



Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin travels via train on his way to attend a govt programme in Mayiladuthurai district



Union Minister of State for Culture Meenakshi Lekhi speaks during the inauguration of Shakti Marathon, in New Delhi



Delhi CM and AAP Convenor Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann at the inauguration of School of Eminence, in Ludhiana district



A healthcare worker administers a dose of polio drops to a child during an immunisation drive, in Kerala

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A peacock in New Delhi, on Sunday

CBI arrests NHA general manager for 'taking Rs 20-lakh bribe'

NEW DELHI: The CBI has arrested a general manager of the National Highways Authority of India (NHA) in a bribery case involving an amount of Rs 20 lakh in Maharashtra's Nagpur, officials said on Sunday. Arvind Kale, who is also a project director, allegedly received the bribe from an employee of a Bhopal-based private company, Bansal Construction Works Private Limited, engaged in the infrastructure construction business, they added. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) carried out searches at five locations in Bhopal and Nagpur, including residential and official premises, and recovered Rs 45 lakh in cash, including the bribe amount of Rs 20 lakh, the officials said.

Cop martyred, Naxal with Rs 10 lakh bounty gunned down in Chhattisgarh encounter

KANKER: A police constable and a Naxalite, who was carrying a reward of Rs 10 lakh on his head, were killed in an encounter in Chhattisgarh's Kanker district on Sunday, a senior police official said. The gunfight occurred in a forest near Hidur village under Chhotabethiya police station limits, where a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxal operation, Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P said. The operation was launched based on a specific input about the presence of Naxalites in the Hidur forest, he said. Personnel from the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Bastar Fighters, both units of the state police, along with the Border Security Force (BSF) and district force, were involved in the operation, the official said.

Mumbai police launch crackdown against owners of unregistered firearms

MUMBAI: The elite Crime Branch of the Mumbai Police is currently conducting a rigorous operation to validate arms licenses in the metropolis, including the re-registration of those which have been issued from other states. This decision follows the tragic murder of Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Abhishek Ghosalkar, prompting an additional directive to verify the licenses of individuals possessing weapons for personal protection and those involved in security services. Over the past 10 days, three individuals have been arrested by Crime Branch units in their crackdown on unauthorised weapon possession, an official said. Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime) Lakshmi Gautam told PTI, "Security personnel and private bodyguards employed to safeguard builders, politicians, etc., are currently under scrutiny, with their weapon licenses undergoing thorough verification." Individuals holding licenses from other states and utilising their firearms in Mumbai are required to transfer their licenses and furnish relevant firearm documentation to the city police, the official stated.

Jharkhand: Three arrested in Spanish woman's gang rape sent to jail, search on for 4 more

DUMKA: Three persons who were arrested in connection with the gang rape of a Spanish tourist in Jharkhand's Dumka district were sent to judicial custody by a court on Sunday. The woman from Spain was allegedly gang-raped on Friday at Kurumahat in Hansdih police station area, around 300 km from the state capital Ranchi, where she was spending the night in a tent along with her husband, police said. Her statement has been recorded under Section 164 of the CrPC, they said. Addressing a press conference, Superintendent of Police Pitamber Singh Kherwar said that a medical test was conducted on the woman and it confirmed rape. He said that of the seven people allegedly involved in the crime, three have been sent to jail and the other four would be nabbed soon. "The other four accused have been identified, and searches are underway. They will be nabbed soon," he said. The police are in contact with the Embassy of Spain in New Delhi, Kherwar said. "They are being kept informed about the developments," he added. When asked when the couple would leave Jharkhand, the SP said, "Legal procedures are underway. We will let you know about this later." The woman, of around 28, and her 64-year-old husband reached Dumka from Bangladesh on two motorcycles, and were en route to Nepal via Bihar.

Bishnupur armoury loot case: CBI chargesheets seven

PTI, NEW DELHI: The CBI has filed a charge sheet against seven accused in connection with the looting of arms and ammunition from the Bishnupur police armoury during the Manipur ethnic violence last year, officials said on Sunday.

