

# Nation



"No underground parking in Bengaluru's low-lying areas."

D K Shivakumar  
K'taka Dy CM

## 'No legal status for marital rape: HC'

The Delhi High Court has quashed an order directing prosecution of a man for performing "unnatural" sex with his wife.

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Saying the law doesn't recognise the concept of marital rape, the Delhi High Court has quashed an order directing prosecution of a man for performing "unnatural" sex with his wife. The court noted Section 377 of IPC penalising such acts won't apply in a marital relationship particularly when the allegation of consent was missing.

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma was dealing with the man's plea against a trial court order which directed framing of Section 377 (punishment for unnatural offences) charge against him for allegedly performing oral sex with his wife. The verdict said the law did not recognise the concept of marital rape.

"There is no basis to assume that a husband would not be protected from prosecution under Section 377 of IPC, in view of exception 2 to Section 375 of IPC since the law (amended Section 375 of IPC) now presumes implied consent for sexual intercourse as well as sexual acts, including anal or oral



The Delhi High Court.

### HIGHLIGHT

● Court held Section 377 IPC inapplicable to marital relations.

● HC said wife didn't clearly allege lack of consent.

intercourse within a marital relationship," it said. The high court noted the wife did not specifically allege if the act was performed against her will or without her consent. "The essential ingredient of lack of consent - central to constituting an offence under Section 377 of IPC post-Navtej Singh Johar (case) between any two

adults - is clearly missing. Thus, there is not only a lack of prima facie case, but even the threshold of strong suspicion is not met," the court said.

The top court in the Navtej verdict de-criminalised consensual sex among adults, including those from the same sex. "No prima facie case is made out against the petitioner for the offence under Section 377 of IPC. The impugned order directing the framing of charge is, therefore, unsustainable in law and is liable to be set aside," the court added. The court further said acts such as anal intercourse or oral sex were

included within the ambit of offence of rape under the Section 375(a) of IPC and there was no basis to assume that the petitioner would not fall within the immunity granted to husbands under the "exception" to the offence of rape. "In the context of a marital relationship, Section 377 of IPC cannot be applied to criminalise non-penile-vaginal intercourse between a husband and wife. Such an interpretation would be in line with the reasoning and observations of the Supreme Court in Navtej Singh Johar (case)," said the court in its May 13 order.

## 20-km Bharat Path

**AYODHYA:** The Uttar Pradesh government has proposed the construction of a new corridor named 'Bharat Path' in Ayodhya that will connect Bharatkund, where Lord Ram's brother Bharat is said to have performed penance, to the Ram temple. The 20-km road stretch will be developed at a cost of Rs 900 crore in the temple town, the government said in a statement on Wednesday. "In a move to further elevate Ayodhya's stature as a global religious and cultural hub, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has proposed the construction of 'Bharat Path', a new spiritual corridor that will connect Bharatkund, the sacred site of Lord Ram's devoted brother Bharat," it said.

"With an estimated cost of Rs 900 crore, the Public Works Department (PWD) has already submitted the proposal for approval. The route aims to offer devotees improved access and a deeper spiritual experience, reinforcing Ayodhya's central role in India's religious landscape," it added. Following construction of the Ram temple, there has been an unprecedented surge in the number of devotees, with lakhs of visitors from across India and abroad arriving daily to offer prayers to Ramlalla.

## BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

### Court ruling capital

## Has she committed murder? asks SC, grants anticipatory bail to ex-IAS probationer Puja Khedkar



**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted anticipatory bail to former IAS probationer Puja Khedkar, accused of cheating, and wrongly availing OBC and disability quota benefits in the civil services examination. A bench comprising Justices B V Nagarathna and Satish Chandra Sharma directed Khedkar to cooperate in the probe. "What is the grave crime she has committed? She is not a drug lord or a terrorist. She has not committed 302 (murder). She is not an NDPS offender. You should have a system or a software. You complete the investigation. She has lost everything and will not get a job anywhere," the bench observed orally. "Bearing in mind the facts and

circumstances of the case, this is a fit case where the Delhi High Court ought to have granted bail to the petitioner," the bench noted. The counsel for the Delhi Police vehemently opposed grant of anticipatory bail to Khedkar, saying she was not cooperating in the probe and allegations against her were serious. Khedkar is accused of misrepresenting information in her application for the 2022 UPSC civil services examination for availing reservation benefits. She has refuted all the allegations against her. The UPSC initiated a series of actions against Khedkar, including lodging of a criminal case, for availing attempts in the civil services exam by faking her identity.

