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## SHARAD PAWAR'S RESIGNATION SHOCKER: DESPERATION OR MASTERSTROKE?

As soon as Sharad Pawar dropped the bombshell on Tuesday at the launch of his autobiography, NCP leaders crowded the stage. Some leaders wept and many said they would stay put unless the veteran changed his mind.

Sharad Pawar's resignation as NCP chief on Tuesday surprised his party as well as his Maharashtra allies Uddhav Thackeray and Congress. Hours later, amid a dramatic show of distress from party men, Sharad Pawar agreed to "rethink" and said he needed "two-three days".

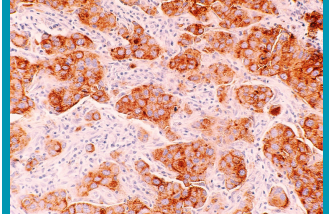
As soon as Sharad Pawar, 82, dropped the bombshell on Tuesday afternoon at the launch of his autobiography, NCP leaders crowded the stage. Some leaders wept and many said they would stay put unless the veteran changed his mind. In the presence of his wife Pratibha Pawar, daughter Supriya Sule, and nephew Ajit Pawar, he apparently made the announcement out of the blue.

By evening, Ajit Pawar had another message from his uncle. "Sharad Pawar said that I took my decision but because of all of you, I will rethink on my decision. But I need two to three days and I will give it a thought only if the workers go back to their house. Some people have been resigning from party posts too, these resignations should stop," he said. Sources believe Sharad Pawar could appoint a working president and continue as chief of the party he founded in 1999, after quitting the Congress.



The only leader who appeared to accept the decision and talk about the future was Ajit Pawar, Sharad Pawar's political heir, whose recent moves have triggered speculation that he may split the party and join hands with the BJP. That is believed to be the BJP's Plan B if its Maharashtra ally, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, loses the Sena versus Sena case in the Supreme Court and is disqualified along with 15 other MLAs.

"Pawar Saheb himself had talked about the necessity for a change of guard a few days back. We should see his decision in the light of his age and health also. Everyone has to take a decision according to time, Pawar Saheb has taken a decision and he won't take it back," Ajit Pawar told party men. He also assured that the next president would work under Sharad Pawar's guidance.



### HEALTH

#### Using power of AI to detect cancer: A new study

Researchers trying to harness the power of AI to detect cancer have had groundbreaking breakthroughs. The Guardian reported that scientists and doctors have been working since 2020 at the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, the Institute of Cancer Research, London, and Imperial College London. An artificially intelligent algorithm can determine whether abnormal growths in CT scans are cancerous. Using AI to detect cancer is a revolutionary idea.

## 25 CRIME LORDS, 160 GANGS: WHY DELHI JAILS ARE A SECURITY NIGHTMARE

Tihar is no stranger to gang violence where gangster Tillu Tajpuria was brutally stabbed to death by four members of his rival Jitender Gogi's gang

The same gaps in jail security that allowed Tajpuria with 25 of Delhi's top crime lords to carry a cell phone in prison. According to senior housed inside different jails in three police officers who have put many of these different jails in Delhi -- where the gangsters behind bars, the jail plays host to the total number of inmates tops who's who of Delhi's crime world. From Neeraj 20,000 against a holding capacity of Bawana, Manjeet Mahal, Kala Jatheri and Neetu 10,000 -- the odds for the security Dabodia to Irfan Chhenu and Hashim Baba -- Tihar personnel are staggering. The is home to leaders of almost all big gangs. They country's largest jail is no stranger added that with many of their gang members also to gang violence with members of lodged with them, the jail has become a volatile different gangs striking at their rivals place in terms of security. And, they said, there are taking advantage of lacunae in no holy cows, as evident in the brazen attack on security. Tillu Tajpuria allegedly Tajpuria who is listed among the most notorious conspired and planned the murder gangsters.

of his arch-rival Jitender Gogi at "One can't rule out that now Tajpuria's associates will also try to eliminate their Gogi counterparts. The Rohini District Court in September, Sanjay Baniwal, director general (prisons). According to investigators, Tajpuria Before gangster Tillu Tajpuria's murder on Tuesday morning, at least three other inmates working with even got live updates from the court On November 30, 2020, an associate of the Neeraj Bawana gang was allegedly stabbed to death by four on a mobile phone in his jail cell. On Tuesday, however, members of the associates of a rival gang. Two years later on August 22, a member of Irfan Chhenu's gang was allegedly thrashed to death by his rivals. On April 14 this year, gangster Prince Tewatia was killed by his friend.



