

Fraud cuffs on former RCOM president

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate has arrested former Reliance Communications (RCOM) president Punit Garg on money laundering charges in connection with its ongoing probe into the alleged ₹40,000-crore bank loan fraud involving the group companies of industrialist Anil Ambani.

Garg was taken into custody on Thursday and a Delhi court sent him to nine days' ED custody, the agency said in a statement on Friday.

On Wednesday, the agency had attached fresh assets worth ₹1,815 crore of the Reliance Anli Ambani Group, taking the cumulative attachment of properties belonging to the industrialist in the ongoing probe to ₹12,000 crore.

Garg served as RCOM president (global enterprise business) from 2006 to 2013 and then president (regulatory affairs) from 2014 to 2017. In October 2017, he was appointed executive director of RCOM and from April 2019 to April 2025, he served as non-executive director, the ED said.

The probe revealed that Garg was actively involved in the acquisition, possession, concealment, layering and disposition of proceeds of crime generated from the bank fraud, the ED said.

Wingo blocked

The Centre has blocked the Wingo app for allegedly sending fraudulent messages from users' phones, using them as smokes to carry out large-scale message-based cybercrimes, officials said on Friday.

The action was taken by the Union home ministry and its anti-cybercrime agency, the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (IC3), after they received numerous complaints against the Android application.

CID begins probe into Pawar crash

Mumbai: The Maharashtra CID has started a probe into the plane crash that killed deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar and four others in Baramati, an official said on Friday.

The state police have issued orders on the CID probe into the accidental death case registered at Baramati in Pune district following the January 26 crash, a senior official told PTI.

"The Pune Rural police have registered a case of accidental death under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNS), and it has been transferred to the CID," he said.

The official said a CID team had begun work and would collect relevant documents from the Pune Rural Police. The team will also visit the accident site near the Baramati airstrip, he said, adding that the probe is aimed at ruling out any sabotage angle.

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau, which operates under the civil aviation ministry, has also initiated an investigation.

Sons collect ash

Ajit's sons, Parth and Jay, on Friday collected his ashes from the funeral site in his home town Baramati where he was cremated on Thursday.

Labour unions rue SC 'stagnation' jab

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi: Several central trade unions on Friday protested the previous day's Supreme Court observation that stilted industrial stagnation to "aggressive trade unionism", and said the statement was not supported by facts.

CPI labour arm Aituc, CPM-backed Citu and another Left-supported labour organisation, the New Trade Union Initiative (NTUI), issued separate statements questioning the observations that the court had made while rejecting a petition for a minimum wage for domestic workers.

"All traditional industries in the country have been closed down because of these jhandu trade unions," Chief Justice Surya Kant, at the head of a bench that included Justice Jyotsnalya Bhargh, had said.

"They don't want to work. These trade unions are largely responsible for stopping indus-

trial growth in the country." A statement from Aituc general secretary Amarjeet Kaur demanded the apex court withdraw the remark, which "starkly exposes the class character in judicial reasoning that is detrimental to the ideals of socialist democracy enshrined in the Constitution".

It said trade unions were constitutionally recognised democratic institutions that safeguarded worker dignity, livelihood and rights.

"The right to form associations and unions is a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(c), and collective bargaining is an internationally recognised labour right," the statement said.

"To portray trade union activity as a cause of industrial stagnation is to... ignore the destructive consequences of pro-corporate policies resulting in unchecked corporate concentration."

Aituc also questioned the court's refusal to entertain the

petition seeking minimum wages for domestic workers.

The controversy comes at a time most trade unions have called for a general strike on February 12 against the implementation of four "anti-worker" Labour Codes.

A statement from Citu general secretary Elamaram Karum said the comment against trade unions, "particularly from the custodian of the Constitution, undermines the fundamental constitutional right to association."

"The insinuating remark that trade union leaders are largely responsible for stopping industrial growth in the country can in no way be substantiated by facts...."

The statement cited Labour Bureau data to suggest a sharp fall in industrial disputes, from a yearly average of 354 between 2006 and 2014 to an average of 76 between 2015 and 2023. It said industrial closures were higher in states with weak trade union movements.

Court bar on stem cell 'cure' for autism

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday ruled that stem cell therapy could not be routed by clinics and hospitals as a "treatment or cure" for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) as there was no scientific or medical research to back such a claim.

