



**Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh during the CII Annual General Meeting & Business Summit 2025, in New Delhi**



**Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission Arvind Panagariya being welcomed by officials upon his arrival in Deoghar, Jharkhand**



**Members of Kannada Raksha Vedithe stage a protest against actor Kamal Haasan for his remarks on the Kannada language, in Bengaluru**



**Reliance Jio Chairman Akash Ambani offers prayers at Maa Kamakhya Temple, in Guwahati, Assam**

# Differences deepen between Congress and Tharoor

**MP hits out at critics who called him BJP's 'super spokesperson'**

PTI, NEW DELHI: Tensions between the Congress and its leader **Shashi Tharoor** escalated on Thursday with the party saying he was very much part of their family but had erred in claiming that surgical strikes against Pakistan were held for the first time in 2016.

Tharoor, who is heading a multi-party delegation to five countries, including Panama and the US, had a ready riposte for the jibes by some of his party colleagues.

For "zealots" fulminating about his supposed ignorance of Indian valour across the LoC, he was "clearly and explicitly" speaking only about reprisals for terrorist attacks and not about previous wars, the Thiruvananthapuram MP said in a post on X from Panama City on Thursday morning. Critics and trolls were welcome to distort his views and words as they see fit but he genuinely has "better things to do", he said.

Trying to pacify frayed



tempers, Congress general secretary **Randeep Surjewala** said there is no acrimony among leaders of the party.

"Shashi Tharoor is a senior Congress leader and very much part of the Congress family. However, what he said about the surgical strike was factually incorrect," Surjewala told reporters.

"The Congress party only corrected the record by pointing out that the surgical strike on Pakistan and also at other places on

the den of terrorists were regularly executed during Congress-led UPA government to give a befitting reply to terrorists by our armed forces and the then Congress Government," he added when questioned on the war of words between some Congress leaders and Tharoor.

Instances of surgical strikes during the Congress-led UPA government have been detailed in the past by the AICC Communication department and by Tharoor himself in his

2018 book "The Paradoxical Prime Minister", the Congress leader said.

"Even former prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh in the past spoke about these surgical strikes. Mr Jairam Ramesh and Pawan Khera have set the record straight. It should not be matter of any acrimony or doubt," Surjewala said.

Tharoor has come under stringent criticism by several Congress leaders, including media and publicity department head Pawan Khera and party leader

Udit Raj, for not mentioning surgical strikes against Pakistan during the UPA government in his presentations abroad.

Udit Raj said he should be made a "super spokesperson of the BJP".

The Congress' digs continued on Thursday with Raj saying what the Kerala MP had said was a "lie and a conspiracy to destroy the Congress".

"The delegations which have been sent are trying to destroy the name of the Congress... Shashi Tharoor says that before PM Modi's leadership, we never crossed LoC or any international border with Pakistan. It is a big lie and a big conspiracy to destroy the history of the Congress which needs to be replied to," Raj told PTI Videos.

"He should focus on his duty rather than criticising the Congress party... Congress took required measures in the past but never publicised it or used it as a medium of collecting votes in their favour," he said.

## Three judges appointed to Supreme Court

PTI, NEW DELHI: Three judges were appointed to the Supreme Court on Thursday.

The Supreme Court Collegium on Monday recommended the appointment of Karnataka High Court Chief Justice N V Anjaria, Gauhati High Court Chief Justice Vijay Bishnoi, and Bombay High Court's Justice A S Chandurkar as judges of the top court.

Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal announced their appointment on X.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by the Constitution of India, the President, after consultation with Chief Justice of India, is pleased to appoint Justices (i) N.V. Anjaria, Chief Justice, High Court of Karnataka, (ii) Vijay Bishnoi, Chief Justice, High Court of Gauhati and (iii) A.S. Chandurkar, Judge, High Court of Bombay as Judges of the Supreme Court of India," he said.

Their names were recommended against the three existing vacancies of judges in the top court following the superannuation of ex-chief justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, and Justices Abhay S Oka and Hrishikesh Roy.

