



Villagers affected by recent episodes of violence following protests over Waqf Act, protest at a relief camp at Par Lalpur in Malda



Firemen douse a fire breaking out in the warehouse of a company, which supplied tenting materials for the recently-concluded Maha Kumbh, in Prayagraj, UP



People take part in a protest march against demolition of a Jain temple at Vile Parle area, in Mumbai



Firefighters perform during a fire mock drill on the last day of Fire Safety Week at Police Lines, in Dehradun, Uttarakhand

alloverindia



Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar with Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan during a meeting at Vice President's Enclave, in New Delhi

Shop owner arrested for sexually harassing 9-year-old girl

**THANE:** A shop owner was arrested for allegedly sexually harassing a 9-year-old girl in Shilphata area of Thane, a police official said on Saturday. Shil Daghar police station senior inspector Sandeepan Shinde identified the accused as Jafar Ali Sohab Siddiqui (48), a resident of Achargalli. "On April 3 and 17, he called the victim to his shop when she was returning home from school. He touched her inappropriately. Siddiqui has been booked for sexual harassment and other offences under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act," he said.

Two history-sheeters arrested in Thane; several chain-snatching cases solved

**THANE:** Two persons have been arrested for alleged involvement in several chain-snatching cases in Mumbai Metropolitan Region, a senior Thane police official said on Saturday. Ambivali residents Jaffar Yusuf Jaffri alias Chavan (26) and Sandeep Girishchandra Prasad (20), who are part of the infamous 'Irani' gang, have cases against their names in Thane, Navi Mumbai and Mumbai. Zone V Deputy Commissioner of Police Prashant Kadam told reporters. "They were nabbed by a team of Vartak Nagar police station. On March 12, they had snatched the chain of a 56-year-old woman in Yashodhan Nagar and fled on a motorcycle. Teams were formed at the time to arrest the duo. We recovered gold ornaments worth Rs 3.90 lakh, two motorcycles worth Rs 1.20 lakh as well as mobile phones worth Rs 15000," he said.

Drunk man bites off wife's finger in Noida, arrested

**NOIDA:** A man from Sector 12 in Noida has been arrested for biting off his wife's finger in an inebriated state, police said on Saturday. The arrested man identified as Anoop Manchanda has been sent to jail, they said. Sector 24 station in-charge Shyam Babu Shukla told PTI that the incident happened on April 16. "Anoop Manchanda went home drunk at around 10 pm on Wednesday and began beating his wife after picking a fight. He bit off a finger from her left hand, which got separated from her palm," Shukla said a case was registered after the woman, Shashi Manchanda, lodged a complaint on April 17. Manchanda was subsequently arrested and sent to jail, the officer said.

Two dead, two injured as excavator skids into gorge in Shimla

**SHIMLA:** Two persons were killed while two others sustained injuries after a JCB excavator plunged into a gorge near Shimla, police said on Saturday. The deceased have been identified as Sukhdev Singh Rana (31), a resident of Rupnagar district in Punjab, and Hari Nam Singh (30) from Kinnaur district. The injured -- Charanjeet Singh (26) from Punjab and Neeraj Kumar (20) from Bihar -- are undergoing treatment at the Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC) in Shimla, police said. The accident took place on Friday near the Jwala Mata temple when Sukhdev lost control of the excavator, which skidded into a gorge. All four occupants of the excavator were rushed to the IGMC where doctors declared Sukhdev and Hari Nam brought dead, police said.

Five killed in two separate accidents in Bihar

**JAMUI/NAWADA:** At least five persons were killed and one injured in two separate accidents in Bihar's Jamui and Nawada districts on Saturday morning, officials said. In the first incident, three persons were killed and one injured when the vehicle they were traveling in rammmed into a roadside tree in Mahana locality, under the jurisdiction of Lachuar police station in Jamui. "Three persons - Ankit Kumar Sinha, Buau Gupta and Vikram Yadav - died on the spot. The injured, Rohit Kumar, was taken to the nearest hospital. His condition is stable. Further investigation is underway," a statement issued by Jamui Police said. According to villagers, the victims were returning from a marriage party.