### World

#### Texas man accused of killing five neighbors last week, arrested

A man accused of massacring five neighbors after they asked him to stop firing his rifle in his yard in Texas was captured Tuesday after a days-long manhunt, US media reported.

Francisco Oropesa had eluded Texas authorities after the shooting Friday in the small town of Cleveland.

The victims were between the ages of nine and 31.

Oropesa was arrested in the Texas town of Cut and Shoot, about 17 miles from the Cleveland, San Jacinto County District Attorney Todd Dillon told broadcaster NBC. As authorities deployed hundreds of law enforcement officers to look for the 38-year-old, they also offered an \$80,000 reward for information leading to his capture.

Friday's attack, the latest in a line of US mass shootings which have intensified conversations around the country's gun politics, quickly became fodder.

## ONE WEEK TO KARNATAKA POLLS: BJP LOOKS AT MODI TO DEFEAT ANTI-INCUMBENCY, CONGRESS HOPES TO RIDE IT

Anti-incumbency, mainly centring and corruption, and encompassing on price rise and corruption, and farmers' vulnerabilities, concerns encompassing farmers' on education and jobs, is a loud vulnerabilities, concerns on and assertive clamour in South education and jobs, is a loud and Karnataka's districts of Mandya, assertive clamour in South Tumakuru and Mysore. This is Karnataka's districts of Mandya, caste-dominated Vokkaliga Tumakuru and Mysore. territory where the JD(S) is strong, In an election in which no issue the battle-lines are drawn with the seems to straddle the different Congress -- and the BJP is regions, no factor flattens the state's several diversities, anti-incumbency also varies and the coastal districts of Udupi, fluctuates. But you can sense its Dakshina Kannada and Uttara presence in Karnataka. Voting Kannada, where the BJP has carved exactly a week away, for the a stronghold over decades on the incumbent BJP, which is making the back of serial Hindutva claim and promise of "double-mobilisations. It is muted in north engine sarkar" the central motif of Karnataka, in Hubli-Dharwad, its pursuit of the elusive "poorna where caste raises its head again, bahumat", that's not good and the BJP has the advantage news.Anti-incumbency, mainly because of a traditional base centring on price rise. among the dominant Lingayats.

## INDIA SLIPS IN WORLD PRESS FREEDOM INDEX, RANKS 161 OUT OF 180 COUNTRIES

In comparison, Pakistan climbed up seven ranks to reach 150 this year.

India's ranking in the 2023 World Press Freedom Index has slipped to 161 out of 180 countries, according to the latest report released by global media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF). In comparison, Pakistan has fared better when it comes to media freedom as it was placed at 150, an improvement from last year's 157 rank. In 2022, India was ranked at 150.

Sri Lanka also made significant improvement on the index, ranking 135 this year as against 146 in 2022

The Nordic trio of Norway, Ireland and Denmark continued to occupy the top three positions in press freedom, while Vietnam, China and North Korea constituted the bottom three. Reporters Without Borders (RSF) comes out with a global ranking of press freedom every year. RSF is an international NGO whose self-proclaimed aim is to defend and promote media freedom. Headquartered in Paris, it has consultative status with the United Nations. The objective of the World Press Freedom Index, which it releases every year, "is to compare the level of press freedom enjoyed by journalists and media in 180 countries and territories" in the previous calendar year. The RSF defines press freedom as "the ability of journalists as individuals and collectives to select, produce, and disseminate news.

## DIPIKA CHIKHLIA ON BEING TROLLED FOR HER CHOICE OF CLOTHES IN MUSIC VIDEOS: PEOPLE SAY WE SEE YOU AS SITA MATA, DO NOT MAKE SUCH REELS

To the audience, Dipika Chikhli continues to be their Sita Mata, a role she played in Ramanand Sagar's Ramayan which aired in the late 80s. The actress in her recent interview with Aaj Tak revealed that she gets flak from fans for the clothes she wears in her reels and music videos on Instagram because of her on-screen image. Dipika is quite active on Instagram. She posts reels on trending songs and is often seen in elegant western wear. She recently gave fans a glimpse of her birthday celebrations with her family at a resort. However, her followers still find it hard to believe that she could be anything but Sita Mata. They often ask her not to wear trendy clothes or make such videos.



But, I still get messages telling me "We see you as Sita Mata, please do not make such reels. Please do not wear such clothes. I know that my image and face are known for clothes or make such videos." (playing) Goddess Sita and that is why I avoid anything revealing. I try to keep the videos a public figure, I try to ensure that I do not hurt my fans and their sentiments. Even the reels that I make are on old classic songs so that the same dignity (from yesteryears) is maintained.