## alloverindia



Bollywood actor and singer **Shibani Dandekar** attends the 8th Annual Talentrack Awards function in Mumbai

## Sharpshooter of Lawrence Bishnoi gang killed in police encounter in UP's Hapur

**HAPUR/LUCKNOW:** A joint team of Uttar Pradesh Police's Special Task Force (STF) and Delhi Police gunned down a sharpshooter of the notorious Lawrence Bishnoi gang in an encounter in the Hapur Kotwali area, officials said on Thursday. The deceased has been identified as Naveen Kumar, who was wanted in multiple cases, including for murder and under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), a senior police officer said. ADGP (STF) Amitabh Yash said in a statement that on Wednesday night, a joint team of STF's Noida unit and Delhi Police's Special Cell engaged in a gunfight with criminals in the Hapur Kotwali area, in which Kumar was seriously injured.

## Two killed as car being driven by teenager hits bicycle

**NEW DELHI:** Two persons were killed after a speeding car being driven by a teenager hit a bicycle before crashing into a roadside jhuggi in west Delhi's Janakpuri area in the early hours of Thursday, police said. Two persons were also injured in the incident. A PCR call about the accident was received at Janakpuri police station around 3:30 am. A PCR team and the local police reached the spot and rushed the injured to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared two of them brought dead, officials said. Two of the injured are undergoing treatment. The identities of the deceased and injured are yet to be ascertained, they said.

## Three cross-border drug smugglers arrested in Amritsar

**CHANDIGARH:** Three drug traffickers linked to cross-border smuggling have been arrested from Amritsar by the Punjab Police's Anti-Narcotics Task Force, a senior official said on Wednesday. The arrested accused have been identified as Maninderjit Singh (26), a resident of Badowal village in Gurdaspur; Peter (22) and Lovejit Singh alias Raja (21), residents of Dharamkot Randhawa in Gurdaspur. Around 521 grams of heroin, four sophisticated pistols, seven magazines and 55 live cartridges were recovered from them, the official said. The police have also impounded two motorcycles, which they were using to deliver consignments.

## Schools to be shut across Mizoram on Thursday due to rain forecast

**AIZAWL:** Schools will be closed across Mizoram on Thursday due to predictions of heavy rain, accompanied by thunderstorms and gusty winds. A directive was issued on this following consultation with the state disaster management and rehabilitation department, according to a notification by the state's school education department late Wednesday said. As per the weather forecast and warnings issued by Mizoram disaster management and rehabilitation department and IMD's regional meteorological centre in Guwahati and Aizawl, there is the likelihood of heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms and gusty winds on Thursday, the notification said.

## Two held for pelting stones at trains near Mathura, search on for third accomplice

**MATHURA:** Two persons, including a minor, were apprehended on Wednesday for allegedly pelting stones at multiple trains shortly after they departed from Mathura Junction on Tuesday night, an official said. According to Railway Protection Force police station in-charge Avadhesh Goswami, the railway control room alerted security personnel late on Tuesday night after receiving complaints from passengers aboard Kota-Patna Express, Hazrat Nizamuddin-Huzur Sahib Nanded Express, and the Duroto Express - all of which were targeted after leaving Mathura Junction for Agra.

## Man beheaded on suspicion of sorcery in Odisha's Kalahandi

**BHAWANIPATNA:** A 65-year-old man was allegedly beheaded on suspicion of practising sorcery in Odisha's Kalahandi district, police said on Thursday. The headless body of the victim, identified as Rupsingh Majhi of Deypur village under Kalampur police limits, was recovered from a village pond. According to police, Rupsingh was allegedly killed on May 18 night. His decapitated body was found in Baijhal Sagar, a large pond in the village, while a search is still underway for the missing head. Rupsingh's brother Durjan Majhi lodged a missing complaint in Kalampur police station on May 20, after the elderly man failed to return home for two days.

## Centre sanctions 581 CAPF companies for Amarnath Yatra

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Centre has ordered deployment of a total 581 companies, comprising about 42,000 on-ground personnel, of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) for the annual Amarnath Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir, official sources said on Thursday.

While 424 companies are being sent to the Union Territory (UT), the rest, including about 80 companies that moved to the UT during Operation Sindoor, will be "relocated" to secure the yatra route, the pilgrims and other areas, including Srinagar, they said.

The Union home ministry, officials told PTI, has directed that these forces move "immediately" and take position in Jammu and Kashmir by the second week of June.

