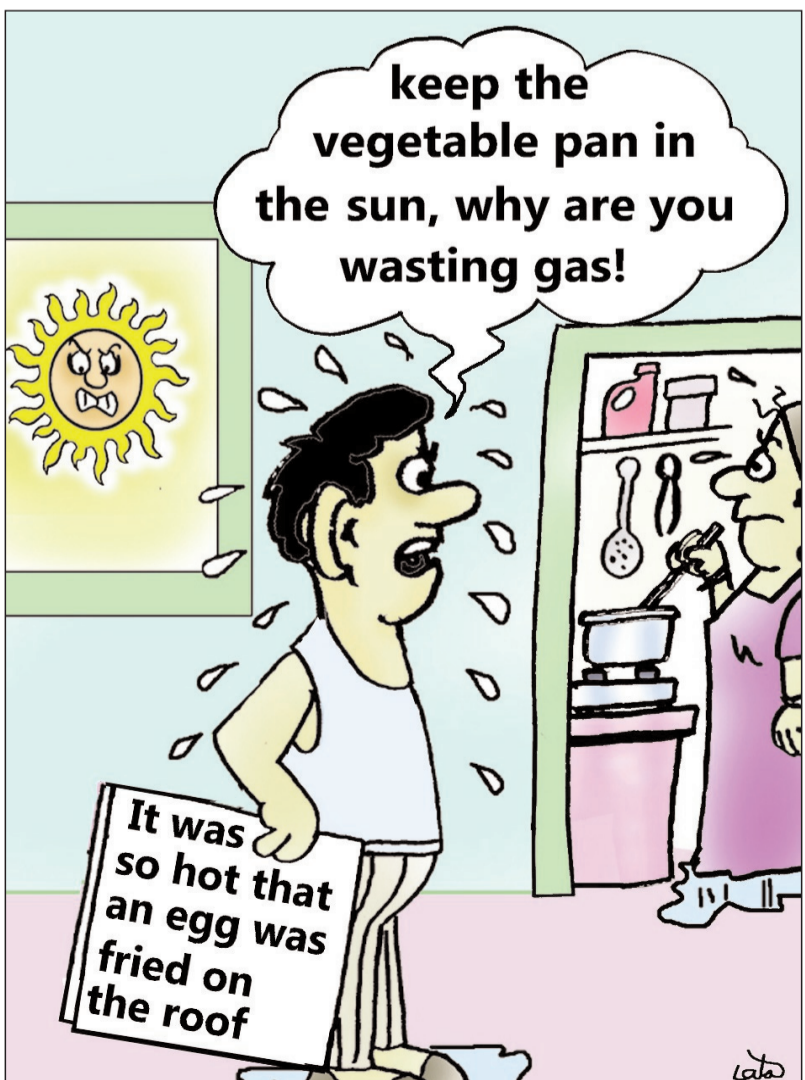


New Delhi (GNS): The Delhi high court on Wednesday asked the Centre and the censor board to consider as representation a public interest litigation (PIL) raising concerns over Ranveer Singh-starrer Dhurandhar: The Revenge revealing tactical and sensitive information on the country's intelligence and defence operations. A bench of Chief Justice

D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia said the concern raised by the petitioner, an SSB personnel, in his PIL was not without any material and although movies are made for entertainment, their impact cannot be denied. "The Censor Board should have some guidelines. We want you to consider this representation and take an informed decision," the bench orally said. "This court is of the opinion that the concerns raised by the petitioner need to be considered and addressed appropriately. We dispose of the writ petition with a direction to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and CBFC to consider the entire writ petition as representation of the petitioner and take an appropriate decision on the issues raised," it ordered. It asked the authorities to communicate their decision on the petitioner's representation and any corrective measures to him. The petitioner contended that the film was in violation of the Official Secrets Act as it showed tactical operations, sensitive locations and agents in 'depth', and some scenes even revealed information that is not in the interest of the country's security. He further submitted that actions and characters modelled after high-ranking officials and martyred servicemen are so explicit in the movie that it is not in the country's best interest, and even certain successful military operations are recalled in the movie. In the PIL, the petitioner objected to the film using 'classified protocols' in certain scenes and depicting 'deep cover identities'.

Modi's 'Melody' For Meloni Goes Viral, Duo Ride Together in Same Car

Rome (GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Italy on Tuesday, the final leg of his five nation tour. He was welcomed by Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, and presented her with a Melody toffee as a gift. Meloni shared a video of the moment on Instagram and wrote, "Thank you for the gift." Earlier on Tuesday evening, the two leaders travelled together through the streets of Rome and visited the nearly 2,000 year old historic Colosseum. The leaders also had dinner together and held informal discussions on several key issues. Meloni shared a selfie with Modi on social media, writing, "Welcome my friend." Photos of the two leaders quickly went viral online. Modi later posted photographs from the meeting on X and said that formal talks scheduled for Wednesday would continue discussions on strengthening India Italy ties. The leaders are expected to discuss trade, investment, advanced technology and global issues. The selfie garnered massive attention on social media, crossing more than a million views within hours. The post also received several likes and thousands of comments, with users reacting to the friendly rapport between the two leaders. The hashtag and nickname "Melodi", a combination of Meloni and Modi, once again began trending online after the post surfaced. The term first gained popularity during the G7 Summit in Italy in June 2024, when Meloni shared a selfie and video with PM Modi. At the time, Meloni posted a video saying, "Hello from the Melodi team," while both leaders waved at the camera.