MANIPUR VIOLENCE

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which is probing cases related to the ethnic clashes in Manipur, recently filed its charge sheet before the court of chief judicial magistrate in Kamrup (Metro) in Assam's Guwahati. The accused named in the charge sheet are Laishram Prem Singh, Khumukcham Dhiren alias Thapkpa,

Moirangthem Anand Singh, Athokpam Kajit alias Kishorjit, Loukrakpam Michael Mangangcha alias Michael, Konthoujam Romojit Meitei alias Romojit, and Keisham Johnson alias Johnson.

On August 3 last year, a mob looted more than 300 weapons, 19,800 rounds of ammunition and other accessories from two rooms of the 2nd Indian Reserve Battalion headquarters at Naranseina in Bishnupur.

Around 9,000 rounds of bullets of different calibres, an AK series assault rifle, three 'Ghaatak' rifles, 195 self-loading rifles, five MP-5 guns, 16 9mm pistols, 25 bulletproof jackets, 21 carbines, and 124 hand grenades, among others, were looted by the mob, the officials said. Barring Laishram Prem

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Singh and Khumukcham Dhiren alias Thapkpa, the remaining five have been earlier charge-sheeted by the CBI in looting of police armoury at the Manipur Police Training Centre (MPTC) at Pangei in Imphal.

This incident took place on May 4 last year, the day ethnic clashes between the majority Meitei community and tribal Kukis broke out in the northeast state. As alleged in the FIR, a mob stormed into the MPTC complex and looted a huge number of arms

and ammunition from the armoury.

Moirangthem Anand Singh is alleged to be a former member of the proscribed People's Liberation Army (PLA) of Manipur and the Kangleipak Communist Party (Noyon), while the remaining are believed to be overground workers of valley-based banned terror outfits.

They had earlier been arrested by the Manipur Police in September last year when they were allegedly extorting money

Indian Navy to commission MH 60R Seahawk helicopter on Wednesday

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Indian Navy will commission the helicopters in Kochi its newly-inducted MH 60R Seahawk multi-role choppers that it said would mark a "pivotal moment" in India's defence modernisation journey.

The commissioning of the helicopters in the INAS 334 squadron is expected to significantly enhance the Navy's operational capability in the Indian Ocean region which has been witnessing increasing Chinese military forays.

The US-manufactured MH 60R Seahawk is a maritime variant of the Blackhawk helicopter.

The helicopter is designed for anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, search and rescue and medical evacuation

among other operations.

"The advanced weapons, sensors and avionics suite make the Seahawks ideal for the Indian Navy's maritime security needs, offering enhanced capabilities for both conventional as well as asymmetric threats," the Navy said.

The Seahawks squadron will be commissioned in the Indian Navy as INAS 334.

India signed an agreement with the US for procurement of 24-MH 60Rs in Feb 2020 under the framework of foreign military sales.

"The Seahawk's deployment in the Indian Ocean Region would strengthen the Indian Navy's maritime presence, dissuading potential threats and ensuring a secure and safe environment in this strategically crucial region," the Navy said.

Cong: Agnipath scheme has 'compromised' national security Says 'severely disrupted' armed forces' recruitment

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Congress on Sunday attacked the Centre over the Agnipath scheme, alleging that it has "compromised" national security and "severely disrupted" the armed forces' recruitment processes in India.

The Congress' attack came after party leader Rahul Gandhi had an interaction with ex-servicemen, potential Agniveer recruits and the youth whose regular recruitment into the armed forces has been disrupted by the introduction of Agnipath during the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Madhya Pradesh.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh in a post on X said that Gandhi had a 40-minute

interaction with the three communities on the morning of the 50th day of the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra.

"The Agnipath scheme has compromised national security and severely disrupted the armed forces' recruitment processes in India," he alleged.

