

Morning News Script

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The Supreme Court yesterday paused its planned interim order on the Waqf (Amendment) Act 2025 after the Centre requested more time to respond to three key questions raised by the bench. A three-judge bench of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justices PV Sanjay Kumar and KV Viswanathan was hearing a batch of petitions challenging the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025. The matter will resume before the three-judge bench today at 2 PM. The court asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, on how "waqf by user" can be disallowed as many will not have requisite documents to get such waqfs registered. The three-judge bench considered passing an interim order on the petitions challenging the new Waqf Act. The bench raised three key points. It said, the properties declared by Courts as Waqf should not be de-notified, whether they are by "waqf-by-user" or "waqf by deed". The Court further said it will order that provision of the Amendment Act, as per which a Waqf property will not be treated as a Waqf while the Collector is conducting inquiry whether the property is a Government land, will not be given effect to. The Court also said it will order that all Members of the Waqf Boards and Central Waqf Council must be Muslims, except the ex-officio members. CJI Khanna at the end of the hearing expressed concern over the violence that has broken out in West Bengal against the amendments to Waqf Act.

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Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has emphasized that the pillars of industry and commerce occupy a pivotal place in the Indian leadership's resolute commitment to transforming India into a fully developed nation by the year 2047. To realize this national aspiration, Mr. Birla called upon all stakeholders to embrace a model of development that is not only sustainable and enduring, but also inclusive. Addressing at an event to mark at the 120th anniversary of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi yesterday, Mr. Birla observed that 'development-oriented policies' of the Government of India are now providing new energy to industries. He added that the present era in the country is an era of economic empowerment and innovation. Outlining the roadmap for 'Vikshit Bharat 2047', the Lok Sabha Speaker said that nation's trade policy today is deeply rooted in the grand vision of a self-reliant India and reflects India's growing stature on the global stage.

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Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna has recommended the name of Justice B R Gavai as the next Chief Justice. Justice Gavai is the second-most senior judge of the Supreme Court, and his name has been recommended to the Union Law Ministry. The tenure of the current CJI, Justice Khanna is going to end on the 13th of next month.

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In a first-of-its-kind move, the Central Railway has introduced an automated teller machine (ATM) inside the Mumbai-Manmad Panchavati Express. Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw shared a video on his official X account, showcasing a passenger using the Bank of Maharashtra ATM while the train was in motion. Speaking to Akashvani News, Central Railway's CPRO, Swapnil Nila, said,

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The Nagaland Forest Management Project (NFMP) has reached 144 out of its target of 185 villages across the state. This was informed by Dr. Sevon Seletsu, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) and Head of the Divisional Management Unit (DMU) Kohima, during the Annual Review Meeting of DMU Kohima held in Kohima yesterday. Dr Seletsu highlighted the importance of PEC Model areas, urging JFMC members to conserve community lands and focus on land restoration. She stated that under Entry Point Activity and Water Harvesting Structure villages have taken up need-based infrastructure projects. Dr. Seletsu also noted that Revolving Funds have boosted SHG incomes and improved book-keeping skills. Representing the district administration, EAC (Development) Moasunep K. Jingru expressed confidence in the project's progress and urged JFMC members to understand the objectives of the NFMP, including reducing jhum cultivation, prioritizing forest conservation, remaining vigilant, and preventing forest fires. Under Kohima Division, NFMP operates in 13 villages across Chiephobozou and Tseminyu.

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