

School bus driver held for sex assault of deaf-mute kid

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Noida: A 26-year-old school bus driver was arrested Friday for allegedly stalking and sexually harassing a 15-year-old deaf and mute girl in Greater Noida's Knowledge Park. Police said the sexual harassment started four months ago when students from the school had travelled to Meerut to participate in a sports competition, but surfaced only after the girl informed school authorities on July 28, who then alerted her parents and sacked the driver, Luv Kush. Police said the girl, a student of Class VII, was part of the school's shooting squad and had travelled to Meerut on April 13 along with other students and a sports teacher to participate in the national sports championship. During the trip, the accused made objectionable gestures at the student, sometimes through the mirror as well. Whenever he found the girl in school or outside, he would make objectionable gestures at her, but she

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did not tell anyone out of fear. "On July 28, she came for practice with a friend and informed the school staff about the accused. She shared that the driver was stalking her and even called her several times. The girl shared that during the Meerut trip, the accused had forcibly given her a note with his phone number on it, but she tore the paper immediately," the school spokesperson said. She claimed the school administration had run a background check and completed all necessary formalities before hiring the driver one-and-a-half years back. The girl's mother told TOI that the accused had inappro-

priately touched the girl once and would often make inappropriate gestures. "Whenever she tried to raise an alarm, the man would threaten her. My daughter was extremely scared," she said. Two months ago, she said, her daughter's friends saw the bus driver making lewd gestures and confronted him. "He apologised at the time, and her friends let him go," the mother said. Additional DCP (Greater Noida) Santosh Kumar said based on a complaint submitted by the girl's parents, an FIR was registered against Luv Kush under BNS sections 74 (molestation) and 351 (2) (criminal intimidation), besides PoCSO Act section 9 (aggravated sexual assault) and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. "The driver has been arrested. A notice has also been served to the school's administration and bus operator," the additional DCP said. Police said they were also investigating how the driver got the girl's contact number.

ALL IN A DAY

Delhi-NCR industries get more time to meet stricter emission norms

New Delhi: The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has extended by two months the deadline for industries across Delhi-NCR to comply with revised particulate matter (PM) emission norms. The stricter PM limit of 50 mg/Nm³ will now take effect from Oct 1 instead of Aug 1. The extension follows industry requests concerning delays in installing pollution-control equipment, while CAQM said the standards remain unchanged and will not be diluted. **TNN**

8 abduct man to seek revenge for 'job fraud'

New Delhi: Seeking revenge over money allegedly lost in a govt job scam, eight people kidnapped a 43-year-old man and demanded Rs 1.2 crore from his family as ransom. The victim, Rajan Ranjan Mishra, had travelled to Mathura on July 23 to appear in court in connection with a cheating case registered against him in 2025. When he failed to return home, his wife lodged a missing person complaint. DCP (North) Raja Banthia said, "He was rescued from Vrindavan. Seven accused were arrested." **TNN**

HC seeks police stand on fresh bail plea of Khalid

New Delhi: Delhi High Court Friday sought the stand of police on a fresh plea by JNU student Umar Khalid seeking bail in a case concerning the "larger conspiracy" behind the Feb 2020 riots in northeast Delhi. A bench of justices Prathiba M Singh and Vikas Mahajan asked Delhi Police to file its response within two weeks. HC said it would hear Khalid's plea on Aug 27. **TNN**

Shraddha Walkar case: HC refuses to fix timeline

New Delhi: Delhi High Court Friday refused to set a timeframe to conclude the trial in the Shraddha Walkar murder case against accused Aftab Poonawala, stating that the proceedings were already happening on a day-to-day basis. "It is clear that the trial court is making every endeavour to conclude the trial as soon as possible," Justice Madhy Jain observed while hearing a petition filed by Shraddha's brother. **TNN**

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Ambience underpass goes dark after discom snaps power supply

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Gurgaon: Commuters using the nearly 380-metre-long Ambience Mall U-turn underpass on Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway navigated the stretch in darkness for two days after Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam (DHBVN) disconnected its electricity supply over non-payment of dues by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The supply was restored Friday evening, a DHBVN official said, citing the larger public interest.

The outage raised safety concerns, particularly during the ongoing monsoon, when poor visibility inside the underpass makes driving more challenging. **The connection was disconnected after NHAI failed to clear electricity dues of over Rs 1 lakh, which were due on July 28.**

NHAI acknowledged the pending payment and said the amount was being processed on

Vinay Gupta



Commuters using the underpass on the Delhi-Gurgaon border have been navigating the stretch in darkness for the past two days

priority, with dues expected to be cleared within four working days. "Since this is a public facility used by thousands of commuters every day, the power supply should not have been disconnected. DHBVN should be considerate in such cases involving public safety," an NHAI official said, adding that the authority had written to DHBVN seeking immediate restoration. Calling the underpass a "critical public utility", NHAI said

such connections serving essential highway infrastructure should not be disconnected over a few days' delay in payment, and noted that procedural delays in processing payments by govt agencies sometimes occur even when late fees are paid. DHBVN, however, maintained that the disconnection followed its standard billing norms. "The dues have been pending for two months," a DHBVN official said.

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