



Competition Commission of India chairperson Ravneet Kaur speaks at CCI's 10<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Economics of Competition Law, in New Delhi



Edu Minister Dharmendra Pradhan meets Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav to pay tribute to his revered father and console the bereaved family, in Gurugram



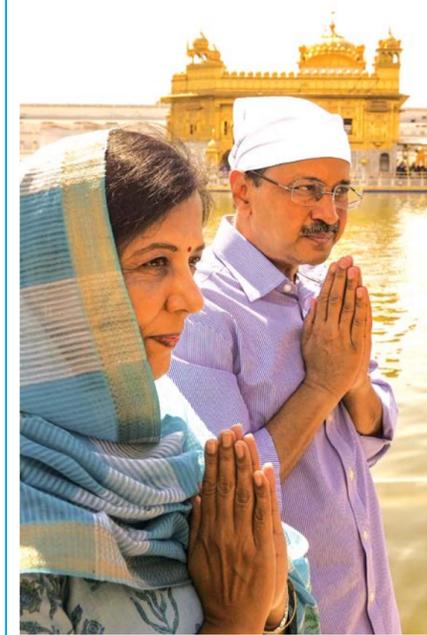
Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav meets Vice President Jagdeep Thakur in, New Delhi



New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon being received by MoS SP Singh Baghel upon his arrival, in New Delhi

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PTI



AAP Supremo Arvind Kejriwal with wife Sunita Kejriwal pays obeisance at the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Punjab, on Sunday

AR Rahman discharged after hospitalisation due to dehydration

CHENNAI: Music composer AR Rahman was admitted to a corporate hospital here on Sunday following dehydration and was discharged some hours later after doctors gave him a clean bill of health. The 58-year-old musician was hospitalised on early Sunday morning and was now back home, according to his manager Senthil Velan. AR Reihana, the music director's sister, earlier refuted reports that Rahman was hospitalised after he complained of chest pain. "Nothing happened. He had dehydration and gastric problems," Reihana said. The two-time Oscar and Grammy winner, known for films such as "Roja", "Dil Se..", "Enthiran", and "Slumdog Millionaire", initially also complained of neck pain, his manager said. "He (Rahman) has just come back home. He is perfectly fine. He was hospitalised early this morning... The doctors conducted some tests and everything was normal," Velan said.

Maharana Pratap descendant Arvind Singh Mewar dies at 81

JAIPUR: Arvind Singh Mewar, a member of the erstwhile royal family of Mewar and chairman of the HRH Group of Hotels, died in Udaipur early on Sunday after prolonged illness, his family said. He was 81. He is survived by wife Vijayraj Kumari, son Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar and daughters Bhargavi Kumari Mewar and Padmaja Kumari Parmar. A descendant of Rajput king Maharana Pratap, Mewar had been ill for a long time and under treatment at his residence in Udaipur's City Palace. His funeral will be held on Monday. As a mark of respect, the City Palace will be closed for tourists till Monday. Mewar was the younger son of Bhagwant Singh Mewar and Sushila Kumari. His elder brother Mahendra Singh Mewar died in November.

New India Bank case: Wanted accused surrenders after a month; six arrested so far

MUMBAI: A wanted accused in the ₹122-crore embezzlement case at New India Cooperative Bank, who had been evading police for a month, surrendered on Sunday morning, an official said. Arunachalam Ullahathan Maruthuvar (62) was immediately placed under arrest by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW), which is probing the bank fraud. He was produced in a court that remanded him in police custody till March 18, the official said. This is the sixth arrest in the case. According to police, Arunachalam received nearly Rs 30 crore of the misappropriated funds from the prime accused Hitesh Mehta, the cooperative bank's former general manager and head of accounts. The anti-financial crime unit on Friday arrested the wanted accused and civil contractor Kapil Dedhia from Vadodara in neighbouring Gujarat. A court here has remanded him in police custody till March 19. Police said Rs 12 crore of the embezzled fund was credited to his account.

# Sambhal: Whitewashing of mosque begins under ASI's supervision

PTI, SAMBHAL (UP): The whitewashing of the outer wall of the Shahi Jama Masjid in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal began on Sunday morning under the supervision of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in line with a high court order, an advocate of the mosque committee said.

The Mughal-era mosque here has been at the centre of a major row after a petition claimed that it was the site of an ancient Hindu temple. The district has been tense since riots broke out on November 24 last year during protests against a court-ordered survey of the mosque. Four people were killed and several others, including police personnel, were injured in the clashes.

The Allahabad High Court had on March 12 directed the ASI to undertake and complete the whitewashing at the mosque's outer wall within one week while hearing the objections against the ASI survey report by the Shahi Jama Masjid management committee which had also sought permission for whitewashing, additional lighting and installation of decorative lights outside the disputed structure.

Following the high court order, an ASI team carried out measurements and assessments on March 13.



Labourers whitewash the outer wall of the Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh, on Sunday

"The whitewashing of the outer wall of the Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal began on Sunday," Shakeel Warsi, an advocate representing the mosque committee in the Sambhal district court, told PTI. Shahi Jama Masjid's president Zafar Ali

said the work started at around 9 am and 9-10 labourers are engaged. "If the work has to be completed in four days, then around 20 labourers would be needed," he said.