Will not allow imposition of Hindi in Maharashtra: Uddhav

**MUMBAI:** Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday asserted that his party will not allow making Hindi compulsory in Maharashtra after the state government decided to make Hindi a mandatory third language for students of classes 1 to 5. Addressing an event of the Bharatiya Kamgar Sena, the workers' wing of the Shiv Sena (UBT), Thackeray said his party has no aversion to the Hindi language but asked why it is being forced. His remarks come amid the opposition's outcry over the Maharashtra government's decision to make Hindi a mandatory third language for students of Classes 1 to 5 in Marathi and English-medium schools across the state, in a departure from the practice of studying two languages.

Punjab busts two major terror modules; RPGs, IEDs, RDX seized

**PTI, CHANDIGARH:** Punjab Police has nabbed 13 alleged members of two major ISI-backed Khalistani terror modules that were being run from abroad and seized two rocket-propelled grenades, two hand grenades, IEDs and RDX along with other munitions, a senior officer said on Saturday.

These modules were being controlled by proscribed terrorist outfit Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) from abroad through France-based Satnam Singh alias Satta and Greece-based Jaswinder alias Manu Agwan, Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said. Officials said more arrests are likely in the coming days. With the busting of these modules, Punjab Police has foiled a conspiracy masterminded by Pakistan's spy agency Inter-Services



Some of the weapons seized during the operation

Intelligence (ISI) to disturb peace and harmony in the border state, the DGP said.

Counter Intelligence (CI) Jalandhar and District Police Batala dismantled the modules in two separate operations and 13 accused including a minor were held, the officials said.

This is a major blow to



transnational terror networks targeting peace and stability in Punjab, Yadav said in a post on X.

The DGP said the police seized two rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) including a launcher, two IEDs (2.5 kg each), two hand grenades with detonators, two kg RDX with

remote control, five pistols (Beretta and Glock), six magazines, 44 live cartridges, one wireless set and three vehicles.

Sharing operation details, Assistant Inspector General, CI Jalandhar, Navjot Singh Mahal said in an intel-based operation, police teams arrested Jagroop Singh of Basti Amritsarian in Hoshiarpur, Jatinder Singh alias Honey of Daburji in Kapurthala, Harpreet Singh of Hoshiarpur and Jagjeet Singh of Kapurthala, and recovered arms and explosives from their possession.

Preliminary investigations revealed that these accused were working on the instructions of Satnam Satta. Further investigations are being conducted to unearth this entire network and previous crimes, he said

Close down Parliament if SC has to make law: Nishikant Dubey

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** Fourth-term BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, one of the more vocal party members in the Lok Sabha, launched a broadside against the Supreme Court on Saturday, saying Parliament and state assemblies should be closed down if the apex court has to make the laws.

He first made a terse post in Hindi on X and later, in remarks to PTI, accused the court of arrogating to itself Parliament's legislative powers by striking down laws passed by the

legislature and even giving directions to the President who, Dubey noted, is the appointing authority of Supreme Court judges.

"Kanoon yadi Supreme Court hi banayega to Sansad Bhavan bandh kar dena chahiye," the BJP MP said on X. His comment came following the Centre's assurance to the court that it would not be implementing some of the contentious provisions of the Waqf (Amendment) Act till the next day of hearing after the court raised questions over them.

J&K: 2 killed in lightning strike in Reasi

**PTI, JAMMU:** Two persons, including a woman, were killed and another woman sustained injuries after they were struck by lightning in a remote village in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district on Saturday, officials said.

They said that over 100 houses suffered damages due to gusty winds in Rajouri district.

Two women, identified as Shahnaz Begum and Rasheed Ahmad, lost their

lives when lightning hit their Dharhote village in Arnas area of Reasi late Saturday evening, the officials said.

Another woman -Gulzara Begum - was also injured in the incident, which also perished nearly 50 sheep and goats, they added.

In another incident, over 100 residential houses suffered minor to partial damages after high velocity winds swept Kalakote in Rajouri district.