Allowances for Kali priests stopped in West Bengal

Sanat Jain

- Sanatanis are now divided into non-vegetarians and vegetarians. In a cabinet meeting, West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari decided to discontinue the allowances given to Imams and priests by the Mamata Banerjee government, effective June 1, 2026. This decision has been met with strong reactions in West Bengal. During the TMC's tenure, former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had increased the allowances of religious leaders by ₹500 per month in March this year. Mosque imams in West Bengal were receiving ₹3,000 per month, and priests ₹2,000 per month. The BJP government has now decided to discontinue this honorarium.

This is sure to have an impact on Hindu-Muslim tensions throughout West Bengal. Kali is worshipped in West Bengal, and sacrifices and meat are widely consumed in worship. Thousands of priests in Bengal were receiving this honorarium. Priests had hoped the new government would discontinue the allowances for imams and muezzeens. The BJP will decide to pay Hindu priests a monthly honorarium of ₹3,000. The government has stopped the allowances of religious gurus from both communities. Reports from West Bengal indicate that Hindus in West Bengal are being divided into two distinct groups. Thousands of years ago, there were disputes between Vaishnav and Shaivite Shaktas. The Hindu community was divided

into three parts. The Suwendu government has reignited this conflict in West Bengal. The BJP fought the West Bengal elections in the name of Hindus. Hindu priests had hoped their honorarium would be increased. Instead of increasing it, the government has stopped it. The BJP arrived in West Bengal with the slogan "Jai Shri Ram." A large number of people from North India live in West Bengal. This government decision has caused strong resentment among Bengali priests. They believe they are Shakta devotees and worship Goddess Kali. The Tantric worship of Kali is different, which Vaishnav and Shaivite groups do not accept. After the formation of a Hindu government in West Bengal, the government is discriminating against Hindu

priests in West Bengal. This is creating the impression that Suwendu Adhikari's government is working to divide Hindus within Hindus. This is the first time a Bharatiya Janata Party government has been formed in West Bengal. If such feelings of discrimination arise among Hindus at the outset, it could harm the BJP's position on Hindu unity. This issue surfaced here and there during the election campaign. Leaders from North India who campaigned in West Bengal publicly ate meat and fish, promising that they would not do any injustice to Bengal's culture and religious traditions. The government has stopped the honorarium of Kali-devotee priests after forming the government. Consequently, it is being said

that the current government dislikes Kali devotees. In West Bengal's religious culture, Lord Ram and other Hindu deities, who belong to the Shaiva and Vaishnava sects, are being established among Sakta devotees in West Bengal. The manner in which the elections were conducted in West Bengal has been questionable: lakhs of paramilitary forces were deployed, nearly 10 million voters were deleted, and officials from outside West Bengal were brought in to handle election work. Despite winning a two-thirds majority, the BJP is still not garnering the public support it should have after such a landslide victory. If the decision taken by Suwendu Adhikari resonates with Hindus, it could cause significant political damage to the BJP.

Editorial

The economy is collapsing due to the rupee

The value of one dollar in India has reached 96.35 rupees. This may fluctuate, but significant changes are unlikely. This represents the lowest level of devaluation for the Indian currency, the rupee. Given this rupee-dollar equation, the rupee remains the weakest currency in the world. This is a deeply worrying situation, even though India is a major global economy. The result is that the crude oil we purchased in March 2026 for ₹1.17 lakh crore has now been sold for ₹1.79 lakh crore in April. Beyond crude oil, we will have to purchase gas, fertilizers, electronic products, edible oils, pulses, gold, and other imported goods and services at higher prices. Ultimately, inflation will continue to rise, and the common man will continue to suffer. There is only one fundamental reason: the devaluation of the rupee. This situation has steadily worsened over the 12 years of the Modi government. Although the Reserve Bank of India attempted to artificially control the rupee in 2023, the reality of devaluation is now evident. Moody's latest report is also in the news, in which the international rating agency has concluded that India's GDP growth rate has declined by 0.8 percent. Growth is expected to remain around 6 percent at the end of the financial year. The government has been claiming a growth rate of 7-7.5 percent. The Reserve Bank has also begun estimating up to 6.5 percent. Another economic blow is that in the first five months of 2026 alone, foreign investors have sold shares worth ₹2.2 lakh crore and bid farewell to the Indian market. Although foreign investments remain in some new and smaller companies, they do not appear to be having the expected impact on the economy. Such investors have preferred to invest in artificial intelligence (AI) companies in Japan, South Korea, and the United States. Foreign investors have withdrawn ₹60,900 crore in April and ₹1.22 lakh crore so far in May. As a result, India will also suffer foreign exchange losses. The economic turmoil we are witnessing is not solely the result of the Iran war. The war has disrupted the world's basic supply chains, including oil, gas, and fertilizer.

Rising global temperatures pose a threat to life on Earth

Manoj Kumar Agarwal

Due to human activities and excessive carbon emissions, the problem of global warming is becoming increasingly serious. Earth's average temperature is rising and the weather cycle is becoming completely unbalanced. Its effects are manifesting in the form of severe natural disasters and climate crises. Excessive use of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas is rapidly increasing levels of greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide and methane, in the atmosphere. Continuous deforestation has drastically reduced natural resources that absorb carbon. Exhaust emissions from factories and vehicles, especially airplanes, are continuously warming the environment. The global temperature increase is rapidly melting glaciers and polar ice, causing sea levels to rise and coastal areas to be threatened by floods. Droughts and excessive rainfall are sometimes occurring. Furthermore, heatwaves are becoming increasingly frequent. Warming oceans and changing weather are severely impacting marine life and agricultural production. Global warming has become the world's most pressing problem today. It's affecting not only humans but every living creature on Earth, even plants. Efforts are being made worldwide to combat global warming, but instead of diminishing, the problem is worsening year after year. While this is just the beginning, if we don't act now, the future could be even more dire.