### ESPIONAGE ANGLE

## Drone-like objects spotted over night sky in Kolkata

**KOLKATA:** Several drone-like objects were recently spotted hovering over the night sky in Kolkata, prompting the police to investigate the matter from all angles, including the possibility of espionage, officials said on Wednesday. At least 8-10 such objects were found flying over the Hastings area, the Vidyasagar Setu and Maidan on Monday night, they said. A senior bureaucrat in the state administration said the Centre has also sought a report from the West Bengal government over the incident. Personnel at the Hastings Police Station first spotted these flying objects having similarities with drones. "These drone-like-objects were seen flying from the direction of Maheshala in South 24 Parganas district late on Monday. They hovered over the Hastings area, the Second Hooghly Bridge (Vidyasagar Setu) and Fort William (the army's Eastern Command headquarters)," a police officer said.

### TERROR LINK

## Student activist Sydeek under probe for alleged Pak links

**NAGPUR:** Student activist Rejaz M. Sheeba Sydeek, arrested under anti-terror law in Nagpur, is facing intensified investigation after the ATS discovered that he had been in contact with six phone numbers registered in Pakistan, officials said. Authorities are now probing whether these contacts have links to terrorist groups. An official from the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) said the numbers were recovered from an analysis of Sydeek's mobile phone, and efforts are underway to identify the individuals associated with them. "If any of the contacts are confirmed to have terror affiliations, additional national agencies will take over the investigation," said the official involved in the case.



### RELIGIOUS CEREMONY

## 'Ayodhya Ram Darbar' consecration on June 5: No govt VIPs'



**NEW DELHI:** The construction of the iconic Ram temple in Ayodhya will be completed by June 5 and the consecration of 'Ram Darbar' will be performed in a ceremony beginning June 3, according to Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Construction Committee Chairman Nripendra Misra.

### MISHAP

## 22 children injured as school bus falls into pond

**HAZARIBAG:** Twenty-two children were injured after their school bus fell into a pond in Jharkhand's Hazaribag district on Wednesday afternoon, police said. The incident happened in Khutra village in the Ichak police station area when the children were returning home from school, they said. The injured were admitted to the Sheikh Bhikhari Medical College and Hospital, he said.

## Hardcore criminals nabbed

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi Police has arrested two inter-state criminals involved in more than 40 serious offences, including shootouts with police, dacoity, robbery, snatching, and attempted murder, an officer said on Wednesday. Rashid alias Mosin, 50, and Sunil Kumar, 51, both residents of Delhi, were arrested after analysis of over 1,200 CCTV cameras.

The arrests were made in connection with a gold chain snatching incident that occurred on May 10 outside the Ayyappa Temple in Sector-1, R K Puram. "A 68-year-old woman from Kerala had reported that two men on a motorcycle snatched her gold chain in broad daylight and fled.

CCTV footage along a 26-kilometre stretch across congested parts of the city was scanned which led to the arrest of Sunil Kumar from Gulabi Bagh area," the officer said.

"Upon interrogation, Sunil confessed to the crime and revealed the identity of his associate, Rashid, who was later apprehended from Laxmi Nagar with the stolen motorcycle used in the offence," the person said.

The two also confessed to snatching another gold chain from Saket on May 11 and an attempted snatching near Safdarjung Enclave on May 13. Police said Rashid has been involved in 26 cases, including attempted murder, dacoity, armed robbery, and shootouts with police.

## Kailash Manasarovar Yatra: 750 pilgrims selected

Press Trust Of India

Upcoming Kailash Manasarovar Yatra in Tibet which is taking place after a gap of nearly five years.

**NEW DELHI:** A total of 750 pilgrims were chosen through a computerised draw of lots on Wednesday for the upcoming Kailash Manasarovar Yatra in Tibet which is taking place after a gap of nearly five years.

The resumption of the Yatra is being seen as an attempt to normalise India-China relationship that was severely hit by the eastern Ladakh border standoff. This year's pilgrimage will begin in June



and continue until August, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra was suspended initially in 2020 because of the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequently because of the military standoff between the two sides on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. The pilgrimage to Mount Kailash and Mansaro-

var Lake in China's Tibet Autonomous Region holds religious significance to Hindus as well as Jains and Buddhists. The MEA is the organiser of the pilgrimage.

Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh conducted the computerised draw for selection of the people

### FACTFILE

● This year's pilgrimage will begin in June and continue until August.

● 5,561 applied online: 4,024 men, 1,537 women.

who had registered online for the pilgrimage. The pilgrims were selected in the draw through a "fair, computer-generated, random, gender-balanced" selection process, the MEA said.

## Advertisement No. 45/2025

Government of India Public Enterprises Selection Board invites applications for the post of **Member (HR)** in **Airports Authority of India**. Last date of submission of application by the applicant is **by 15:00 hours on 09.06.2025**. Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal officers to PESB is **by 17:00 hours on 18.06.2025**. For details login to website <https://pesb.gov.in>

CBC-03111/12/0003/2526

**Godrej Finance Limited**  
A Godrej Capital Company

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public Notice by 'Godrej Finance Limited' in terms of Paragraph 43 of Master Direction - Reserve Bank of India (Non-Banking Financial Company - Scale Based Regulation) Directions, 2023

Godrej Finance Limited (the "Company" or "GFL") is a Public Limited Company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 (Corporate Identification Number: U67120MH1992PLC065457) and is registered with the Reserve Bank of India (COR. No: 13.00368) as a Non-Deposit taking Non-Banking Financial Company ("NBFC"). GFL has its registered office situated at Godrej One, Pirajshanagar, Eastern Express Highway, Vikhroli (E), Mumbai - 400079, Maharashtra.