The apex court asked the Centre to come out with legislation to check such malpractices and cancel the licences of errant clinics and hospitals.

"As regards the errant clinics/organisations, we are of the firm view that action must be taken against them by the appropriate authority, under Section 32 and Section 40 respectively, of the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010, which provide for the cancellation of registration and penalty," a bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan said in the judgment.

The apex court passed the verdict while allowing an appeal filed by the Yash Charitable Trust, which had raised concerns over the rampant promotion, prescription and administration of stem cell "therapy" for the treatment of ASD by several clinics across the country.

The petitioner alleged that stem cell therapy for ASD was illegal and did not provide for safety nets available to the subjects of clinical trials under the present regulatory framework. It also violates the New Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules, 2019, promulgated under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and the National Guidelines for Stem Cell Research, 2017, published by the Indian Council of Medical Research, the petitioner submitted.

"We are of the view that the requirement of 'adequate information' about the said treatment method is not fulfilled simply because suffi-

cient information is not available regarding the same," the top court said.

"The lack of a clear regulatory framework is an issue of implementation of these core ethical considerations. Any use of such lacunae to offer stem cell therapy as a routine treatment as an alternative to other options is a contorted understanding of the legal and ethical framework and hence, impermissible," it added.

The bench noted that therapeutic use of stem cells in ASD was not recognised as "a sound and relevant medical practice" and "medical practitioners offering it as a clinical service, outside of an approved and monitored research/clinical trial, failed to meet the reasonable standard of care that they owed to their patients".

"Hence, until there is further research which establishes this as a sound and relevant medical practice, stem cell 'therapies' for ASD cannot be offered by medical practitioners as a clinical service, outside an approved and monitored clinical trial/research setting," it said.

However, the bench said it did not wish to leave patients who are already undergoing the therapy in any apprehension that discontinuing the same may prove to be detrimental to their well-being.

"...At the same time, we are also sure of our decision that stem cell therapy for ASD cannot continue as a commercial endeavour in the form of routine clinical treatment," it said.

The bench said it was "unfortunate" that the Centre let the matter worsen without any suitable and timely intervention. "Such inaction has led to several parents/guardians seeking an unproven method of treatment for their children suffering from ASD, incurring huge financial cost," it said.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

E-Tender Notice

E.E., WBSRDA, Birbhum Division on behalf of WBSRDA invites percentage rate electronic bids for Rural Roads 2025. Details can be viewed in <http://www.wbtenders.gov.in> on & from 31.01.2026 at 11.00 hrs. for the NIT No. 16/RR-2025/ BIR/WBSRDA/2025-2026 (3rd Call).

Sd/- Executive Engineer WBSRDA, Birbhum Division

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

WBSRDA, NADIA DIVISION TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No. 13/WBSRDA of 2025-26, dated 30.01.2026

The Executive Engineer, PARD, WBSRDA, Nadia Division on behalf of Provisional and Rural Development Department, Govt. of West Bengal invites percentage rate bids for work under PARD, ROAD 2025 with different items in the Order of Bills to be cover under. Prospective and eligible contractors of Government / Govt. Enterprises / Undertaking / Autonomous Bodies / Charitable Bodies and Local Bodies who satisfy the terms and conditions set out in pre-qualification document and having registration in e-procurement portal www.wbtenders.gov.in under Govt. of West Bengal may download tender documents. For e-procurement part of our website www.wbtenders.gov.in from 02.02.2026 at 11:00 Hours to 23.02.2026 up to 11:30 Hours. The pre-qualification documents (only time and digitally signed in all recent may be checked online before 17:00 hrs on the server) should be submitted by 02.02.2026. The pre-qualification (technical) documents will be open till 02.02.2026 at 11:00 hours by the authorized officers.

Sd/- Executive Engineer WBSRDA, Nadia Division

Ex-ASI steals pension cash for wedding

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi: The ED has filed a chargesheet against a former CISF assistant sub-inspector who allegedly embezzled

retirement funds of his colleagues worth more than ₹90 lakh and used the money for his wedding and other personal expenses.

The chargesheet against the official named Roop Singh

Meena was filed before the special Prevention of Money Laundering Act court in Hyderabad.

The case was taken up by the ED following an FIR registered by the Telangana police and the CBI alleging

diversion of National Pension Scheme contributions from the accounts of 5,640 CISF personnel. The alleged fraud took place over four years between November 2016 and November 2020.

