

Masked men rob Cong leader Alka Lamba's father's home in Delhi

NEW DELHI, AUG 30: Congress leader Alka took away his savings and jewelleryfather's home in west Delhi's Tagore Garden was allegedly burgled, with three masked men breaking into the house and escaping with cash and jewellery, police said on Sunday.

The incident was alleged captured in a CCTV camera installed at the property, with the purported footage—showing masked men entering the premises and later fleeing on a motorcycle—going viral on social media platforms.

According to officials, the incident took place in C-Block, Tagore Garden, under Rajouri Garden police station area. A case has been registered in this connection, and police are examining CCTV footage from the premises and surrounding



areas to trace the suspects.

According to Lamba, president of All India Mahila Congress, three masked men

entered her father's house early Sunday and took away his savings and jewellery. She said her father, 88 years

of age, is safe. Indianews updates

"The CCTV footage installed at father's house reveals everything. Three masked men enter the house and, after clearing everything out in 10 minutes, flee on a single bike," Lamba said in a post on X.

Lamba, expressed concern over the safety of residents in the capital and urged police to examine CCTV cameras installed in surrounding area to track the suspects.

"If the police wish, they can easily reach the criminals by investigating every CCTV camera. The first link has already been handed over to the police," she said.

Police said the matter is being investigated. Further details, including the exact value of the stolen cash and jewellery, are awaited.

Punjab Police constable from Ferozepur wins Rs 7-crore Rakhi Bumper jackpot

FEROZEPUR, AUG 30: A routine lottery purchase during a visit to the city turned into a life-changing windfall for 28-year-old Punjab Police constable Gurpreet Singh, whose ticket won the Rs 7-crore first prize in the Rakhi Bumper Draw.

A resident of Malwal Kadiam village in Ferozepur district, Gurpreet joined the Punjab Police as a constable in 2022 and is currently posted on 112 duty, responding to emergency calls seeking police assistance. He had bought the ticket during a routine visit to the city for some work, without imagining that it would win the bumper prize.

The news triggered celebrations at his residence, with relatives, friends and villagers turning up to congratulate him.

Gurpreet comes from a modest family. His father, Darshan Singh, served as a



train guard with the Railways before retiring in 2019. Gurpreet is one of four siblings and has two married sisters and a brother.

For Gurpreet, the news came while he was performing sewa at Gurdwara Vajidpur Sahib on Sunday morning. It was there that he learnt that his ticket number had

won the first prize.

"It is nothing short of a dream come true. I had purchased the lottery ticket routinely when I had gone to the city. I never imagined that this ticket would bring me a Rs 7-crore windfall," Gurpreet said. The win has also brought unexpected excitement to the lottery outlet that

sold the ticket. The owner of N K Agency at Udhham Singh Chowk, Trilok Singh, and his team have been celebrating since learning that their ticket had fetched the bumper prize.

"This is the first time that someone in this border town has won such a huge lottery prize," said Trilok Singh.

Army aviators carry out daring rescue at 18,600 feet near Nun-Kun mountains in Kargil

CHANDIGARH, AUG 30: In a daring rescue mission at 18,600 feet near the Nun-Kun mountains in the Kargil region, Indian Army Aviation pilots evacuated a casualty from an extremely challenging slope with no landing space and strong winds.

The Army employed Cheetah helicopters for the rescue mission.

With the helicopter lightened by removing non-essential equipment and carrying limited fuel, the aviators executed the evacuation with exceptional precision, courage and determination, including a critical landing with one skid touching the slope, according to the Army. "The mission, undertaken at the last available landing window of the day, stands as a testament to the skill, courage and compassion of Indian Army Aviation," the Leh-based Fire and Fury Corps said.

Located above the Suru Valley, roughly 250 km east of Srinagar along the Jammu and Kashmir-Ladakh border, the twin peaks of Nun and Kun rise over 23,000 feet above sea level. At 23,409 feet, Nun is the highest peak in this part of the Himalayan range west of the Zaskar region.

Rescue missions are regularly undertaken in the mountains by the Army Aviation Corps, equipped with Cheetah and Dhruv helicopters, as well as the IAF. The helicopters often operate at the outer limits of their



flight parameters while dealing with extreme altitude, rugged terrain, adverse weather and rarefied air.

Besides military personnel, the Army and IAF are often called upon to rescue civilians travelling in remote areas of Ladakh. Many civil-

ians get stranded due to natural calamities such as landslides and avalanches, or require evacuation because of medical emergencies arising from low oxygen levels and inclement weather conditions characteristic of the region.

Evacuated casualties are brought to bases such as Leh and Kargil. In serious cases, patients are airlifted by fixed-wing aircraft to larger cities such as Chandigarh, Srinagar or Jammu, where advanced medical facilities are available.

Punjab govt employees to intensify stir; plan mass leave on Sept 8

CHANDIGARH, AUG 30: The standoff between Punjab government employees and the state government is set to escalate in the coming days with employee organisations under the banner of the Punjab Sanjha Mulazam Manch on Sunday announcing a series of protests and demonstrations from September through October.

The decision was taken during a meeting held at Bachat Bhawan in Ludhiana.

It was decided to hold district-level gatherings on September 6, followed by a statewide mass leave on September 8. On September 12 and 13, employees will stage demonstrations outside the residences of ministers.

A massive rally has also been scheduled in Sangrur on October 10. Employees will go on mass casual leave again on October 21 and 22.

The unions also unveiled a campaign titled "Return of the Chief Minister from Chandigarh Secretariat to Village Satoj", symbolising their demand to push the Chief Minister out of the Secretariat until their demands are met.