Scientific research reports indicate that global warming is the continuous increase in the temperature of the Earth's atmosphere. Our Earth naturally receives heat from the sun's rays. These rays pass through the atmosphere, hit the Earth's surface, and are then reflected back. The Earth's atmosphere is composed of many gases, including

some greenhouse gases, which form a natural blanket over the Earth. This blanket blocks a portion of the returning rays, thus keeping the Earth's atmosphere warm. It is worth noting that a temperature of at least 16 degrees Celsius is necessary for the survival of humans, animals, and plants. Scientists believe that as greenhouse gases increase, this blanket becomes denser. This blanket begins to block more of the sun's rays, and this is where the adverse effects of global warming begin.

Humans and their activities are the most responsible for global warming. While humans consider themselves the most intelligent creatures on Earth, they are, unknowingly or intentionally, bent on destroying their own lives. These human-caused activities are increasing the amount of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrogen oxide, creating a denser layer of these gases. This layer blocks the sun's reflected rays, leading to an increase in the Earth's temperature. The indiscriminate emissions of gases from vehicles, airplanes, power plants, and industries are contributing to the increase in carbon dioxide levels. The massive destruction of forests is another reason. Forests naturally regulate carbon dioxide levels, but rampant deforestation is eroding this natural regulator.

Another reason for this is CFCs, which are used in refrigerators, fire extinguishers, etc. They destroy the ozone layer, a natural shield formed above the earth. The ozone layer prevents harmful ultraviolet rays from the sun from reaching the earth. Scientists say that a large hole has formed in this ozone layer, allowing ultraviolet rays to reach the earth directly, thus continuously warming it. As a result of this rising temperature, even the ice frozen for centuries at the poles has started melting. The need for electricity is

increasing everywhere, both in developed and underdeveloped countries. Large quantities of fossil fuels are used to produce electricity. Burning fossil fuels produces carbon dioxide, which increases the effect of greenhouse gases. This results in global warming.

Over the past ten years, the Earth's average temperature has increased by 0.3 to 0.6 degrees Celsius. It is feared that global warming will only increase further in the future. On May 19th, temperatures in Banda, Uttar Pradesh, reached 48 degrees Celsius. The day is not far off when these temperatures will disrupt life across the country.

Scientists have been expressing concern about global warming for decades, but neither the government nor the general public paid any attention. This is resulting in drastic changes in the weather. This year, the intense heat began in March. Now, temperatures are hovering around 50 degrees in many Indian cities. Meanwhile, another worrying news has emerged. The heat wave continues to wreak havoc in Gujarat. While humans are fending off the effects of air conditioning, fans, and coolers, this heat has become a nightmare for the mute birds. For the past few days, a large number of birds have been falling unconscious from the sky in western Gujarat, due to the intense heat. According to bird experts, the temperature has become so high that birds are unable to tolerate it.

Experts believe that the birds falling unconscious today are a sign of a coming disaster, a fate that will befall the human community. Even today, thousands of people are unable to withstand the heat and rising temperatures and are dying prematurely from heat stroke, brain hemorrhage, and other causes.

The earth's temperature will rise year after year, causing the ice

stored on glaciers to melt. Melting glaciers will increase the volume of water in the oceans, causing their surface to rise year after year. Rising sea levels will lead to erosion of natural coasts, submerging large areas. Climate change will have the greatest impact on humans, leading to the loss of many lives. Increasing heat will increase infectious diseases like malaria, dengue, and yellow fever. The coronavirus is likely part of this chain. The time may soon come when most of us will no longer have access to clean water to drink, fresh food to eat, or even clean air to breathe.

Global warming will also have a profound impact on animals, birds, and plants. It is believed that as temperatures increase, animals, birds, and plants will gradually migrate northward and toward mountainous regions, but some may even lose their existence in the process.

There is no doubt that with the increase in heat, the consumption of energy used for driving away the cold will decrease, but this will be compensated by air conditioning. A huge amount of electricity will have to be used to cool the houses. If the use of electricity increases, then that too will increase global warming. The problem of global warming can be dealt with. Provided we have to make many efforts for this. Under this, the emission of harmful gases will have to be reduced. Solar systems are also giving heat to the atmosphere. Research is showing that in cities where there are more solar systems, the temperature increases comparatively by one to two degrees Celsius.

Is this responsibility only of the government? People with resources behave arbitrarily in many ways. Wastage of water and energy brings discomfort in the lives of others, but even in small villages and towns, installing submersible pumps and AC in every room has become a status symbol.

What is the future of education and students in India?

Nirmal Rani

Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed exams with students on February 22, 2026, in the 131st episode of his Mann Ki Baat address to the nation. In this dialogue, the Prime Minister advised students that marks do not determine one's ability. Education is a means to shape one's life, while exams are merely a means of self-evaluation. He urged students to celebrate exams as a celebration rather than viewing them as a burden or a fear. He emphasized the importance of striking a balance between studies, rest, physical activities, and hobbies. Modi advised stu-

dents that some prefer to study at night, while others prefer to study early in the morning, and they should trust their own instincts. He also advised students to openly share their concerns with their parents and family, which reduces mental stress. He advised parents not to pressure their children to choose a specific career path against their wishes. Every child is unique. Similarly, he advised teachers to understand the learning pace of students and set goals for them that are within reach but require some hard work to achieve.

