

**MUSTREAD**

**Five minors booked for sexually assaulting eight-year-old boy**

New Delhi: An eight-year-old boy was allegedly sexually assaulted by minors in outer Delhi's Narela. As per the Delhi police, a PCR call was received on February 16, which alleged the commission of gang rape with a boy. After the inquiry, it was found that children aged (10 to 15) committed unnatural sex with a boy (8 years old) who resides near Dalmil Kurali of Narela in Delhi. As per the input, the incident took place on February 11 at the residence of one CCL (Child in Conflict with Law). The mother of the eight-year-old victim filed the complaint in the police station against the accused. The mother of the victim alleged that when she went somewhere, the accused, five boys, aged between 10 and 15, living in their neighbourhood, assaulted her son.

**Body of girl recovered in Prayagraj**

Prayagraj: The body of a girl who had come to take a bath in Maha Kumbh was found in the bathroom in the Jhansi area of Prayagraj district here in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday, police sources said. Police sources said that a youth and a girl from Delhi, claiming to be husband and wife, had rented a room to spend the night in the Azadnagar area under the Jhansi area police station on Tuesday night. "There were other tenants in that house, and the bathroom was common," they said. Police sources said that on Wednesday morning when other tenants went to the bathroom, they recovered the body of the girl. The youth who had come with the girl had fled the same night after seeing the opportunity.

**HC adjourns hearing on Ekta Kapoor's petition to Sept 16**

Phagwara: The Punjab and Haryana High Court has adjourned hearing on a petition filed by film and television producer-director Ekta Kapoor concerning an over 11-year-old case registered against her in Jalandhar district for allegedly hurting the religious sentiments of the Valmiki community. The petition was listed before a bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Berry on Tuesday. The court adjourned the case to September 16. The case was registered by the police on August 16, 2013, and the petition was filed the next year. Kapoor, her mother Shobha Kapoor and four members of her production team involved with the serial Pavitra Rishta, and the Zee TV owner had been booked by the Nakodar police station in 2013 for allegedly committing an offence under section 295-A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) that deals with hurting of religious sentiments.

**Perpetrators caught: Punjab DGP on recent cases of alleged blasts**

Chandigarh: Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav has informed that the perpetrators behind the recent cases of alleged blasts in the border state have been arrested. On the recent cases of alleged blasts in Punjab, DGP Gaurav Yadav said, "All the so-called grenade blasts, there have been 12 such cases, and all of them have been traced. In all the cases, we have caught the perpetrators." He was speaking to reporters at a press conference on Wednesday. DGP Gaurav Yadav warned that "black sheep" in the police force are not going to be tolerated. DGP Yadav said, the police authorities in Punjab are undertaking an exercise to identify instances where police officers have been booked into FIRs, or there are allegations of misconduct against them.

**Man injured after fire breaks out at firecracker factory**

Virudhunagar (Tamil Nadu): A person suffered severe burn injuries after an explosion took place at a firecracker manufacturing factory near Sivakasi area in Tamil Nadu's Virudhunagar district on Wednesday. The injured, identified as Balpandi (31) sustained 20 per cent burn injuries and was admitted to the hospital for treatment, said officials from the fire and rescue department. The reason for the fire is yet to be ascertained. Further details on the matter are awaited.

**Diya Kumari announces key infrastructure, irrigation, and governance reforms**

Agencies, Jaipur

Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Diya Kumari on Wednesday presented the state's Budget 2025 in the Assembly, making several major announcements across various sectors.

**Rajasthan Budget**

In the irrigation sector, Diya Kumari announced that 4 lakh farmers would benefit from new initiatives. The state has already commenced work worth Rs9,400 crore under the Ram Jal Setu Link Project (PK-ERCPC), while tenders worth Rs12,400 crore have been finalized, and approvals for projects worth Rs12,807 crore have been granted.

Under this scheme, additional work worth Rs9,300 crore will be un-



dertaken. The government also announced the establishment of the Rajasthan Water Grid Corporation by upgrading the ERCPC Corporation, which will oversee Rs4,000 crore worth of projects.

Furthermore, Rs1,250 crore will be spent on drip and sprinkler irrigation systems covering 3.5 lakh

hectares, while 50,000 new ponds will be constructed. A subsidy of Rs900 crore has been allocated for a 20,000 km irrigation pipeline project.

In the power sector, the Deputy CM announced that 5 lakh new domestic household electricity connections and 5,000 new agriculture-related connections would be provided.