Ramesh claimed the ex-servicemen have noted that the scheme compromises national security by demoralising the armed forces and rushing through training for our servicemen in a mere six months.

"Potential Agniveer recruits are dissatisfied by the loss of prestige and economic security due to the scheme," he said.

"Finally, there are about 1.5 lakh youths who have

completed all formalities for regular recruitment to the armed forces who have not been recruited because of the arbitrary introduction of the Agnipath scheme," Ramesh said.

The Congress leader claimed that as presently designed, the Agnipath scheme is detrimental in all respects and is an "anyay" (injustice) to our servicemen and to our youth.

"The ex-servicemen and Agniveer recruits have been protesting against the Modi government's policies for several months, having held several demonstrations at the Jantar Mantar in Delhi and taken out a padayatra from Champaran in Bihar to New Delhi," Ramesh said.

No amount of 'slick PR' can hide 'utterly mismanaged' railways by Modi govt: Cong

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Congress on Sunday said no amount of "slick PR" can hide the manner in which the Indian Railways has been "utterly mismanaged" during the Modi government, with Rahul Gandhi alleging that policies for the national transporter were being framed keeping only the rich in mind.

Gandhi also claimed that the trust in PM Modi is a "guarantee of betrayal".

In a post in Hindi on X, Gandhi alleged that by showing the dream of making those wearing "hawai chappal" (slippers) travel by "hawai jahaz" (airplane), Prime Minister Modi is even distancing them from "gareebon ki sawari" (vehicle of the poor) railways.

"Amidst a 10% increase in fare every year, loot in the name of dynamic fare, rising cancellation charges and expensive platform tickets, people are being lured by showing them a picture of an 'elite train' that the poor cannot even set foot on," the former Congress chief said.

The government has collected Rs 3,700 crore from senior citizens in the last three years by "snatching away" the exemptions given to them, he claimed.

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– Rahul Gandhi, Congress Leader

Common persons' trains are made to languish to give precedence to the train selected for publicity, Gandhi alleged.

He claimed that the poor and middle class passengers have been left out of railways' priority.

"To increase the number of AC coaches, the number of general coaches is being reduced. Not only labourers and farmers but also students and service class people travel in these (general) coaches. The production of AC coaches has also been increased to three times that of normal coaches," he alleged.

"In fact, ending the tradition of presenting the Railway Budget separately was a conspiracy to hide these exploits," Gandhi charged.

Calcutta HC judge Abhijit Gangopadhyay says he will resign on Tuesday

PTI, KOLKATA: Calcutta High Court judge Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay, whose rulings on various education-related issues in the state stirred political debates, said he will resign on Tuesday.

Justice Gangopadhyay declined to comment on whether he intends to enter politics, stating that he would address all media inquiries after submitting his resignation.

"I will resign from the post of Justice of Calcutta High Court on Tuesday," he told re-

porters outside his residence here on Sunday.

Justice Gangopadhyay, who is due for retirement later this year, said he will submit his resignation to the President of India in the first hour on Tuesday, with copies sent to the Chief Justice of India and the Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court.

He has issued several directives instructing the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to probe allegations of irregularities in the recruit-



ment processes of teaching and

non-teaching staff in West Bengal government-sponsored and -aided schools.

Justice Gangopadhyay, known for his swift directives, occasionally mandating compliance within hours, has garnered appreciation from diverse segments of society, particularly aspiring candidates for school jobs.

However, his remarks in specific cases have also stirred dissatisfaction among certain leaders of the ruling party in the state.

Following a tussle between his

single bench and a division bench of the high court over instituting a CBI probe in an alleged scam in issuing caste certificates to candidates aspiring for reserved category MBBS seats in West Bengal, the Supreme Court had in January intervened and transferred to itself all petitions related to the matter.

"Tomorrow will be my last day as a judge. I will not hear or adjudicate any matter and will release some cases which have been part-heard in my court," he said.