The Prime Minister's statement above completely con-

tradicts the fact that marks do not determine one's merit. Because in today's world, admissions, merit lists, rankings, and selections are all about percentages. However, the Prime Minister never explained to these same students how they should recover from the shock of having their exam papers leaked and the exam postponed after their tireless efforts. And what should the student, their parents, the government, or those responsible for this mismanagement do if they are unable to reappear for the exam due to some reason, and whose life and future are ruined as a result? However, Prime Minister Modi already made

an official statement on the paper leak issue in both houses of Parliament (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) in July 2024 during the debate on the President's address. He assured every student and youth in Parliament that the government is extremely serious about preventing such irregularities and paper leaks in examinations. He strongly warned that any accused or mafia who tamper with the future of the youth will not be spared and will face the harshest punishment. The Prime Minister stated that the government will take war-level steps to ensure the examination system and the entire system are robust and

transparent. But surprisingly, even after the Prime Minister's statement, the paper leak issue hasn't stopped. The NEET exam, held in May 2026, was recently canceled by the government following paper leak controversies and complaints of fraud, and the investigation has now been handed over to the CBI. 2,205,035 students appeared for the exam. Today, the future of over 2.2 million students hangs in the balance. Tragic news has emerged from various parts of the country of at least four students committing suicide due to the mental stress caused by the paper leak and cancellation. Among these, Pradeep

Meghwal (22 years old) was from Jhunjhunu district in Rajasthan, while Hrithik Mishra (21 years old) was a resident of Lakhimpur Kheri in Uttar Pradesh. This was Hrithik's third attempt at the NEET exam, and he was extremely confident of selection this time. The news of the cancellation left him completely devastated. Similarly, 20-year-old Anshika was a resident of Azadpur (Adarsh ??Nagar) in Delhi. Siddhant Hegde, 17, was from Curtorim in South Goa. Hegde was so devastated by the paper leak that he wrote in his suicide note that he no longer wanted to appear in competitive exams.

Seven minors held for stabbing 16-year-old in northwest Delhi

New Delhi(GNS): Seven minor boys have been apprehended for stabbing a 16-year-old boy near a park in northwest Delhi's Shakurpur, police said on Tuesday.

The incident occurred on May 15 near Children's Park in H-Block, Shakurpur. Police said they received information about the stabbing around 8.17 pm at Subhash Place police station and rushed to the spot, where the teenager was found critically injured with a knife embedded in the left side of his body and bleeding profusely.

SHO Subhash Place inspector Tej Pal Singh immediately rushed the teenager to a hospital, which helped save his life.

A case under Sections 109 (attempt to murder) and 3(5) (common intention) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita was registered, following which the seven juveniles were apprehended. Police said the accused were part of local rival groups and that an argument and alleged trolling led to the attack.

"The knife used in the offence was purchased online approximately three days before the incident," said DCP (Northwest) Akanksha Yadav.

GRAP stage 1 imposed in Delhi-NCR as AQI dips to 'poor' category; full list of restrictions



New Delhi(GNS): The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Tuesday invoked Stage 1 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) across Delhi-NCR after the city's air quality slipped into the 'poor' category, officials said.

Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded at 208 on Tuesday, showing an upward trend, with forecasts from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and ITM indicating that pollution levels are likely to remain in the 'poor' category in the coming days. "Accordingly, the CAQM sub-committee on GRAP has decided to invoke all actions under Stage I of the extant GRAP with immediate effect in the entire NCR," an official said.

GRAP Stage 1: What it means
GRAP is an emergency framework that activates graded restrictions based on AQI levels to curb air pollution in Delhi-NCR. Stage 1 is enforced when AQI is between 201 and 300.

The GRAP framework has four stages:
Stage 1: AQI 201-300 (Poor)
Stage 2: AQI 301-400 (Very Poor)
Stage 3: AQI 401-450 (Severe)
Stage 4: AQI 450-500+ (Severe Plus)

Full list of restrictions under GRAP Stage 1
Under Stage 1, authorities enforce preventive and anti-pollution measures, including: Ban on use of coal and firewood in tandoors in hotels, restaurants, and open eateries Use of diesel generators permitted only for emergency and essential services

Strict enforcement of NGT and Supreme Court orders on overaged petrol and diesel vehicles Periodic mechanised sweeping of roads to reduce dust Regular water sprinkling on roads and construction zones Scientific disposal and management of dust from construction activities Mandatory covering and proper storage of construction and demolition (C&D) waste Transport of C&D waste only in covered vehicles.

BRICS Senior Officials Meeting on Strengthening Alternative Dispute Resolution through Capacity Building in Mediation and Arbitration

Ahmedabad

Under India's BRICS 2026 Chairmanship, the Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, concluded a Senior Officials' Meeting in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 19 to 20 May 2026 to deepen cooperation on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). The meeting was held in hybrid mode, with senior officials from Brazil, China, India, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Indonesia, Russia, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates participating both in person and online. The meeting concluded with a shared consensus on a Joint Declaration titled "Declaration of Justice Ministers of BRICS Countries on Strengthening Alternative Dispute Resolution through Capacity Building in Mediation and Arbitration", which will be presented for formal adoption at the BRICS Justice Ministers'