The Amarnath Yatra will begin on July 3 and end on August 9. The security deployment plan for the pilgrimage is being prepared keeping in mind the challenges emerging from the April 22 Pahalgam terrorist attack in which 26 persons, mostly tourists, were killed, they said.

"The Union home ministry has decided to deploy a total of 581 CAPF companies for the Amarnath Yatra this time. This includes about 150-160 units already present in the UT,"

a senior officer said. The companies are drawn from five CAPFs of CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP and SSB. Each of these companies have an operational strength of about 70-75 personnel, he said.

The maximum units out of the 581 are drawn from the Central Reserve Police Force (219 companies), Border Security Force (9143), Sashastra Seema Bal (97), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (62) and Central Industrial Security Force (60), the officer said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will also review the security arrangements during his proposed visit to Jammu on Thursday.

CRPF Director General (DG) Gyanendra Pratap Singh had reviewed the preparations for the Amarnath Yatra over the week when he was in Kashmir.

BSF DG Daljit Singh Chawdhary too is expected to hold a review of border security and the yatra in Srinagar.

The 38-day yatra leads to the 3,880-metre-high holy cave housing a naturally formed ice-shivling.

The yatra is conducted via two routes -- the traditional 48-km route from Pahalgam in the Anantnag district and the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in the Ganderbal district. The pilgrims can choose any of these routes.

## NO TAKING CHANCES



Women work in a paddy field in West Bengal as harvesting is carried out early expecting heavy rainfall due to a depression over the Bay of Bengal, in Nadia district

## Kerala govt declares shipwreck off the state coast a disaster

PTI, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The Kerala government on Thursday declared the wreckage of a cargo ship flying the Liberian flag off the state's coast a state-specific disaster.

The vessel, MSC ELSA-3, carrying more than 643 containers, including hazardous cargo, sank about 14.6 nautical miles from the coast near Thottappalli in Alappuzha district on May 25, raising environmental concerns.



A worker shows plastic pellets washed ashore along with a container, following the recent sinking of a Liberian-flagged container ship

In an official order, the state government said the maritime incident has raised serious environ-

mental concerns, including the potential for oil spills and drifting debris, such as cargo, along Kerala's coastline.

"Considering the potentially serious environmental, social, and economic impact of the ship wreckage, Government hereby declare the wreckage of ship M/s ELSA 3 in the Arabian sea 14.6 nautical miles off the Kerala coast as a State-Specific disaster," the order said.

## Fee like row: Delhi HC seeks edu dept's response on Dwarka's plea challenging order to reinstate students

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Thursday sought response of the Directorate of Education on a plea by Delhi Public School, Dwarka, challenging a DoE's order directing the institution to reinstate the 31 students who were expelled for non-payment of hiked fees.

Justice Vikas Mahajan issued notice to the Delhi government's Directorate of Education (DoE) on the school's petition and asked it to file its reply within six weeks.

The court listed the matter for further hearing on August 28, when another petition by over 100 parents seeking protection of their children amid the ongoing fee hike issue was also fixed.

During the hearing, the counsel for the school urged the court to stay the DoE's May 15 order directing the school to withdraw the strike off orders issued on May 9 and reinstate the fee defaulter students on the school rolls.

The court also issued notice on a plea by several

parents seeking to be implemented and heard in the case.

The school claimed that the DoE's order was ex-facie arbitrary and contrary to the law and that it failed to provide any cogent reasons for the school to reinstate the names of the fee defaulter students.

It said the order was against the provisions of the Delhi School Education Act and Rules, 1973, which empowered the head of the school to strike off the names on account of non-payment

of fees.

The high court recently directed that parents, embroiled in fee dispute with DPS Dwarka, to deposit 50 per cent of the hiked fees for academic year 2025-26 following which their wards will be allowed to continue their studies in the classes.

The court clarified that the rebate of 50 per cent is on the hiked component of the fee and the base fee should be paid in full.

The interim order was passed on a petition by 102 parents seeking pro-

tection of their children amid the ongoing fee hike issue at DPS Dwarka and sought its takeover by the government and lieutenant governor in the capital.

The high court said the interim relief sought by the petitioners in this case with regard to academic year 2025-26 does not persuade it as nothing has been placed on record to show that the DoE has rejected the fixation of fee by the school for the academic session 2024-25 onwards.

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