

PUNJAB COPS' LEAVE CANCELLED UNTIL APRIL 14 OVER AMRITPAL SINGH: SOURCES

RADICAL SIKH PREACHER AMRITPAL SINGH HAS BEEN EVADING ARREST SINCE HIS SUPPORTERS OVERRAN A POLICE STATION OVER THE ARREST OF ONE OF HIS AIDES.

New Delhi: Punjab police have cancelled the leaves of all cops in the state till April 14 after radical Sikh preacher Amritpal Singh sought a meeting of the Sikhs later this month, said sources.

Amritpal, who has been evading arrest since his supporters overran a police station over the arrest of one of his aides, has asked the chiefs of the top Sikh body, Akal Takht, to convene the "Sarbat Khalsa" gathering in Punjab's Bathinda on the occasion of Baisakhi on April 14.

Until then, the leaves of all gazetted and non-gazetted officers have been cancelled, Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said in a message to the officers, according to sources. All previously sanctioned leaves stand cancelled and the heads have been asked not to sanction any fresh leave till April 14.

The separatist's appeal for the congregation came in two video messages that surfaced last month. He also asked the fathers (chiefs of Akal Takht) to take out a religious procession from the Akal Takht in Amritsar to Damdama Sahib in Bathinda ahead of the gathering on Baisakhi.

Only the Akal Takht chief can decide whether to call such a congregation after consulting with Sikh scholars and intellectuals, the top gurdwara body Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) said following Amritpal's request.

It is the personal wish of Amritpal Singh. It is the sole prerogative of the Akal Takht Jathedar to call or not call a 'Sarbat Khalsa'. The jathedar would see what needs to be done under the prevailing circumstances," SGPC general secretary Gurcharan Singh Grewal told the news agency PTI.



INDIA REPORTS 6,050 NEW COVID-19 CASES; 13% HIGHER THAN YESTERDAY

INDIA'S DAILY COVID CASES CROSSED 6,000, 13% HIGHER THAN YESTERDAY; ACTIVE CASES AT 28,303

India on Friday reported 6,050 new Covid-19 cases, 13 per cent higher than yesterday's tally of 5,335 infections, the health ministry data stated. The total active cases stood at 28,303.

According to the health ministry data, India reported 14 more fatalities due to the contagious virus. A total of 5,30,943 people have lost their lives due to Covid-19. The number of discharged people stood at 4,41,85,858 as per data shared by the ministry on Friday.

Talking about vaccinations, 2,334 doses were administered in the last 24 hours. As of now, a total of 2,20,66,20,700 inoculations have been done since the nationwide vaccination drive began on January 16, 2021.

Among states, Maharashtra reported 803 fresh Covid-19 cases on Thursday, a spike of 234 from Wednesday's tally. Three more patients succumbed to the contagious virus. Out of this, Mumbai registered 216 cases and one fatality linked to the respiratory illness, said the bulletin. Thane city and Jalna district accounted for the other two coronavirus-related deaths in the state, the state health department said.

On the other hand, the national capital registered 606 fresh Covid-19 cases, the highest since last August, as per the data released by the Delhi government. The health bulletin said one more Covid-positive person died in the city. However, "Covid finding was incidental", it added. The national capital recorded 620 cases on August 26.

MUMBAI: FIR AGAINST MAN FOR NOT CONSUMMATING MARRIAGE ALSO CHARGED WITH CRIMINAL BREACH OF TRUST, UNNATURAL SEX

A 27-year-old woman has filed a **complaint** against her husband and in-laws at **Versova police** station for criminal breach of trust and unnatural sex, and because the man failed to consummate the marriage. The woman said she got married to the man in November. She claimed after that her husband would barely talk to her and the marriage was not consummated. The woman said she initially felt her husband was in love with another woman. "I scanned his mobile phone but did not find any number of a girl whom he might have frequently chatted with," she said.

However, she later found him dressed in women's attire and make-up. She also saw him dancing dressed in drag with transgenders in videos on an old memory card that he had not placed in his new mobile phone handset. When she checked his bag, she also found used makeup kits, condoms, etc. She said when she confronted him about this, he did not reply. The woman's father said her husband's parents were shielding him.

