

# Ensure innocents, individuals from backward communities not named in history sheet: SC

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the police in states and Union Territories to ensure that innocents and individuals from backward communities are not named in a history sheet.



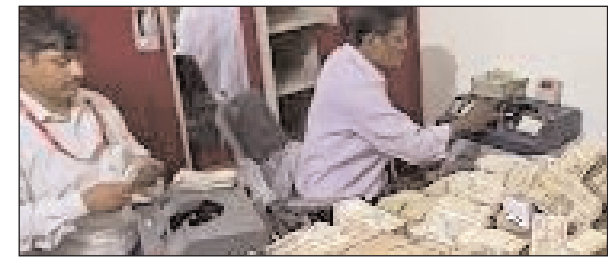
Initiating suo motu action, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and K V Viswanathan said there are some studies available in the public domain that reveal a pattern of "unfair, prejudicial and atrocious" mindset. Police authorities in states and Union Territories should ensure that no mechanical entries in a history sheet are made of innocent individuals belonging to socially, economically and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds along with backward communities, scheduled castes or scheduled tribes, the apex court said. The top court said a history sheet is an internal public document and not a publicly accessible report. Extra care and precaution should be observed by police officers while ensuring that the identity of a minor is not disclosed as provided by law in a history sheet, it said. "It is alleged that police diaries are maintained selectively of individuals belonging to Vimukta Jatis, based solely on caste bias, a somewhat similar manner as hap-

pened in colonial times," the court observed. "All the state governments are therefore expected to take necessary preventive measures to safeguard such communities from being subjected to inexcusable targeting or prejudicial treatment. "We must bear in mind that these pre-conceived notions often render them 'invisible victims' due to prevailing stereotypes associated with their communities, which may often impede their right to live a life with self-respect," the bench said. The top court said a periodical audit mechanism will serve as a critical tool to review and scrutinise entries made in a history sheet. Through the effective implementation of audits, we can secure the elimination of such deprecated practices and kindle the legitimate hope that the right to live with human dig-

secretary and director general of police of all states and Union Territories to enable them to consider and comply with what has been held above, as early as possible but not later than six months. The top court's observations came in a judgement on a plea of AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan challenging the Delhi Police's decision to declare him as a "bad character". The apex court said the decision taken by the Delhi police that the History Sheet is only an internal police document and it shall not be brought into the public domain, largely addressing the concern. "Secondly, the extra care and precaution, to be now observed by a police officer while ensuring that the identity of a minor child is not disclosed as per the law too, is a necessary step to redress the appellant's grievances. It will surely prevent the undesirable exposure that has been given to the minor children in this case," it said. "We also direct the commissioner of Delhi Police to designate a senior police officer in the rank of joint commissioner who shall periodically audit the review of the contents of the history sheets and will ensure confidentiality and a leeway to delete the names of such persons of juvenile children

# Jharkhand cash haul: ED arrests minister's secretary, latter's domestic help

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RANCHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested Jharkhand minister Alamgir Alam's personal secretary Sanjiv Lal and the latter's domestic help on Tuesday following a recovery of more than Rs 32 crore in cash from a flat linked to them, official sources said.



The duo were taken into custody under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) following their overnight questioning, the sources said. They said the two did not cooperate in the investigation and were "evasive" to the questions asked by the ED officials. As part of a money-laundering investigation into alleged irregularities in the state rural development department, the ED on Monday raided a two-bedroom flat in Ranchi that was allegedly occupied by Lal's domestic help, Jehangir Alam. The agency unearthed more than Rs 32 crore in cash from the flat located at the Gadikhana chowk, apart from Rs 3 crore from some other premises that were searched. The total cash recovery stands at Rs 35.23 crore, the sources said. Jharkhand Rural Development Minister Alam (of the Congress) has denied any wrongdoing on his part. Prime Minister Narendra Modi mentioned the cash haul at his poll rallies in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha on