Amid reported objection by the Hindu side over the use of green colour to paint

the outer wall of the mosque, Ali said, "We are using the colours which have been used for hundreds of years. We are using white, green and light golden colours," he said.

Ali noted that the High Court has ordered that the ASI and the Muslim side will jointly get the painting done.

"All the labourers of ASI are engaged, the work is being done under their direction and supervision. The ASI and we will complete this work together," he said.

On the Hindu side's reported demand that white colour be used to paint the wall or else they will seek the use of saffron colour, Ali said, "This demand is unreasonable. It is a wrong and an illegitimate demand. For hundreds of years, green, white and light golden colours have been used here and they are still there."

Meanwhile, Arman Ali, the labour contractor, told reporters that their target is to complete the work in a week.

Asked about the lighting of the mosque's exterior, Zafar Ali said, "This is in the ASI's hand. If it wants, it can install lights. There is no interference from our side. Whatever lighting has to be done, the ASI has to do it."

Security has been stepped up in the area since the violence in November.

## Stalin defends use of 'Ru' in budget

Says it shows DMK's determination over language policy

PTI, CHENNAI: The replacing of the Indian rupee symbol with the Tamil letter 'Ru' in the budget presented for 2025-26 was to show how determined the ruling DMK was over the language policy, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and the party president M K Stalin said on Sunday.

While he had released the logo for the budget, "those who don't like Tamil made it a big news," he said in an apparent attack on the BJP.

Sharply criticising the CM, AIADMK leader Edappadi K Palaniswami wondered if the 'Ru' alone would make the budget a hit and claimed the financial exercise undertaken by the DMK since 2021 was an "utter flop".

The CM, in his regular "Ungalil Oruvan" (One among you) video address, also took a jibe at Union Finance Minister Sitharaman for her criticism on the rupee symbol issue, saying she could respond on the matter but not on Tamil Nadu's plea for funds.

"I had released the budget logo. We had the 'Ru' to show how determined we are in the language policy. But those who don't like Tamil made it a big news," he said.

The Tamil Nadu govt's replacing the rupee symbol with 'Ru', the first letter of 'Rubai' that denotes the

**“In English, Rupees is written simply as Rs. That doesn't matter to them, but this seems to be an issue for them. Overall, our budget was a hit across the nation, as was Tamil”**

— M K Stalin, Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu

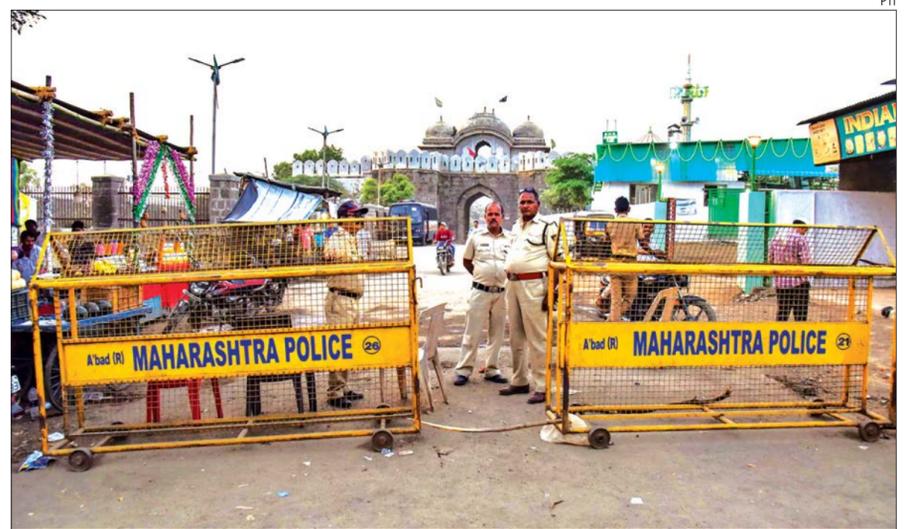
national currency in the vernacular language, had kicked up a row with the BJP taking strong exception to the change.

"We had pleaded with the Union Government to give funds for 100-day job scheme (MGNREGA), disaster management, and release school education funds. The union finance minister (Sitharaman) who did not respond to these, has spoken on this matter," he said. Even she had, in many posts, used the word 'Ru,' he claimed.

"In English, Rupees is written simply as Rs. That doesn't matter to them, but this seems to be an issue for them. Overall, our budget was a hit across the nation, as was Tamil," he said.

The CM was apparently referring to the language row between Tamil Nadu and the Centre. The ruling DMK has been accusing the BJP-led union govt of 'imposing' Hindi on the southern state through the NEP, a charge denied by the latter.

## ON GUARD



Security outside the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's tomb in Aurangabad, Maharashtra, on Sunday

## Removal of Aurangzeb's grave won't serve any purpose: Union Minister Athawale

PTI, MUMBAI: Union minister Ramdas Athawale has voiced his opposition to the demand for demolition of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's grave in Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar district, saying its removal will not serve any purpose.