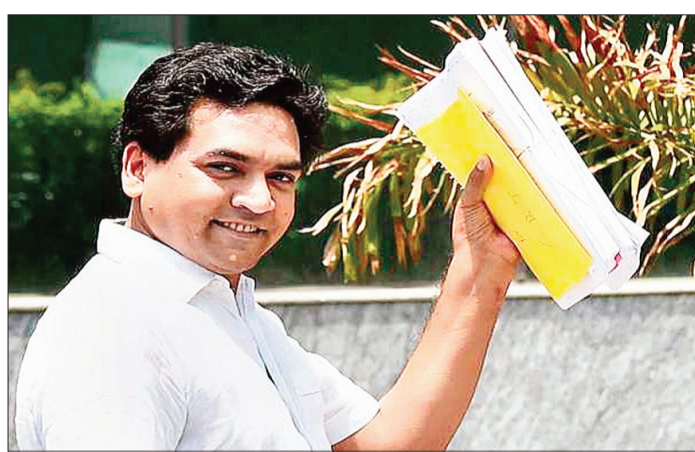
Meeting to be held in Gandhinagar from 21 to 22 May 2026.

The meeting brought together senior judicial officials from BRICS countries to hold a comprehensive discussion on ADR-related issues. The delegates discussed institutional mediation, arbitration reforms and the role of ADR in commercial and public sector disputes, highlighting experiences, challenges and emerging trends in their respective jurisdictions. After a broad and constructive dialogue, the senior officials finalized the text of the Declaration, which reflects the collective commitment of BRICS countries to expand, professionalize and mainstream mediation and arbitration as accessible and effective tools. The outcome reflects the shared vision of BRICS members to build a resilient, innovative and cooperative legal ecosystem.

Govt plans to position Capital as global tourism, event destination, says minister

New Delhi(GNS): Cabinet Minister Kapil Mishra on Tuesday said the Delhi Government plans to position the national capital as a major global tourism and events destination through large-scale festivals, industry partnerships and skill development initiatives, while distancing itself from what he described as the failed "Rs 80 crore shopping festival model" of the previous government.

Speaking at the CII



Delhi State Council meeting at the Taj Mahal Hotel, Mishra said an RTI had revealed s worth Rs 80 crore were issued for a shopping festival

that "was not organised even for a single day".

"The Delhi Government will not work on that model. If the industry, malls and markets come together, the government will work with them to organise a strong and transparent shopping festival that becomes a permanent identity of Delhi," he said. The minister said the government was planning a calendar of annual large-scale events, including literature and music festivals,

particularly during months such as November, December and February, to attract tourists from across India and abroad.

In a major pitch to the events industry, Mishra said the government was also working on a "viability gap funding" policy under which organisers of large events in Delhi could receive financial support from the government. He also highlighted concerns around unemployment and skill gaps, saying industries

were struggling to find trained manpower despite a large educated workforce.

Mishra offered government land support for skill development centres if industry bodies came forward to run them.

Appealing for greener mobility practices, the minister urged industries to promote carpooling, work-from-home arrangements and the use of public transport in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's fuel conservation appeal.

HC offers to depute inspection committee

New Delhi(GNS): Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked authorities not to take coercive action against dwellers who have been told to vacate three slum clusters near the Prime Minister's residence on Lok Kalyan Marg.

The court told the authorities not to act till the slum residents respond to the court's offer of monitoring and ensuring that they get proper facilities at Savda Ghevra, the site of their rehabilitation that is 40 km away. "Are you willing to provide Delhi Metro and bus passes for three years to those being relocated? Get instructions," a bench of Chief Justice DK Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia told the law officer representing the Centre. It listed the matter for May 26. A section of residents of Bhai Ram Camp, DID Camp and Masjid Camp have objected to a single judge's order that refused to interfere with the eviction.

The high court also asked



the counsels representing the affected dwellers to check with the remaining 500-odd families if they will vacate the area, provided the court deposes a panel to visit and inspect the condition of the flats and its basic facilities at Savda Ghevra. The bench assured the petitioners it is open to monitor and ensure that sanitation, water, schools and other amenities are up to the mark in the one-bedroom flats. While posting the matter for next week, the high court also asked Dusib to "complete its instructions" on the aspect

of decent rehabilitation of the residents of the three camps.

"We have the law officer, the ASG is here. The Dusib counsel is here. Don't do anything till Monday," the bench said, indicating that it wants to await the response of the parties to its proposal.

The counsel for the residents pointed out that the authorities have decided to remove the slums citing "defence" and security considerations but not carried out due diligence to ensure they are rehabilitated somewhere nearby. Wondering how the dwellers will find employment in the new place, the counsels also highlighted the lack of schools and other facilities and urged the court to "protect" them as they faced a relocation deadline of May 25.

On May 11, the single judge refused to interfere with the eviction of residents of the three slum clusters and asked them to vacate the area in 15 days.

Delhi Court Cites "Unreasonable" Grounds, Rejects Umar Khalid's Interim Bail Plea

New Delhi(GNS): A Delhi court on Monday rejected the interim bail plea of Umar Khalid, an accused in the 2020 Delhi riots "larger conspiracy" case, who sought temporary relief to attend the Chehlum ceremony of his late uncle and to take care of his mother ahead of and after her scheduled surgery.

Additional sessions judge Sameer Bajpai of Karkardooma courts dismissed the application seeking interim bail for 15 days on the two grounds. Khalid said his mother's medical procedure is scheduled for June 2.

"No doubt, on previous occasions, as mentioned by the ld. counsel for the applicant, not only the applicant but other co-accused persons have been granted interim bail and they never flouted the conditions as imposed by the court, but it doesn't mean that



on every occasion, whenever the accused seeks bail, the court should grant it. The court has to consider every fresh application on its own merits and should allow the same only when the grounds are reasonable," the judge said. The court further held that attending the Chehlum ceremony was not sufficiently necessary to justify interim bail. It observed that if the relationship with the deceased uncle was so "immediate and thick", Khalid would have sought release at the time of death, and not after considerable delay.