Monday, saying "mounts of cash" were seized by the ED in Jharkhand, and wondered why such people are "close to the Congress's first family". "They have made the worker's house a godown of corruption. This is not the first time as a bigger seizure was made from an MP (in Jharkhand) earlier also and it was such a big cache that even machines were tired of counting," Modi said at Vemagiri in Andhra Pradesh. The Congress and other opposition parties have accused the BJP-led Centre of misusing agencies like the ED to target their leaders. The federal agency also seized from the flat an official communication from May 2023 written by the Ranchi unit of the ED to the Jharkhand chief secretary seeking an independent probe and the registration of an FIR into the "revelations" of alleged bribes taken from contractors who worked for the state rural development department. These purported disclosures were made by former chief engineer of the rural works department Veerendra Kumar Ram, who was arrested by the ED in the case last year. Some recommendation letters written by MLAs and other high-profile people to Alam for favourable transfers and postings of state government officials have also been found from the said premises, the sources said. The searches in which this huge cash recovery was made were linked to a money-laundering case against Ram. "Veerendra Kumar Ram, posted as chief engineer in the Rural Works Department in Ranchi, had generated proceeds of crime in the name of commission from contractors in lieu of allotment of tenders to them," the agency had alleged in a statement in April last year, after it attached the officer's assets worth Rs 39 crore. "The proceeds of crime thus generated were used by Veerendra Kumar Ram and his family members to live a very lavish lifestyle," it said. The money-laundering case against Ram stems from a complaint filed by the Jharkhand Anti-Corruption Bureau.

# NMC demands release of DA

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Expressing deep concern over incessant delay in releasing DA installment, President of National Mazdoor Conference (NMC) Subash Shastri on Tuesday appealed the Lieutenant Governor and Chief Secretary of JKUT to release pending installment of 4% DA due from January this year in favour of JKUT employees and pensioners as approval regarding this is given by Election Commission of India. Addressing a meeting of NMC activists, Shastri said "We demand release of 4 per cent DA in favour of JKUT employees and

pensioners. DA is the part of salary and routine financial matter and as such there should be no hitch in releasing it." He also demanded exemption of DA from ambit of Income Tax as it is linked with price index and setting up of 8th pay Commission beside restoring of Old Pension Scheme. Shastri further demanded separate wage head for regularly disbursement of monthly salary of daily rated workers till their regularization, enhancement of their wages to Rs 600 per day, regularizing their services under SRO 64, setting up Labour Welfare Board, implement-

# Firing outside Salman Khan's home: Lawrence Bishnoi gang member held for funding shooters

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
MUMBAI: The Mumbai crime branch has arrested a member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang from Rajasthan for allegedly providing financial help to the shooters involved in firing outside Bollywood superstar Salman Khan's house, officials said on Tuesday. The accused has been identified as Mohammed Rafique Chowdhary (37), an official said. He is the fifth person to be arrested in the firing case. Two motorcycle-borne persons opened fire outside Khan's residence at



the Galaxy Apartment in Mumbai's Bandra area on April 14 and fled from the spot. The official said Chowdhary's role had come to light during the interrogation of the persons arrested in the case. He is a member of the

Lawrence Bishnoi gang, and was in direct contact with the alleged shooters - Sagar Pal and Vicky Gupta, the official said. Chowdhary allegedly provided financial support to Pal and Gupta to purchase a motorcycle and rent a house, he said. He also conducted a recon around Khan's residence more than five times, the official said. Before the firing incident, Chowdhary went to Panvel in neighbouring Navi Mumbai and stayed with Pal and Gupta, he said. Chowdhary provided all the logistical support to the accused persons since the conspiracy of firing was hatched, the official said. After a specific information received about Chowdhary's whereabouts, a crime branch team was sent to Rajasthan and he was apprehended from Nagaur district, he said. The Mumbai police have so far arrested five persons in connection with the case of firing outside Khan's residence. One of the arrested persons, Anuj Thapan, who was accused of supplying weapons to the shooters, allegedly hanged himself in a police lock-up here on May 1. Lawrence Bishnoi, currently lodged in the Sabarmati central prison in Gujarat's Ahmedabad, and his younger brother Anmol Bishnoi, who is believed to be in the US or Canada, have been named in the firing case.