On the infrastructure front, she declared the removal of the Bus Rapid Transit Service (BRTS) from Jaipur and the construction of nine new greenfield expressways. Additionally, ring roads will be developed in 15 cities. The Minister also announced the recruitment of 1050 new technical positions.

For governance reforms, the government will set up Jan Sunwai Kendras in every assembly constituency to address public griev-

ances.

Atal Gyan Kendras will be established in panchayats, starting with those with a population of over 3,000. A new Ambedkar Institute of Constitutional Studies and Research will be set up under Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Law University. MLA Jan Sunwai Kendra will be established in every Vidhan Sabha with Rs 10 lakh to solve the problems of the public. Also, each MLA will be provided with a laptop.

The budget also included provisions for Agniveers, who will receive reservations in police, jail, forest, and fire services. Additionally, Rs1,000 crores have been allocated for the development of eight new districts. The salaries of representatives in panchayati raj institutions and urban local bodies will be increased by 10%.

**Gujarat Congress MLAs protest against deportation of Indian immigrants from US**



Agencies, Gandhinagar (Gujarat) Gujarat Congress MLAs on Wednesday protested outside the State Assembly in Gandhinagar, against the deportation of illegal Indian immigrants from the US while being

handcuffed and shackled. Gujarat Congress MLAs gathered outside the State Assembly in Gandhinagar and shouted slogans like "Bharatiya ka ye apman nahi sahega Hindustan" (India will not tolerate

this disrespect against the Indians).

Recently, three illegal Indian immigrants belonging to Gujarat, who were deported from the US, were brought to Ahmedabad on Monday.

The third batch of 112 illegal deportees landed at Amritsar Airport on Sunday after US President Donald Trump's inauguration. On February 5, a US Air Force plane carrying the first batch of Indian citizens, who had allegedly migrated to the US illegally, arrived in Amritsar, Punjab.

Earlier on Saturday, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann assured that the deportees would be treated properly and that all arrangements had been made. The Chief Minister said the deportees would stay in Amritsar for a few hours before being taken to their respective states.

**MID-Career Interaction Program at College of Air Warfare concludes**

Hyderabad: The three-day Mid-Career Interaction Programme (MCIP) concluded at the College of Air Warfare (CAW) here on Wednesday.

The interaction was themed at 'Space as a New Frontier for National Security and Development' and was attended by 15 officers from Indian Armed Forces and 10 from civil services, a Defence release said here.

The Government and Military level interactive programme was aimed to enhance understanding of space as a critical domain in the nation's Aerospace development programs.

In consonance with the objective of the programme, speakers of national & international repute addressed the participants and covered various important topics including operational, technical and legal issues related to space domain.

**Suvendu accuses Mamata of giving "veiled threat" to him**

Kolkata (UNI)

Leader of the Opposition and BJP legislator Suvendu Adhikari on Wednesday accused West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of issuing him a "veiled threat" and called it a "sinister conspiracy" to "threaten" his safety and security.

Adhikari, who took to his X handle, however, said such "intimidation tactics" would not "bear any fruit".

Adhikari, along with three other BJP MLAs, was slapped with a month-long suspension from the House on Monday for creating a ruckus and tearing off business papers before throwing them at Speaker Biman Banerjee.

Adhikari and other BJP MLAs had then accused the Banerjee government of working against the interests of the majority of people in the state and resorting to appeasement poli-



tics.

On Tuesday, while replying to the debate on the Governor's Address, Banerjee, without naming Adhikari, said: "Before you say anything against someone, you should remember the public will teach you a

lesson if you utter nonsense, we won't have to do anything."

"... You are saying such indecent words about a religion, saying slanderous things, spreading propaganda, if they give the call for an agitation, will you be able to hold on to yourself?" Banerjee had wondered. Posting an 18-second clip of this portion of Banerjee's speech on his social media handle, Adhikari wrote: "The veiled threat that you made yesterday (Tuesday) on the floor of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, is nothing but a sinister conspiracy to threaten my safety and security." "While you were making nasty insinuations regarding me, without naming me, everyone could comprehend that I was the target of your diatribe, "If you think that you can scare me by saying that, "You have been saying such obscene words, slanderous words and spreading propaganda regarding 'one' (particular) religion, will you be able to get hold of yourself and handle yourself, if they decide to revolt one day", then let me assure you that, you are living in a fool's paradise," the Nandigram MLA wrote in the strongly-worded post.