Talking to reporters here on Saturday night, the Republican Party of India (A) leader also said the matter should not be politicised.

Some right wing outfits have called for the removal of Aurangzeb's grave located at Khuldabad in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar.

Organisations like Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) plan to submit a memorandum to the state government on Monday, urging legal action to remove the grave and have warned of 'karseva' and statewide

**“His tomb has existed for many years, and there is no need to reopen this issue. The tomb stands as a reminder of his misdeeds, and its removal will serve no purpose”**

— Union minister Ramdas Athawale

protests if the demand is not met. BJP's Satara MP Udayanraje Bhosale, a descendant of Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, had sought the removal of Aurangzeb's tomb in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar.

Athawale said it is true that Aurangzeb was cruel and killed (Shivaji Maharaj's son) Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj. But, he failed to conquer the (Maratha) kingdom and ultimately died in Maharashtra.

"His tomb has existed for many years, and there is no need to reopen this issue. The tomb stands as a reminder of his misdeeds, and its removal will serve no purpose," said the leader, whose party is an ally of the ruling BJP.

Asked about some BJP leaders raising the issue, Athawale said he does not believe that this matter should be politicised.

"Neither the BJP nor any other party is involved in this controversy. It is inappropriate to describe Aurangzeb as an astute administrator or compare the BJP regime to his rule," the Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment said.

Athawale said that since Aurangzeb was buried there (in Khuldabad), his tomb should remain undisturbed.

## SC to hear suo motu proceeding initiated over Lokpal's order on March 18

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on March 18 a suo motu proceeding in which it had stayed the Lokpal's order on entertaining complaints against sitting high court judges.

A three-judge bench comprising Justices B R Gavai, Surya Kant, and Abhay S Oka is slated to hear the matter. The top court is dealing with a suo motu proceeding initiated over the January 27 order passed by the Lokpal.

While hearing the matter on February 20, the apex court stayed the Lokpal order, saying it was "something very, very disturbing" and concerned the independence of the judiciary.

The top court had issued notice and sought responses from the Centre, the Lokpal registrar and the person who filed complaints against a sitting high court judge.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, had said a high court judge would never fall within the ambit of the Lokpal and Lokayuk-

**Dealing with Lokpal's order on two specific complaints against the sitting high court judge, the apex court had issued an injunction to prevent the complainant from disclosing the name of the judge and directed him to keep the complaint confidential**

tas Act, 2013. Dealing with Lokpal's order on two specific complaints against the sitting high court judge, the apex court had issued an injunction to prevent the complainant from disclosing the name of the judge and directed him to keep the complaint confidential.

The Lokpal passed the order on two complaints filed against a sitting additional judge of the high court.

The complaints alleged that he influenced an additional district judge in the state and a judge of the same high court slated to deal with a suit filed against the complainant by a private company to favour the firm.

The private company, it was alleged, was earlier a client of the high court judge in question while he was prac-

tising as an advocate at the Bar.

"Awaiting the guidance of the Chief Justice of India, consideration of these complaints, for the time being, is deferred until four weeks from today, keeping in mind the statutory time frame to dispose of the complaint in terms of Section 20 (4) of the Act of 2013," said the Lokpal bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar on January 27.

The Lokpal added, "We make it amply clear that by this order we have decided a singular issue finally – as to whether the judges of the high court established by an Act of Parliament come within the ambit of Section 14 of the Act of 2013, in the affirmative. No more and no less. In that, we have not looked into or examined the merits of the allegations at all."

## MP govt announces Rs 1 crore aid to kin of cop killed in clash with tribals; six held

PTI, BHOPAL/MAUGANJ: A day after an Assistant Sub-Inspector was killed and other officials were injured in a violent attack on a police team by tribals in Madhya Pradesh's Mauganj district, police on Sunday arrested six persons and extended efforts to identify other attackers.

State Director General of Police Kailash Makwana flew to neighbouring Rewa district to assess the situation on directions of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav who ordered strict action against perpetrators.

Police launched a combing operation in Gadra village, located about 25 km from Mauganj where the violent clash unfolded on Saturday, leading to the

arrest of six persons.

A group of tribals allegedly abducted and killed a man, and then attacked a police team that attempted to rescue him, resulting in the death of assistant sub-inspector (AS) Ramcharan Gautam. The chief minister on Sunday announced a financial assistance of Rs 1 crore for the family of Gautam.

He said Gautam would be accorded the status of a martyr as he was killed in the line of duty. One of his family members will get a government job.

The situation in Gadra is under control amid heavy deployment of police personnel. Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, relating to

maintaining public order and preventing disturbances, was already imposed in the area. The violence unfolded when members of the Kol tribe abducted Sunny Dwivedi, accusing him of being re-

sponsible for the death of a tribal man, Ashok Kumar, several months ago. Police records indicate that Kumar had died in a road accident, but the Kol tribe believed Dwivedi was involved.

### APPOINTMENTS

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