# PNB MetLife Champions Insurance Awareness in J&K

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: PNB MetLife is driving insurance awareness initiatives in Jammu & Kashmir in collaboration with the State Government and regulator. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) appointed PNB MetLife as the lead insurer for the region's State Insurance Plan. Supporting IRDAI's vision of 'Insurance for All by 2047', PNB MetLife is executing a diverse range of insurance awareness initiatives across Srinagar, Jammu, Shopian, Sopore, Anantnag, Poonch, Rajouri, Pulwama, Kupwara, Handwara, and Baramulla. Over the past two fiscal years (FY2022-23 and FY2023-24), PNB MetLife has organized a total of 110



service camps and served 950 customers across 11 cities, reaching a total of 35 different locations. In March, a specially branded van known as the 'Bima Rath' covered a total distance of over 600 km in 15 days. It reached over 2.5 Lakh people, conducting proactive awareness drives and fostering meaningful interactions within the local community. This approach ensured that PNB MetLife's insurance awareness initiatives reached the last mile, connecting with diverse individuals and communities. PNB MetLife also created 277 strategically positioned murals in the J&K state, to help raise awareness at the grassroots. These initiatives aimed to capture individuals from all walks of life and illustrate how life insurance can offer invaluable financial security. Newspaper ads further underscored the significance of securing one's

future through life insurance, while targeted digital marketing campaigns on social media platforms and other online channels garnered over 2.7 crore impressions and around 54 lakh engagements across digital platforms. Sameer Bansal, Chief Distribution Officer, PNB MetLife, emphasized, "PNB MetLife's ongoing insurance awareness initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir state reflect our unwavering commitment to fostering financial resilience and empowerment within the community. We are delighted to report the successful outreach to a significant number of customers and regions, a testament to our dedication to bridging the financial literacy gap in the region."

# Five drug peddlers arrested from Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand; heroin worth over Rs 5 crore seized

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police has arrested five people and seized heroin worth over Rs 5 crore in the international market, officials said in a press conference on Tuesday. According to the police, the crime branch arrested the accused from Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand and recovered a total of 2.26 kg heroin, 1.05 kg crude (heroin) and other drugs from them. The police identified the accused as Mohammad Atif, Ashraf, Arif Ali, Rukhsar, and Mohammad Mukhtar Ansari. "We received information that a drug peddler, Atif would come near the Chhatta Rail Chowk

Flyover area to deliver a huge quantity of drugs. A

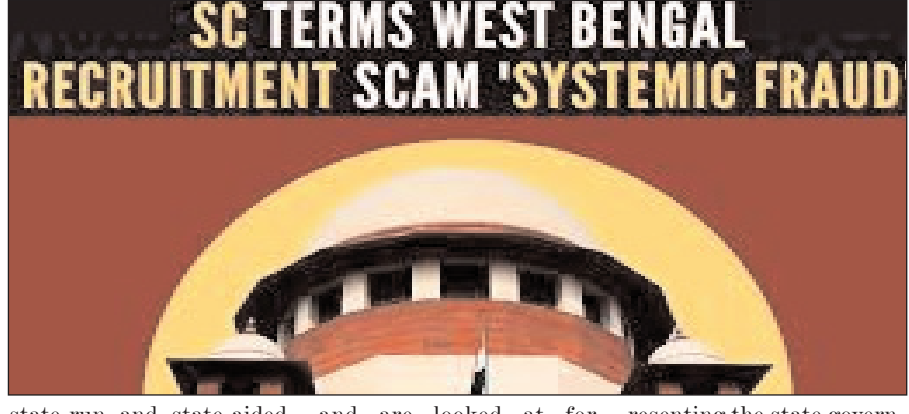


trap was laid and Atif was arrested with 1 kg heroin in February," Deputy Commissioner of Police (crime) Amit Goel said. Police said that he disclosed that the recovered contraband was given to him by Ashraf of Bareilly for delivery to a receiver at Anaj Mandi in the