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EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Particulars	Standalone		Consolidated			
	3 MONTHS ENDED 31 DEC. 2025 (UNAUDITED) Rs. Crores	YEAR TO DATE 31 DEC. 2025 (UNAUDITED) Rs. Crores	3 MONTHS ENDED 31 DEC. 2024 (UNAUDITED) Rs. Crores	3 MONTHS ENDED 31 DEC. 2025 (UNAUDITED) Rs. Crores	YEAR TO DATE 31 DEC. 2025 (UNAUDITED) Rs. Crores	3 MONTHS ENDED 31 DEC. 2024 (UNAUDITED) Rs. Crores
1. Total Income	4,048.00	12,796.69	3,861.78	4,215.98	13,356.84	4,029.41
2. Net Profit before Exceptional Item and Tax	352.42	1,079.70	325.31	293.50	931.74	238.02
3. Net Profit before Tax	343.38	1,070.66	325.31	283.12	921.36	238.02
4. Net Profit after tax for the period	257.70	798.89	244.99	194.97	643.19	158.44
5. Net Profit after Tax and Non-Controlling Interest	257.70	798.89	244.99	194.01	638.94	156.81
6. Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	210.09	1,278.79	(512.52)	148.44	1,132.94	(601.63)
7. Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value Re. 1)	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00
8. Other Equity	14,357.34 *	14,357.34 *	13,052.24 **	13,828.48 *	13,828.48 *	12,801.34 **
9. Earnings per Share (Basic and Diluted)	Rs. 3.03 ‡	Rs. 9.40 ‡	Rs. 2.88 ‡	Rs. 2.29 ‡	Rs. 7.52 ‡	Rs. 1.84 ‡

* As at March 31, 2025.
** As at March 31, 2024.
‡ Not annualised.

Note:
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s) (www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com) and Company's website www.exideindustries.com. The same can be accessed by scanning the QR code provided below.

By order of the Board

Avik Kumar Roy
Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer
DIN: 08456036

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

E-Tender Notice

E.E., WBSRDA, Birbhum Division on behalf of WBSRDA invites percentage rate electronic bids for Rural Roads 2025. Details can be viewed in <http://www.wbtenders.gov.in> on & from 31.01.2026 at 11.00 hrs. for the NIT No. 12/RR-2025/ BIR/WBSRDA/2025-2026 (3rd Call) & NIT No. 17/RR-2025/BIR/WBSRDA/2025-2026 (2nd Call).

Sd/- Executive Engineer WBSRDA, Birbhum Division

RURAL CONNECTIVITY TRAINING AND RESEARCH CENTRE

Panchayats & Rural Development Department, Govt. of West Bengal
Plot No. 9A, Subed Area (P), Kalyani, Nadia, West Bengal. rcrtc@rednet.gov.in
www.rcrtc.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION

1. Item Rate Quotation is invited by the undersigned for Supply of Complete Absolute Viscosity Measuring Instrument for Testing Bitumen used in Road Construction at RCTRC, Kalyani, Nadia, vide NIT No. - 08/RCTRC/2025-26 (2nd Call), Dated: 30.01.2026. Last date of Quotation submission is 16.02.2026 upto 4.00 p.m.

Details may be seen in the RCTRC Website and Office Notice Board.
Manager (Training), RCTRC, Kalyani & Executive Engineer, PARD Dept., Govt. of West Bengal

Government of West Bengal Panchayats and Rural Development Department

Joint Administrative Building, 4th Floor, HC-7, Sector-II, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700056

ABRIDGED NOTICE

e-NIT No: (i) 48/RR2025/SE/SH24/2025-26, (3rd Call), Dated 30.01.2026
(ii) 48/RR2025/SE/SH24/2025-26, (3rd Call), Dated 30.01.2026

For and behalf of Panchayats and Rural Development Department, Government of West Bengal The Superintending Engineer, Presidency Circle-II, Panchayats and Rural Development Department, invites percentage rate tender for Construction/Upgradation of (i) 1 No. road work of length 3.567 km under Diamond Harbour Division, (ii) 1 No. road work of length 4.60 km under Howrah Division II, from 31.01.2026 at 16.00 Hours to 23.02.2026 upto 16.30 Hours. Details of which may be viewed in the website <http://wbtenders.gov.in>

Superintending Engineer, Presidency Circle-II Panchayats and Rural Development Department