Notice is hereby given that the Company shall shift its Branch Office situated at 7th Floor, Currency tower, VIP Road, Teli Bandha, Raipur - 492001, Chhattisgarh to Shop No. 11, Golden Trade Center, New Rajendra Nagar, Raipur - 492001, Chhattisgarh due to operational reasons from 3 months to the date of this notice. All customer queries can be addressed at [customercare@godrejcapital.com](mailto:customercare@godrejcapital.com).

Any clarifications or inquiries in this regard may be addressed to the Company at its registered office within 30 (thirty) days from the date of this notice addressed to Mr. Yogesh Jain, Chief Compliance Officer or at [gfi.compliance@godrejfinance.com](mailto:gfi.compliance@godrejfinance.com)

Sd/-  
On behalf of Godrej Finance Limited

Place: Mumbai  
Date: 22/05/2025

**यूको बैंक UCO BANK**  
(A Sec. of India Undertaking)

**Civic Center, Bhilai Branch (C.G.)**

**DEMAND NOTICE**  
NOTICE U/S 13 (2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

Borrower's/Partner's & Guarantor's Name & Address	Type	Details of Mortgaged Property
M/s. Shriyan Traders, Add.- 1. Office /Godown: Ekta Chowk, Kailash Nagar, Bhilai. Add.- 2. Regd. Address: HB Colony, Venkateshwar Sadan, Ward No. 15, Near Bharti Vidyalaya, Kumbhari, Durg, Chhattisgarh-490042 Partner- 1. Ms. Prayag Kameshwari Sharanya, House no- 3459, Ward No. 15, Indira Para, Near New Police Station, Bhilai-3, Durg, Chhattisgarh-490021. Partner- 2. Mr. A V SHASHANK, HB Colony, Venkateshwar Sadan, Ward No. 15, Near Bharti Vidyalaya, Kumbhari, Durg, Chhattisgarh-490042. Guarantor- 1. Ms. Prayag Kameshwari Sharanya, House no-3459, Ward No. 15, Indira Para, Near New Police Station, Bhilai-3, Durg, Chhattisgarh-490021. Guarantor- 2. Mr. A V SHASHANK, HB Colony, Venkateshwar Sadan, Ward No. 15, Near Bharti Vidyalaya, Kumbhari, Durg, Chhattisgarh-490042. Guarantor- 3. Mr. A S Rakesh Kumar, HB Colony, Venkateshwar Sadan, Ward No. 15, Near Bharti Vidyalaya, Kumbhari, Durg, Chhattisgarh-490042. Guarantor- 4. Mr.P.V.S.S Ravindra, House no-3459, Ward No. 15, Indira Para, Near New Police Station, Bhilai-3, Durg, Chhattisgarh-490021.	<b>CASH CREDIT</b> <b>₹ 40,00,000.00</b>  Total Dues <b>₹ 25,22,914.85</b> + Interest NPA Date: <b>31.03.2025</b>	Land and Building: Residential Building construction on plot No. D/5-6, Khasra No. 359/98, PH No-46/53, Mouja-Kumbhari, RIC: Ahiwara, Tahsil: Dhamdha, Dist-Durg, C.G. Area-2500 sq.ft. <b>Boundaries of the Land: North- Land of Smt Shanti Devi Shrivastava, South- Sellers Rest Land, East- 5ft Gali, West- 20ft Road.</b>

The Borrower mentioned above has availed total credit facilities as mentioned above from UCO Bank, Civic Center Branch, Bhilai and the mentioned Co-applicant and secured by way of mortgaged of above mentioned property. The borrower failed to adhere to terms and conditions of sanction. The account became irregular and classified as NPA as mentioned above as per RBI guidelines. The Bank intends to enforce the said property mortgaged by you and issued Demand Notice as mentioned above for recovery of outstanding amount as mentioned above with interest and expenses thereon under registered post with acknowledgement due which were not served to the borrowers and guarantors. Hence this publication issued. Hereby called upon to pay the amount mentioned above with rate of interest (Contractual Rate), costs, charges etc., thereon within 60 Days from the date of publication failing which the undersigned will be constrained to initiate action against mortgaged property under section 13(4) and the provision of said Act to realize our Bank's dues. Your attention is invited to provisions of the Sec (8) of Sec (13) of the act in respect of time available to you to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 21.05.2025, Place: Bhilai (C.G.)  
Authorised officer / UCO Bank