RTI violation: CIC penalises ESIC official in ragging case

New Delhi(GNS): Central Information Commission (CIC) has imposed a Rs 10,000 penalty on an official of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Dental College and Hospital in Rohini for failing to provide CCTV footage linked to an alleged ragging incident involving women students in Oct 2024.

Coming down heavily on the institution's handling of the matter, information commissioner Ashutosh Chaturvedi observed that "the custodian of information failed to ensure that crucial digital evidence relating to a reported ragging incident was preserved". The commission further took note of the "mental anguish and distress" caused to the complainant due to the non-availability of the footage, which could have been a critical evidence in approaching National Commission for Women for grievance redressal.

The matter stems from allegations that several women students were ragged by their seniors between Oct 12 and 19, 2024, on the college premises.

Following the incident, Gaurav Singhal, vice-president of Society Against Violence in Education, filed an RTI application on Oct 22 before the Central Public Information Officer, Sovan Bera, seeking CCTV footage from specific locations in the college during lunch hours on the relevant dates.

However, despite RTI Act mandating a response within 30 days, the reply was furnished after a delay of 48 days. In the response, the official stated that the requested footage was "unavailable" as the CCTV system stored recordings for only one month, and the footage had already been overwritten by the time the reply was sent. The commission found the explanation unsatisfactory and noted that no valid reason was furnished for the non-availability of the footage despite the RTI application having been filed within the preservation period.

It further observed that, as per Dental Council of India's mandate, "all dental colleges are obligated to preserve CCTV footage for six months".

Man dies after setting himself on fire outside wife's house in Delhi's Jahangirpuri

New Delhi(GNS): A 29-year-old man died after allegedly setting himself ablaze outside his wife's residence amid a matrimonial dispute in northwest Delhi's Jahangirpuri on Monday evening.

According to police, a PCR call regarding a fire incident was received at Mahendra Park police station, following which a team rushed to the spot and found the man, later identified as Deepansh Chaudhary, in a severely burnt condition. He was taken to a nearby hospital, where he died during treatment.

"Initial inquiry revealed that after an altercation, Chaudhary allegedly threatened to die by suicide and later set himself on fire outside his wife's residence," said DCP (Northwest) Akanksha Yadav.

Police said Chaudhary, who earlier lived in Maharashtra, had met Neha Kashyap (27), an



MBA graduate employed at an MNC, through a matrimonial website in July last year. "He initially claimed to be an Indian Forest Service officer posted in Maharashtra and later told the woman he was an undercover RAW agent who had been suspended, using the 'suspension' as a reason to avoid showing documents," a senior police officer said.

The couple got married on April 2 and moved to a rented accommodation in southwest Delhi's Uttam Nagar, which was rented in Kashyap's name, the officer said, adding that

after the wedding, the woman discovered he was unemployed and did odd jobs, including that of a cab driver.

Speaking to the media on Tuesday, Kashyap alleged she had expressed apprehensions but Chaudhary had blackmailed her into the marriage by threatening to harm her family and using objectionable photographs of her. She further alleged that he had started physically assaulting her within days of the marriage and that she had filed a domestic violence complaint with the Crime Against Women cell. She said she had attempted to file for a divorce on May 7. "Late on May 11 night, he assaulted and tried to kill me. The following morning, he took me to a local restaurant, and told me that he is taking me somewhere and that I should forget Delhi. When I refused, he took my clothes and docu-

ments before fleeing. I immediately raised an alarm," she alleged during the media interaction. She further claimed expenses made by Chaudhary on her credit card left her in a debt of Rs 8-9 lakh. Police said in the early hours of May 12, a PCR call regarding a heated altercation was received from the restaurant in Uttam Nagar, after which Kashyap returned to her maternal home in Jahangirpuri.

Kashyap said Chaudhary came to Jahangirpuri on Monday on the pretext of returning the clothes and documents. "He tried to force me to come with him but after I refused, he snatched my phone and fled. He returned later and threatened to implicate us."

Another senior police officer said, "Relatives have claimed that Chaudhary had been disowned by his family for nearly eight years and was previously married." The claims are being verified, the officer added.

UER-II, Chandni Chowk among stretch- es eased under project SANGAM

New Delhi(GNS):The Delhi Traffic Police, under the guidance of Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu, has eased congestion across several key stretches in the capital, including the UER-II corridor in Dwarka, the Sundar Nursery-Neela Gumbad stretch, Mehram Nagar near Indira Gandhi International Airport and congestion hotspots in Chandni Chowk and West Patel Nagar under Project SANGAM.



On the Sundar Nursery / Neela Gumbad stretch, peak-hour restrictions have been imposed on the Lodi Road-Sundar Nursery carriageway. Traffic has been diverted via the Oberoi flyover to improve flow, while route rationalisation measures have been introduced around the Neela Gumbad rotary.

In Mehram Nagar (IGI Airport Traffic Circle), joint action by the Delhi Traffic Police, Delhi Cantonment Board, and GMR/DIAL has resulted in the removal of unauthorised vending and parking loops. Authorities have issued 614 e-challans, served 479 VoCA notices, towed 113 vehicles, and installed HD CCTV cameras along with new traffic signage.