Narela area. Police formed teams and raids were conducted at the hideouts of Ashraf in Bareilly. On February 5, he was arrested from a hospital and recovered 490 grams of heroin, they said. "He further named Arif and Rukhsar, both of Bareilly. On March 23, during the investigation, Arif Ali was arrested from his rented house and 202 grams of heroin and 201 grams of mixed solid substance were recovered from his house," they said. "Rukhsar was arrested on April 12 from Lucknow and 200 grams of heroin and 1 kg mixing substance, 500-gram dye or mixing colour, 45 kg soda and apparatus used to prepare heroin from crude raw material were recovered from his house," said the DCP, adding that Ansari was later arrested from Hazaribagh. Further investigation into the matter is underway and other accused will be arrested soon, police said.

# SC terms WB recruitment scam 'systemic fraud', says state was duty-bound to maintain records

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Terming the alleged recruitment scam in West Bengal "systemic fraud", the Supreme Court on Tuesday said authorities were duty-bound to maintain the digitised records pertaining to the appointment of 25,753 teachers and non-teaching staff. A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra was hearing a batch of petitions challenging the Calcutta High Court's April 22 decision that invalidated the appointment of 25,753 teachers and non-teaching staff in



state-run and state-aided schools of West Bengal. "The public job is so scarce.... Nothing remains if the faith of the public goes. This is systemic fraud. Public jobs are extremely scarce today and are looked at for social mobility. What remains in the system if their appointments are also maligned? People will lose faith, how do you countenance this?" the CJI asked the lawyers representing the state government. The bench said the state government has nothing to show that the data was maintained by its authorities and asked about its availability.

"Either you have the data or you do not have it.... You were duty-bound to maintain the documents in digitised form. Now, it is obvious that there is no data. You are unaware of the fact that your service provider has engaged another agency. You had to maintain supervisory control," the bench told the state government's lawyers. The hearing would resume at 2 pm. Earlier, the state government had challenged the Calcutta High Court order, saying it cancelled the appointments "arbitrarily".

# GGM Science College organizes seminar, poster making competition

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: GGM Science College, Jammu, under the patronage of the Principal, Prof. Rajesh Kumar Gupta and guidance of Dr. Vandana Khajuria, HoD English and Convener, on Tuesday organised a seminar and poster making competition on the theme 'Impact of Fast Fashion on the Environment: Exploring Sustainable Alternatives'. The events were collaboratively organized by the Women's Studies Centre, the Literary Committee, and the PG Department of English, focusing on raising awareness and proposing solutions regarding the environmental challenges posed by the fast fashion industry. The competitions were judged by Dr. Seema Rani Minhas and Dr. Preeti Gupta. Contestants were evaluated based on their creativity, content accuracy, and presentation skills. The seminar provided a platform for an enlightening discussion on the detrimental effects of fast fashion on the environment and explored various sustainable alterna-

tives. The speakers touched on issues such as ethical fashion, recycling in textile production, and consumer responsibility in sustainability. On the other hand, the Poster Making Competition was a display of creativity and insight, with participants delivering powerful visual messages about sustainability in fashion. The events not only highlighted the talents of the students but also encouraged a more conscious approach towards fashion consumption and production. Maithly, Sumeet Kumar and Chakshu Sharma, all from Sem IV, secured first, second and third place in the Seminar, respectively, while Zaigham Salaria of Sem II bagged the first prize in the Poster Making Competition. Supriya Choudhary and Simran Jamwal, students of Sem IV, won the second and third prize, respectively. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Shalini Sharma, Prof. Akanksha Parihar and Prof. Varun Arya and adeptly conducted by Mohd. Ayoub Jan of Semester IV.