**Hold deliberation on growing drug menace**

Pass resolution of death penalty to drug mafia in J&K: Team Jammu to legislators



Jammu (UNI)

In a fervent appeal to all the elected Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) to cut their party lines and unanimously hold deliberation on increasing drug menace and number of unreported deaths of youth due to suspected drug overdose in Jammu and Kashmir, Chairman, Team Jam-

mu, Zorawar Singh Jamwal on Wednesday demanded death penalty for those who are proved guilty for smuggling and selling Narcotics and ruining lives of future generation.

Addressing a presser here at Press Club of Jammu, Team Jammu chief flanked members Dr Ashish Gupta and Rajesh Kapoor voiced concern

over increasing drug menace and despite the number of initiatives taken by Jammu and Kashmir Police and other allied agencies.

Jamwal however, urged the Jammu and Kashmir administration to fulfil its commitment of dealing drug peddlers with iron hands.

The Team Jammu chairman observed that ahead of the upcoming Assembly Budget Session in Jammu and Kashmir, a fierce debate is unfolding over the proposed liquor ban.

Several MLAs from the PDP and National Conference are preparing to introduce a private member's bill advocating for a state-wide prohibition on liquor, he noted.

However, Team Jammu has also raised serious concerns about the government's stance on the rising drug abuse in Jammu.

**TPCC slams BJP's hypocrisy**

Over govt order allowing Muslim staff to leave early during Ramzan

Hyderabad (UNI) Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Official Spokesperson Syed Nizamuddin on Wednesday tore into the BJP's selective outrage over the order of the state government allowing its employees to leave at 4 pm during Ramzan, calling it a classic case of hypocrisy and communal opportunism.

Addressing a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan here, Nizamuddin exposed the BJP's double standards, pointing out that the same party, which is part of the ruling alliance in Andhra Pradesh, had no objections when a similar order was issued there.

Both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh governments have permitted their Muslim employees to leave office at 4 pm during the month of holy Ramzan.



"The BJP's hypocrisy knows no bounds. In Andhra Pradesh, they sit quietly in the ruling alliance while the same Ramzan order is issued. But in Telangana, they scream 'appeasement'. Why is BJP MLA Raja Singh silent there? Why isn't BJP's IT Cell head Amit Malviya attacking the Andhra government? Because BJP doesn't care about governance or consistency - it thrives on spreading communal poison wherever it suits its political agenda," he said.

**Odisha CM assures Nepal counselors of justice in the death of Nepali student**

Bhubaneswar (UNI)

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Wednesday assured that justice would be served in the case of a Nepali girl student from KIIT University, Parkruti, who committed suicide on February 15, triggering unrest in the institution.

Majhi made this assurance while speaking to Nepali counselors Sanjeeb Das Sharma and Navin Raj Adhikari, who were deputed by the Nepalese Prime Minister to assess the safety of Nepali students at the University.

The Chief Minister also assured them that peace and normalcy would be restored on the KIIT campus and urged Nepali students to return and resume their studies.

According to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), Majhi held discus-

sions with the two officials from the Nepalese Embassy at the State Guest House today.

Odisha Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling, Higher Education Minister Suryabanshi Suraj, and Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja were also present at the meeting, which focused on restoring normalcy at KIIT.

Additionally, Nepal's Foreign Minister, Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba, spoke with Suryabanshi Suraj over the phone on Wednesday regarding the matter.

Meanwhile, a high-level, three-member fact-finding team, led by Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Satyabrata Sahu, visited KIIT University and held discussions with university authorities and Nepali students.

Sahu informed reporters that the



team would submit a detailed report on the death of the Nepali student and the incidents that followed.

On Tuesday, Commissionerate Police arrested three directors of KIIT University and two security guards in connection with the unrest following the student's suicide.

The arrested officials include KIIT

University's HR Director Sibananda Mishra, Director of Administration Pratap Champati, and Director of Hostels Sudhir Rath.

Additionally, two security guards, Ramakanta Nayak and Jyendra Behera, were arrested for allegedly assaulting Nepali students protesting the death of their fellow student.

All five were produced before a local court, which granted them bail.

On Monday, KIIT authorities had asked all Nepali students agitating over the death of their fellow student to vacate the hostel and return to Nepal.

However, this decision was later withdrawn following mounting pressure and intervention from Nepalese Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and the Odisha state government.

**Pandemonium in Odisha Assembly, House adjourned for day without much business**

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha Assembly witnessed chaos as Opposition BJD and Congress members disrupted proceedings, forcing Speaker Surama Padhi to adjourn the house thrice during the day, eventually adjourning it for the day without transacting much business.

The house was first adjourned at 10:31 AM, just a minute after it convened for the day to take up the Question Hour, until 4 PM without transacting any business.

This came as BJD and Congress members stormed into the well of the house, shouting slogans against the government.