-In Chandni Chowk and Central Delhi, additional traffic personnel have been permanently deployed at SPM Marg. An e-rickshaw stand has been shifted from West Patel Nagar to ease congestion in the area. Enforcement measures include 8,739 e-rickshaw challans, 290 impounded vehicles, and 18,857 no-parking prosecutions, alongside awareness campaigns conducted through Nukkad Natak. The programme also institutionalises monthly grievance reviews and promotes real-time citizen participation through platforms such as the Prahari App.

According to official data up to May 14, 2026, 139 consultation meetings have been held with around 6,000 citizens and stakeholders participating.

Within just one-and-a-half months of its launch, the initiative has delivered visible interventions across multiple traffic-sensitive corridors in the capital.

Among the key stretches improved is the UER-II Corridor (Dwarka Zone),

where 13 free left turns proposed by the DDA are aimed at reducing bottlenecks. Four foot overbridges are planned at critical junctions in Sector 22-23, while engineering redesign work has been completed at Elephant Chowk.

Snatching accused convicted in just 14 days

New Delhi(GNS): Delhi Police has secured the conviction of a man accused in a wallet snatching case within just 14 days of the crime. While the investigation was completed in three days, the chargesheet was filed within four days of registration of the FIR. The trial court conducted proceedings on a day-to-day basis before convicting the accused in what police described as one of the fastest convictions secured in a street crime case under the new criminal laws.



On the night of May 1, a man working as an accountant at Ambassador Hotel in New Delhi was waiting for a bus near the Shahbad Dairy bus stand in northwest Delhi. Around 9.45pm, the complainant took out his wallet to make payment for a water bottle when a man approached from behind, snatched the wallet containing cash and identity documents, and attempted to flee. The accountant, however, chased the accused for nearly 100 metres towards Sector 28 Rohini and managed to catch hold of him. A

passerby called the police helpline number 112. Investigating officer ASI Deepak reached the spot and apprehended the accused.

The accused was identified as 32-year-old Ravinder, a resident of Shahbad Daultapur. Based on the accountant's statement, a case was registered under sections 309 (robbery) and 317 (stolen property) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita on May 2.

The chargesheet was filed before the Rohini court on May 6. "It was filed in record time as part of a special mechanism introduced to deal with street crime cases swiftly," said DCP (Outer North) Hareshwar V Swami.

SC directions split activists, but all agree that strays live a dog's life

New Delhi, Agency: Several animal welfare groups and activists expressed mixed reactions to the Supreme Court's latest directions to deal with stray dogs.

Some welcomed the development as a long-overdue push for scientific implementation of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) framework, while others voiced concern over provisions that could lead to "arbitrary removal or confinement of community dogs". Sanjay Mohapatra, founder of House of Stray Animals, described the directions as "historic and progressive" for both public safety and animal welfare. "SC has recognised that the only scientific and sustainable solution to issues relating to community dogs is effective implementation of the ABC Rules, 2023, through sterilisation, anti-rabies vaccination, responsible feeding and proper municipal infrastructure," he told Media.

Mohapatra said SC's step reaffirmed that sterilisation and vaccination, and not indiscriminate culling or cruelty, remain central to the policy to manage stray dogs. "The message from the court is clear - the solution lies in science, compassion, transparency and proper implementation of the law," he added. Ambika Shukla, trustee, People For Animals (PFA), also welcomed the court's emphasis on the accountability of civic agencies and govts. "This strongly reaffirms ABC Rules and places responsibility squarely on authorities that have failed to implement sterilisation and vaccination programmes effectively for years," she said.

Another animal volunteer said this could finally push authorities to seriously implement long-pending sterilisation and vaccination programmes for stray dogs. "For years, the problem kept compounding because civic bodies failed to carry out proper implementation of the rules on the ground. If the latest development leads to structured sterilisation, vaccination and monitoring, it will help both people and animals in the long run," the activist said.

However, sections of the animal welfare community raised concerns over certain provisions, particularly those relating to the removal of stray dogs from public spaces and their long-term sheltering.

Delhi-NCR to witness a 3-day 'chakka jam' protest starting May 21

New Delhi(GNS): Goods transporters are preparing for a three-day symbolic 'Chakka Jam' in Delhi-NCR from May 21 to 23 following a call by the All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC) to protest rising operational restrictions, environmental levies and financial burdens on commercial vehicles. The strike is likely to disrupt the supply of goods, including essential commodities such as vegetables, fruits and other items.

AIMTC president Harish Sabharwal said transporters have urged policymakers to immediately initiate dialogue with stakeholders before the situation escalates into a



major logistics disruption.

"Over 60 transport associations and unions are support-

ing our call. The proposed nationwide strike is expected to witness large-scale partici-

pation from transporters and truck operators in Delhi-NCR. The transport sector, considered the backbone of the nation's economy, carries foodgrains, vegetables, milk, medicines, industrial goods and other essentials every day across highways, cities, villages and industrial corridors," Sabharwal said.

He added that the protest is against a massive increase in green tax on Delhi-bound commercial vehicles, proposed restrictions on BS-IV commercial vehicles and the financial burden imposed on vehicles carrying essential commodities as well as those returning empty.

Transporters said senior representatives of the fraternity have expressed serious concern that unless practical corrective measures are introduced immediately, the country could face severe supply chain disruptions affecting traders, manufacturers, small businesses, retail markets and ultimately common citizens.

"The agitation is not only about the survival of transporters but also about protecting the uninterrupted movement of the nation's economic lifeline. We appeal to policymakers to initiate immediate dialogue before the situation escalates into a nationwide logistics disruption," Sabharwal said.