Employees have further decided to set up a symbolic



"Employees' Assembly" in Chandigarh on September 30 and will invite all 117 MLAs and 13 MPs to attend. Seats will be arranged for them, and they will be questioned directly on issues concerning employees and pensioners.

The coordination committee has also declared solidarity with the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) and decided to participate in the farmers' protest scheduled in Chandigarh from September 1 to 7.

The standoff between the employees and the government began on August 27, when more than three lakh government employees par-

ticipated in a mass casual leave.

On the same day, a meeting between Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and employee representatives was scheduled in Jalandhar but was cancelled after the Chief Minister stated that talks would be held only if the unions called off their strike. The episode sparked widespread anger among employees, who said they felt humiliated and ignored.

Meanwhile, administrative secretaries and heads of departments were directed on Saturday to issue show-cause notices to employees found absent without autho-

risation, further escalating the agitation.

Employees have been protesting over their long-pending demands, which include the release of pending Dearness Allowance (DA) instalments and arrears, restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), regularisation of contractual employees, extension of standard Punjab pay scales to staff recruited after July 17, 2020, implementation of minimum wages for mid-day meal, ASHA and Anganwadi workers, and restoration of the Assured Career Progression (ACP) scheme, among other demands.

Delay in SpiceJet Amritsar-Dubai flight sparks outcry, 300 passengers stranded

AMRITSAR, AUG 30: An hours-long delay of a SpiceJet flight from Amritsar to Dubai triggered anger and protests at Sri Guru Ram Dass Jee International Airport here on Sunday, with nearly 300 passengers left stranded for hours and many questioning the airline's handling of the situation.

The flight was scheduled to depart at 8.40 am, but passengers said there was no departure at the scheduled time. The departure was later rescheduled to 11 am, only for passengers to be informed at the airline counter that the flight was likely to leave around 2.30 am the next day, forcing them to face an overnight wait.

Frustrated passengers gathered at the SpiceJet counter, demanding clear information and proper arrangements during the prolonged delay. Several alleged that they were repeatedly given revised departure timings without a satisfactory explanation.

The ordeal was particularly difficult for families travelling with children. One woman passenger said she asked airline staff where she



could feed her infant after being made to wait for hours.

"My baby is on breastfeed. I have to feed my child. Tell me where I should sit and feed the baby," she said.

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Several passengers, including women and children, were seen waiting in the open and sitting in the sun at the airport. The situation aggravated tempers, with travellers raising slogans against the airline.

According to passengers, nearly 300 travellers were af-

fected.

Passengers questioned why adequate arrangements had not been made for those forced to wait for so long, particularly families with infants, children and elderly travellers. They also demanded greater transparency and timely communication regarding flight disruptions.

Among them was Anchal Sood, who had travelled from Ludhiana with her six-year-old daughter to board the flight. She said they had

reached Amritsar by taxi after being informed that the flight would depart around 8 am. The departure was subsequently pushed to 11 am before passengers received a message stating that the flight would now leave around 2 am the following day.

The airport duty officer said the SpiceJet flight from Dubai had arrived nearly five hours late, leading to the disruption. The issue was resolved and operations normalised around 2.15 pm.

Haryana to digitally track every pregnancy through 'SAMRIDDI' portal

CHANDIGARH, AUG 30: In a major push towards strengthening maternal and child healthcare, the Haryana Government has decided to digitally monitor every pregnant woman in the state through a new technology-driven platform, 'SAMRIDDI' (Systematic Assistance, Monitoring and Referral for Improved Delivery and Health Interventions).

The initiative seeks to create a comprehensive digital ecosystem that tracks a woman's health from pregnancy to childbirth and the post-partum period, enabling early intervention and timely medical care.

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini declared that the SAMRIDDI portal, a state-level command centre and a dedicated 102 Maternal and Child Health Call Centre would be integrated through modern technology to ensure continuous monitoring of pregnant women, particularly those facing high-risk pregnancies.

The launch of SAMRIDDI comes at a time when Haryana is striving to further improve maternal and newborn

health outcomes.

According to the health ministry's latest Sample Registration System (SRS) bulletin, Haryana's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) declined from 106 maternal deaths per one lakh live births in 2018-20 to 89 in 2020-22, but remained static at 89 in 2021-2023.

Maternal mortality and newborn deaths often stem from delays in identifying complications, inadequate follow-up care and poor referral systems. By creating a statewide digital monitoring network, the government hopes to ensure that no pregnancy remains untracked and no high-risk case goes unnoticed. The move is aimed at reducing maternal and neonatal mortality while improving access to quality healthcare across Haryana.

Digital record for every pregnancy

Under the initiative, every pregnant woman in the state will be compulsorily registered and issued a unique SAMRIDDI ID, allowing her entire pregnancy-related health record to be maintained on a single digital platform. The system will cover women receiving

treatment in government hospitals, private hospitals and medical colleges.

Officials said the digital identity would ensure that regardless of where a woman seeks treatment, her health data can be accessed and updated seamlessly, creating a comprehensive and continuous record of her pregnancy journey.

Special focus on high-risk pregnancies

One of the key features of the system is the early identification and monitoring of high-risk pregnancies. The portal will generate alerts and reminders for Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), doctors and health officials regarding essential examinations, expected delivery dates, follow-up visits and referral requirements.

Women with normal pregnancies will be contacted periodically, while those identified as high-risk will be monitored more closely. As the expected delivery date approaches, the frequency of monitoring will increase, enabling healthcare workers to respond swiftly to emergencies and complications.