

People gather near the wreckage of a vehicle after an accident in which at least seven persons were killed and several injured.



Students show their ID cards as they wait to enter an examination centre for the Haryana Board of School Education (HBSE) class 12th exams, in



DIG Rakesh Kumar pays last respects to ASI Santosh Kumar Singh who died after he was allegedly assaulted by a group of people in Bihar's Munger district



A backhoe loader removes debris after the diversion of Frisal-Khudwani road collapsed due to rains, in Kulgam, Jammu and Kashmir

Ranya Rao alleges torture in custody in gold smuggling case

AGENCIES. BENGALU-RU: Actor Ranya Rao has claimed that she has been subjected to custodial torture and falsely implicated in the high-profile gold smuggling case. In a letter addressed to the Additional Director General (ADG) of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Ms Rao alleges that she was arrested directly from the aircraft and not from the airport terminal, as officially stated.

She further claimed she was physically assaulted, denied food and sleep, and coerced into signing blank documents under duress.

Her accusations come a day after a special court in Bengaluru denied her bail request. The case has taken a political turn, with the Karnataka government ordering a probe into the

Her accusations come a day after a special court in Bengaluru denied her bail request. The case has taken a political turn, with the Karnataka government ordering a probe into the alleged involvement of Ms Rao's stepfather, Karnataka **Director General of Police** K Ramachandra Rao, and investigating possible lapses by law enforcement authorities



alleged involvement of Ms March 3 after she was alleg-Rao's stepfather, Karnataka edly caught smuggling over Director General of Police 14 kg of gold from Dubai. However, in her letter from K Ramachandra Rao, and investigating possible laps-Parappana Agrahara Central Prison, she insists she was es by law enforcement audetained inside the aircraft Ms Rao was arrested by before disembarking, con-

> tradicting official reports. The letter, submitted as

part of a jail memo, contains claims of mistreatment. Ms Rao claimed that she was slapped multiple times, threatened with exposure of her father's identity, and forced to sign blank papers. She alleged that she was being framed to shield more influential individuals involved in the smuggling network.

But these allegations are questionable. Ms Rao wrote the letter on March 6. She was brought to court on March 9. The judge asked her three times whether there was any custodial torture, and she denied it thrice. Neither did her lawyers raise any torture allegations.

On Friday, the Special Court for Economic Offences in Bengaluru rejected Ms

Violence mars Holi celebrations in UP

PTI, LUCKNOW (UP): Holi celebrations in parts of Uttar Pradesh were marred by incidents of violence, resulting in injuries to over a dozen people and highlighting existing social tensions.

Clashes erupted over forced application of colours, caste-based disputes, and drunken altercations, leading to arrests and heightened security measures.

In Mathura district, a confrontation between upper-caste men and Dalit residents in Bati village in Jait area of the district resulted in injuries to 8 to 10 people.

Station House Officer (SHO) of Jait Police station, Ashwini Kumar said, "Two men from an upper-caste community attempted to forcibly apply 'gulal' on people from Dalit community, leading to tensions and minor skirmishes. Eight people were injured and nine been arrested.

BEAUTIFUL AND BEATIFIC

Law student who caused death of woman, injured 7 sent to police custody

AGENCIES, VADODARA: A Vadodara court on Saturday granted police custody of Rakshit Chaurasiya, a law student accused of killing one person and injuring seven others in a car accident on Thursday night. The court sent Chaurasiya to one day in custody following a late-night hearing on Friday, according to the city's police commissioner, Narsimha Komar.

VADODARA ACCIDENT CASE

In their request for the remand, the Vadodara police told the court that further investigation was required to establish the events leading up to the crash and to determine whether Chaurasiya was intentionally driving under the influence of intoxicants. The police are also investigating the relationship between Chaurasiya and Praanshu Chauhan, the son of the vehicle's owner, who was in the car during the incident.



car that crashed into eight people, killing one, being taken into

The court was informed in the hours leading up to that an inquiry was necessary to understand why Chaurasiya, rather than Chauhan, was driving the car at the time of the accident. The police are also looking into Chaurasiya's past and his associations with others present before the crash.