New HC bench asks Kejriwal 2 others to respond

New Delhi(GNS): A new bench of Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked CBI to inform former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and AAP functionaries Manish Sisodia and Durgesh Pathak that the liquor policy case stood transferred to it and they should appear.

"Ideal scenario would be if everyone is here and everyone is heard... Let them be intimidated that the case has been allocated to this court. If they have to say anything or respond to the present petition, let them be served. Once everybody is here, we will draw a schedule of hearing," Justice Manoj Jain said during the brief hearing.

A quick roll call of all the respondents revealed only the three AAP functionaries were neither present nor represented by any lawyer. They had earlier announced a boycott of



court proceedings after Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma rejected their plea to recuse from the case.

Justice Jain listed the case for hearing on May 25 while asking CBI to inform the respondents. The agency has challenged the trial court's order discharging all accused in the liquor policy case. The case was listed before Justice

Jain after Justice Sharma released it from her court last week. During the hearing on Tuesday, solicitor general Tushar Mehta, appearing for CBI, stated that the trial court order of discharge "cannot withstand scrutiny of any court in the eyes of law". He also emphasised that the hearing should not be delayed as it concerned a "scam in the capital of the nation".

Noting that three respondents were unrepresented, Justice Jain deferred the hearing, saying, "They should be here, duly represented by a counsel. We can take this matter further." He orally observed that since the matter was already in the news, he assumed everyone would be aware of the change of bench. "But this is the requirement of the law also.

New HC bench asks Kejriwal 2 others to respond

New Delhi(GNS): CBI has arrested an assistant vigilance officer and a multi-tasking staff employee of Delhi Development Authority in connection with an alleged bribery case, officials said on Tuesday.

According to the agency, the accused - identified as Deepak Yadav and Tarun - were arrested following a complaint lodged by a former deputy director of the authority. The complainant alleged that the two had demanded a bribe of Rs 5 lakh in exchange for sending a favorable reply to his parent department in connection with an ongoing vigilance matter against him.

Investigators said that after negotiations, the accused allegedly agreed to accept Rs



3 lakh as illegal gratification. Acting on the complaint, CBI laid a trap on Monday during which Yadav was allegedly caught red-handed while demanding and accepting Rs 50,000 through co-accused Tarun. The amount was reportedly the first instalment of the agreed-upon bribe amount.

Lawyers' strike: Fines of Rs 2k-30k imposed for 'wastage of judicial time'

New Delhi(GNS): While lawyers were on strike on Monday, many judges in the district judiciary declined adjournment requests in several matters, imposed costs and adopted a firmer approach.



In one such order, a sessions court imposed a cost of Rs 30,000 on a party for non-appearance in a matter where the court is obliged to fast-track hearings. The judge pointed out that despite specific directions from Delhi High Court, no one had initially appeared on behalf of the party and eventually a proxy counsel responded only when the court was "about to pass an adverse order".

While the bench often accommodates requests when the bar goes on strike, routinely handing

out dates to proxy lawyers, fines ranging from Rs 2,000 to Rs 30,000 were imposed in multiple matters on Monday, with several orders citing "for the inconvenience" and "wastage of judicial time caused".

In the current case, Judge Dharmender Rana was hearing a civil matter when the defendant allegedly failed to appear owing to the strike call issued by Delhi Bar Coordination Committee across district courts. The court noted that the adjournment plea was

"vehemently opposed" by the plaintiff's counsel, who argued that the matter was time-bound and that despite directions of the high court, none had appeared on behalf of the defendant until a proxy counsel responded at the last moment.

Opting not to pass an adverse order, Judge Rana observed, "Without commenting upon the conduct of defendant, matter stands adjourned subject to additional cost of Rs 30,000 to be deposited with Lawyers Welfare Fund, New Delhi district." He listed the matter for May 30, warning the counsels not to seek further adjournment.

The strike was reportedly triggered by a May 17 letter circulated by Delhi Judicial Services

Association condemning the "clandestine recording" and circulation of a courtroom altercation video showing an exchange between the president of Rohini Court Bar Association and a sitting judge. The controversy was followed by the judge being attached to the judicial academy and removed from his posting. The Rohini court also witnessed tense scenes on Monday evening, with some judges reportedly being briefly stalled by protesting lawyers while leaving the court complex. Rohini Bar Association, however, disputed accounts suggesting a prolonged confrontation. Rohit Malik, an executive member of the association, described it as a "brief exchange for around 10 minutes". The lawyers' strike was withdrawn on Monday night.

Umar Khalid's bail plea to care for ailing mother rejected

New Delhi(GNS): A Delhi court on Tuesday dismissed the bail plea of former JNU student Umar Khalid, accused in the 2020 northeast Delhi riots, saying the grounds for seeking the relief are unreasonable.

Additional Sessions Judge Sameer Bajpai was hearing Khalid's application seeking 15 days' interim bail to attend the 40-day post-death ritual (Chehlum) of his uncle and take care of his mother, who has to undergo a surgery.

In his order, the judge said, "The court is of the view that attending the Chehlum ceremony of his uncle is not that necessary. Things would have been different if the ceremony was of a person who was in immediate relation with the applicant." The court added that Khalid could have sought the relief immediately after his uncle's death



if the relationship was so close. Opposing Khalid's bail plea, Special Public Prosecutor Anirudh Mishra told the court that the accused has five sisters and a father who can help his mother pre and post-surgery. Khalid and others were

booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), an anti-terror law, and provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for allegedly being the "masterminds" of the 2020 riots that left 53 people dead and more than 700 injured in northeast Delhi.