3 children among 11 killed as four-storey building collapses in north-east Delhi

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** Eleven people, including three children, were killed after a four-storey building collapsed in north-east Delhi's Shakti Vihar in the early hours of Saturday. The incident also left 11 persons injured.

A CCTV camera installed at a nearby building captured the moment the building came down crashing, showing a thick cloud of dust filling the narrow alley.

Teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Delhi Fire Services, police along with locals carried out the rescue operation for more than 12 hours at the site of the 20-year-old building in the Mustafabad area that collapsed around 3 am on Saturday.

Officials said the area being highly congested made the rescue efforts all the more challenging.

According to police, there were 22 people inside the building at the time of the incident, most of them families.

The owner of the building, Tehseen (60), and six members of his family were among the 11 deceased, officials said. They have been identified as Tehseen's son Nazeem (30), two daughters-in-law Shahina (28) and Chandni (23), and three grandchildren, Anas (6), Afreen (2) and Afan (2).

The others who lost their lives in the tragic incident were Danish (23) and Naved (17), who were brothers, Reshma (38) and Ishaq (75), officials said.



Rescue operation underway after a four-storey building collapsed trapping several people, in New Delhi

the ground floor while the rest of the building was being used by tenants.

Anxious about the whereabouts of their loved ones, the inconsolable relatives of the victims kept looking in the debris even as the rescue operation lasted for hours.

A police source said that construction work in "two-three shops" on the ground floor could have led to the collapse. The locals also said that construction work was going on at a new shop, which could have triggered the collapse.

They also expressed concern about the fragile state of four to five buildings in the area. Waste sewer water has been seeping into the walls of many buildings in the area for years, and over time, the moisture has weakened the structures, causing the walls to develop cracks, Salim Ali, a local resident, said.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) said in a statement that the building was around 20 years old and was not structurally stable.

The civic body said that a survey of the area will be carried out, adding that several buildings in the locality, including the one that collapsed, were not structurally stable.

Kharge: 'Will win Waqf battle'; ED action won't scare us

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday said the party will not be daunted by the Enforcement Directorate's action against its leaders and also asserted that it will win the battle against the BJP-led central government on the Waqf (Amendment) Act.

Addressing a meeting of party general secretaries and in-charges here, Kharge said the Supreme Court has given importance to the points raised by the Congress and other opposition parties on the Act and alleged that the government had raked the 'Waqf by user' issue deliberately to create a dispute over such properties.

He said the Congress party brought together the entire opposition against the government's Waqf (Amendment) Bill.

"The Supreme Court is hearing this case right now, we are confident that we will win this battle too," he said, adding, "I am happy that the Supreme Court has given importance to the points raised by the Congress and other opposition parties."

He accused the BJP and the central government of misleading people on the issue of Waqf. "Especially the issue of 'Waqf by user' has been deliberately brought up by the government to put Waqf properties into dispute," he alleged.

APPOINTMENTS

INFANT JESUS HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL OF SCIENCE

Colva, Salcete - Goa.

along with the  
DIOCESAN SOCIETY OF EDUCATION  
Rejoice and Thank God for  
13 fruitful years of its Apostolate of Education,  
Congratulate all the successful students for your  
excellent results at the Class XII Goa Board Exam 2025  
ADMISSIONS TO CLASS XI SCIENCE ARE OPEN  
Few Seats are available

Govt issues alert about online frauds targeting pilgrims, tourists

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre, under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, has alerted the public about online booking frauds, especially those targeting Char Dham pilgrims and tourists, across the country.

These frauds are being perpetrated through fake websites, deceptive social media pages, Facebook posts, and paid advertisements on search engines such as Google, the home ministry said in a statement.

The scams involve the creation of profession-

al-looking but fake websites and social media profiles and WhatsApp accounts offering various services.

These include helicopter bookings for Kedarnath, guest house and hotel bookings for Char Dham pilgrims, online cab or taxi reservation, holiday pack-

ages and religious tours, according to the statement.

Unsuspecting individuals, upon making payments through these portals, often realise they have been duped when no confirmation or service is received and the contact numbers become unreachable.