The FIR at Versova police station was registered against the woman's husband and her in-laws for also subjecting her to cruelty. However, so far no arrests have been made in this case. An officer at Versova police station said, "We have registered an FIR. The accused have approached court to seek relief. The court has passed an order for no-coercive action. Our investigations are underway."

MBBS STUDENT'S MURDER: POLICE TO LAUNCH A FINAL BID TO RETRIEVE THE BODY AROUND LOOKING FOR THE BODY IN THE SEA USING DIVERS, POLICE HAVE NOW DUG UP SUSPICIOUS SPOTS AFTER THE ACCUSED LIFEGUARD'S HOME, AS THE DEADLINE FOR FILING CHARGE SHEET APPROACHES

As the deadline to file a charge sheet in connection with the murder of the **MBBS student** at Bandstand approaches, the Mumbai Crime Branch's Unit 09 made its fourth attempt to locate her remains. They hope to find the body to strengthen their case, which is based solely on circumstantial evidence, and present it convincingly in court.

In their fourth attempt, the crime branch on Thursday excavated an area located behind accused Mithu Singh's residence at **Bandstand, Bandra**. Sources told mid-day that a team from Unit 09, along with its in-charge, was seen at the location with hoes and other equipment to dig the area. "Around five to 10 officers were present for nearly two hours, digging up the open space that is actually a small garden where children usually play. They dug up the area and then covered it back with soil," said a source from Bandstand.

Nothing so far

Sources revealed that during the investigation, the crime branch spared no effort to locate the remains of the 22-year-old MBBS student, but to no avail. The officers conducted an extensive search in the sea at a location where Singh claimed to have disposed of her body.

Indian Navy divers and private divers conducted searches for nearly a week but found nothing. The crime branch also carried out hydrographic surveys and electromagnetic spectrum searches in the sea, but these searches also yielded no results. Additionally, the police obtained Google images of the day when she allegedly disappeared, but nothing significant was found.

Another version by accused

Sources have also revealed that in his statement, Singh claimed to have dumped the body in the sea where the drainage system of the Taj Lands End hotel is let out. He also mentioned that at that particular location, large fish come in search of food, and hence he dumped the body there. Therefore, it is highly probable that these fishes could have consumed her remains.

Prior to this, the police conducted searches in the marshy land at Bandstand and the large rocks near the sea, but no evidence was found. "We are leaving no stone unturned to locate the deceased's remains as we strongly believe that she was murdered and her body was either dumped in the sea or in a nearby area at Bandstand," an officer told mid-day.

A few more days left

The Mumbai police's crime branch has a deadline of April 11 to file the charge sheet in connection with the murder, which they are expected to file on either April 9 or 10. The police have stated that they plan to conclude the charge sheet under the rare Section 106 of the Indian Evidence Act, which places the burden of proving a fact on a specific person if they have knowledge of it. The MBBS student had been missing since November 2021, and the case was initially investigated by the Bandra police. A kidnapping case was registered against an unknown person, and the case was later transferred to crime branch.



THANE: UPSET OVER HAIR CUT SHORT, 13-YEAR-OLD ENDS LIFE

THE BOY, WHO WAS STUDYING IN CLASS 8, WAS UPSET AFTER A RELATIVE TOOK HIM FOR A TRIM AND HIS HAIR WAS CUT SHORT, ACCORDING TO HIS FAMILY

ANGRY OVER A HAIR CUT, A 13-YEAR-OLD BOY ALLEGEDLY JUMPED TO DEATH FROM A HIGH-RISE IN BHAYANDAR AREA, POLICE SAID ON THURSDAY.

THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE ON LATE TUESDAY NIGHT, SAID AN OFFICIAL.

THE BOY, WHO WAS STUDYING IN CLASS 8, WAS UPSET AFTER A RELATIVE TOOK HIM FOR A TRIM AND HIS HAIR WAS CUT SHORT, ACCORDING TO HIS FAMILY. AROUND 11.30 PM, HE JUMPED FROM THE WINDOW OF THE BATHROOM OF THEIR 16TH FLOOR FLAT, THE OFFICIAL SAID. HE WAS FOUND LYING IN A POOL OF BLOOD IN THE COMPOUND.