On Friday, police arrested Chauhan and identified a third individual, Suresh, who was reportedly with Chaurasiya and Chauhan

the accident but was not in the vehicle when it occurred. Blood samples from all three have been sent for forensic examination to determine whether they had consumed any intoxicants

The police aim to clarify the details of the incident and any potential connections between the individuals involved as part of their ongoing investigation.

CLASSIFIED CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

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THANKSGIVING

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2025008046

Tourists and locals visit the waterfall at Drung after fresh snowfall in Tangmarg, in Baramulla district of north Kashmir Militant arrested from Manipur's

Kakching district

PTI, IMPHAL: The Manipur Police have arrested a cadre of a banned outfit from Kakching district, officials said on

Saturday. The member of the outlawed People's Liberation Army was apprehended from Langmeidong Mamang Leikai in Kakching on Friday, they said.

In another operation at Dampi ridge in Churachandpur district, security forces recovered arms and ammunition, including a rifle, a single-barrel gun and two IEDs, the officials

"Intelligence-based combing operations are being carried out in the hill and valley districts to recover all the looted/ snatched/illegal weapons in the state," a police officer said.

need broader platform of secular oppn parties: Karat PTI, NEW DELHI: The op-

position INDIA bloc was formed for the Lok Sahha elections and not state polls, senior CPI(M) leader Prakash Karat has said and called for a broader platform of secular opposition parties.

He also said the alliance should be looked at with a broader perspective so that it would not be stifled solely by electoral politics.

The Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) of opposition parties came together ahead of the Lok Sabha elections to counter the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance at the Centre.

In an interview with PTI, Karat - the CPI(M) interim coordinator - also said there had been no discussions of the alliance at the national level after the Lok Sabha elections and added the constituent parties had their

own equations in the states.

INDIA bloc formed for LS polls,

"It is a fact that the formation of the INDIA bloc and the cooperation between its constituents in certain states, if not all, definitely led to the BJP losing its majority in the Lok Sabha...," Karat said.

"Subsequently, assembly elections have taken place and I think the biggest setback for the opposition has been Maharashtra, where the Maha Vikas Aghadi did very well in the Lok Sabha polls and the BIP alliance was reduced to a minority. But the reverse happened in the as-

sembly election," he added. The veteran CPI(M) leader also said they had not been able to come to any conclusion as the opposition alliance did very well

in Jharkhand. 'We are not yet able to come to any conclusion because the situation in states differ in a very big way. For instance, in Jharkhand, the alliance -- in which most of them are constituents of the INDIA bloc -- was able to defeat the BJP," Karat told PTI.

"The general impression after these assembly elections is that the BIP recovered ground in these polls. But I think it should not be directly linked to the fortunes of the INDIA bloc because the INDIA bloc was primarily set up to face the Lok Sabha elections," he said.

SC to hear PIL challenging CAG appointment process on Monday

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on March 17 an NGO's plea seeking that the current practice of appointment of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India solely by the executive and the prime minister be declared violative of the

Constitution. The PIL, filed by the Centre for Public Interest Litigation, also sought direction of the court mandating that the CAG shall be appointed by the President in

consultation with an independent and neutral selection committee comprising of the prime minister, the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) and the Chief Justice of India and in a transparent manner.

It said that the direction for appointment of CAG should be similar to the appointment of other bodies including Information Commissions and the Central Vigilance Commission.

The PIL will be taken up

for hearing on Monday by a bench of justices Surva Kant and N Kotiswar Singh. The plea filed through advocate Prashant Bhushan

contended that the present mode of appointment of the CAG, which is done solely by the executive i.e. by the prime minister who handpicks any individual and recommends his name to the President for appointment, is unconstitutional as it is violative of Article 14 and several basic features of the Constitution.

the Comptroller and Auditor General of India solely by the executive and the Prime Minister of India undermines the independence of the office of the CAG, suffers from grave conflict of interest and thereby is detrimental to good governance and democracy in India. It is also manifestly arbitrary, detrimental to institutional integrity and violates several basic features of the constitution," the plea said.

"The appointment of