THE NAVGHAR POLICE REGISTERED A CASE OF ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND IS CONDUCTING FURTHER PROBE.

WIFE'S APPLICATION FOR MARKET COMMITTEE DIRECTOR POST REJECTED, ATTEMPT TO SET HUSBAND ON FIRE IN SATARA

SATARA MAN SETS SELF ON FIRE. ELECTION OFFICIALS REJECTED THE WOMAN'S APPLICATION AS THE PRESCRIBED AREA WAS NOT MENTIONED IN THE APPLICATION

Satara: In Satara district, the fever for the election of Agricultural Produce Market Committee has increased. The application process has just been completed. Yesterday was the day of scrutiny. At that time, the wife's application in the Lonand Agricultural Produce Market Committee elections was rejected. So Pativeda tried to set it on fire. The election officials present at the place showed caution and averted further calamity. Due to this incident there was a sensation in the area. More information regarding this is that aspirants have filed their candidatures for the five-year election for the post of Director of Lonand Agricultural Produce Market Committee. The application was scrutinized in this election. Swati Adesh Jamdade also filed his candidature form from Gram Panchayat category in this election. Meanwhile, the election officials rejected his application as the prescribed area was not mentioned in the application scrutiny. In protest against this, Adesh Jamdade, Khandala taluka president of Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray), husband of Swati Jamdade, poured petrol on his body in the assistant registrar's office and tried to set her on fire.



Stating that injustice has been done to the farmers due to the government's wrong policy and notification, Jamdade went to the election office of the Lonand Agricultural Produce Market Committee and poured petrol on his body. Due to this sudden incident, there was chaos in the office. Assistant Registrar Devidas Misal and Dnyaneshwar Chavan were present there. Further calamity was averted because of his foresight. Due to this incident, there was a stir in the Khandala Tehsil office and Assistant Registrar's office. A total of 100 nominations were filed for 18 seats of the market committee. Out of these 12 applications have been declared invalid and 88 applications have been declared eligible. In this, 44 women's nominations for seven general seats, 7 for two seats, 3 for one seat of Other Backward Classes, and 4 for one seat of Exempt Caste Tribes were validated from the Society Constituency. From the Gram Panchayat Constituency, 14 applications were qualified for two General seats, 4 for one Scheduled Caste seat, and 1 for an Economically Weaker seat. 6 applications were validated for two seats from the Vidyarthi Adate Constituency. 5 applications for one seat from Hamal and Tolari constituencies have been validated.

KAPIL SIBAL COUNTERS PM MODI'S 'SOCIAL JUSTICE' REMARK WITH 3 'FACTS'



Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Friday countered Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion that social justice was an article of faith for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and said the "rich get richer the poor get poorer". To support his claim, Sibal tweeted data on the widening wealth gap, GST collection, and billionaire Gautam Adani's meteoric rise under the Narendra Modi government.

Addressing the BJP workers on the party's 44th Foundation Day on Thursday, Modi cited the free ration scheme, health insurance and other welfare measures, to assert that social justice was an article of faith for the BJP while other parties used the plank to advance the interest of particular families without helping society.

"BJP lives social justice...follows it in letter and spirit. Getting 80 crore people free ration is a reflection of social justice. The facility of free treatment up to ₹5 lakh to 50 crores poor without discrimination is a demonstration of social justice."

'PM MODI DOESN'T UNDERSTAND IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION': MANISH SISODIA IN LETTER FROM JAIL

Having a "less educated" Prime Minister was "extremely dangerous" for the country, former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia wrote in an open 'letter to the nation' from behind bars Friday in which he sought to underline the need for India to have "an educated PM".

The BJP was quick to go on the offensive, accusing the AAP MLA of holding "only a diploma" himself and advising him to judge people on the basis of their maturity and wisdom instead of academic degrees.

Attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the former Delhi education minister alleged that the PM neither understood science nor "the importance of education" even as he accused the BJP-led Centre of shutting down 60,000 government schools across the country over the last few years.

"We are living in the 21st century today. New innovations in science and technology are taking place all over the world every day. The world is talking about Artificial Intelligence...given this, when I hear the PM say that dirty gas funnelled from a drain can be used to make tea or food, my heart sinks," Sisodia, currently in judicial custody till April 17 following his arrest in the alleged Delhi excise policy scam, wrote.

"Can this gas be used to make tea or food? No! He becomes the butt of jokes across the world and children in school and college make fun of him when he says that aircraft behind clouds cannot be detected by radar."

CNG, PNG TO COST LESS AS INDIA TWEAKS NATURAL GAS PRICING MECHANISM

INDIA IS TARGETING TO INCREASE THE SHARE OF NATURAL GAS IN THE PRIMARY ENERGY MIX FROM THE CURRENT 6.5 PER CENT TO 15 PER CENT BY 2030

Tentative impact of reduction in APM prices on CNG/PNG

CA name	Current CNG prices (Rs./kg)	Expected CNG prices (Rs./kg)	Change in CNG prices	Current PNG prices (Rs./SCM)	Expected PNG prices (Rs./SCM)	Change in PNG prices
Pune	92	87	5	57	52	5
Sindhudurg	95.9	89.9	6	55	50	5
Mumbai	87	79	8	54	49	5
Delhi	79.56	73.59	6	53.59	47.59	6
Bengaluru	89.5	83.5	6	58.5	52	6.5
Meerut	91	83	8	58.5	52	6.5
Bokaro	93.98	86.98	7			

- Subject to final calculation of impact of unified tariff, RLNG component, earlier cost transfer to consumers, etc.

New Delhi: The government has approved a new method to fix the price of natural gas. Natural gas produced from legacy old fields, known as APM gas, will now be linked to crude oil prices instead of gas prices in surplus nations such as the US, Canada and Russia, Union Minister Anurag Thakur told reporters after a cabinet meeting on Thursday.

This will make piped natural gas (PNG) cheaper by 10 per cent and lower the cost of compressed natural gas (CNG) by 6 per cent to 9 per cent, oil secretary Pankaj Jain said on Thursday. The government will issue a notification on Friday to announce this change and the decision will come into force on Saturday.

"The price of such natural gas shall be 10 per cent of the monthly average of Indian Crude Basket and shall be notified on a monthly basis," the government said in a statement, referring to India's crude purchase and how much of it would be linked with fixing the price of natural gas.

India is targeting to increase the share of natural gas in the primary energy mix from the current 6.5 per cent to 15 per cent by 2030. The reforms will help expand the consumption of natural gas and will contribute to the achievement of the target of emission reduction and net zero, the government said in the statement released via the Press Information Bureau.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the Cabinet decision is a positive development for the sector. Oil Minister Hardeep Puri tweeted the move will protect the interest of consumers. "In continuation to various initiatives taken under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to protect the interest of consumers by reducing the impact of the increase in international gas prices on gas prices in India, the Union Cabinet approves revised domestic gas pricing guidelines," Mr Puri said.

Currently, domestic gas prices are fixed every six months based on prices at four gas trading hubs - Henry Hub, Albena, National Balancing Point (Britain) and Russia.

MAHARASHTRA: MADARSA TEACHER HELD FOR MOLESTING TEEN GIRL ON BOARD TRAIN IN THANE DISTRICT

MAHARASHTRA CRIME NEWS: THE VICTIM WAS TRAVELLING IN THE SINGHAD EXPRESS FROM PUNE TO MUMBAI WHEN THE 29-YEAR-OLD ACCUSED, HAILING FROM SITAMARHI IN BIHAR, ALLEGEDLY TOOK VIDEOS AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF HER AND ALSO TOUCHED HER INAPPROPRIATELY, KALYAN RAILWAY POLICE SENIOR INSPECTOR MUKESH DHAGE SAID.



Maharashtra crime news: A madrasa teacher was arrested today (April 6) for allegedly molesting a teen girl on board an express train, a railway police official said in Maharashtra's Thane district. The victim was travelling in the Singhad Express from Pune to Mumbai when the 29-year-old accused, hailing from Sitamarhi in Bihar, allegedly took videos and photographs of her and also touched her inappropriately, Kalyan railway police senior inspector Mukesh Dhage said.

"After she raised an alarm, co-passengers pinned down the accused and handed him over to police. He has been charged under the Indian Penal Code and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act," Dhage told media.

The case has been transferred to Karjat railway police as the incident took place when the train was in the jurisdiction of that police station, he added.