She gave an example of a recent film.

## WRESTLER VINESH PHOGAT'S CHARGE AGAINST ANURAG THAKUR AMID #METOO PROTEST

Addressing the media, Olympian Vinesh Phogat said, "It is very difficult to stand against a person who is misusing his power and position for so long."

New Delhi: India's ace wrestler Vinesh Phogat, who has been protesting at Jantar Mantar with other top grapplers against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, has said it is tough to stand against a powerful person who is misusing his power and position for a very long time.

The wrestlers are protesting over sexual harassment charges against the WFI chief and demanding his arrest.

Addressing the media, Olympian Vinesh Phogat said yesterday, "It is very difficult to stand against a person who is misusing his power and position for so long."

She revealed that the wrestlers had met an official before they started their protest in Jantar Mantar, for the first time. But, no action was taken.

"Three-four months before we sat at Jantar Mantar, we had met an official, we had told him everything that how women athletes are



sexually harassed and mentally tortured when no action was taken, then we sat on Dharna," Vinesh added. Vinesh Phogat also slammed Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur for not taking any action and suppressing the matter by forming a committee.

"We ended our protest after talking to Union Sports Minister (Anurag Thakur), and all the athletes had told him about the sexual harassment. By forming a committee, he tried to suppress the matter there; no action was taken that time," she said.

## UTTAR PRADESH SHOCKER! TWO POLICEMEN, BOTH BROTHERS, GANGRAPE WOMAN; FORCE HER TO ABORT TWICE

**SHAMLI NEWS: AN UTTAR PRADESH POLICE CONSTABLE AND HIS BROTHER, ALSO ASSOCIATED WITH THE POLICE FORCE, HAVE BEEN BOOKED FOR ALLEGEDLY GANGRAPING A 26-YEAR-OLD WOMAN.**



Lucknow: In a shocking and shameful incident, two policemen who are duty bound to protect the citizens, allegedly turned violators and sexually assaulted a woman in Uttar Pradesh.

A woman accused a constable posted in Pilibhit and his elder brother, posted as a policeman in Shamli district of repeatedly raping her and also forcing her to undergo abortion twice.

In her complaint, the 26-year-old woman accused the two Uttar Pradesh policemen of repeatedly raping her after keeping her in confinement for days.

The woman came in contact with Constable Imran Mirza through Facebook in March 2021. The woman alleged Mirza promised to marry and raped her several times in different hotels.

Imran Mirza is also a resident of Shamli. The woman alleged that Mirza provided her accommodation in a rented flat in Shamli where his elder brother, Furqan, also raped her.

As per the complaint filed by the woman, she became pregnant twice and was forced to abort by Imran both times.

The woman alleged that when she confronted Imran, she was brutally thrashed and given death threats to withdraw the case.

"I remained quiet for two years. When I confronted him recently, I was brutally beaten up. That is when I decided to take legal action. Now, I am getting death threats from Imran and his brother to withdraw the case," the woman was quoted by IANS.

Giving details of the case, Superintendent of Police (SP) (Pilibhit) Atul Sharma said that the initial investigation reveal that the woman belongs to a different community. He assured of appropriate action if the two policemen are found guilty.

"The key accused, Imran, had taken a long leave and was expected to rejoin duty on May 3. Action will soon be taken in the matter," the top cop said.

## DAY AFTER TILLU TAJPURIYA'S MURDER, POLICE RAID AT GANGSTERS' HIDEOUTS IN DELHI, HARYANA

**THE RAIDS AND SEARCHES WERE BEING CONDUCTED AT HIDEOUTS OF GANGSTERS AND THEIR ASSOCIATES, IN DELHI AND HARYANA, SAID DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE (DWARKA) M HARSHA VARDHAN SAID.**



New Delhi: A day after gangster Tillu Tajpuriya's murder inside Tihar Jail, the Delhi Police on Wednesday carried out raids at more than 20 locations in the Delhi-National Capital Region. Police have seized around Rs 20 lakh cash and weapons and also detained some people. Tillu Tajpuriya, an accused in Delhi's Rohini court shootout in which gangster Jitender Gogi was killed, was allegedly stabbed to death by four rival gang members inside Tihar Jail on Tuesday.

The raids and searches were being conducted at hideouts of gangsters and their associates, in Delhi and Haryana, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) M Harsha Vardhan said. Tajpuriya was stabbed "92 times" with an improvised weapon in the early hours of Tuesday allegedly by four members of the Gogi gang - Deepak, Yogesh, Rajesh and Riyaz Khan. He was rushed to Delhi's Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, where the doctors declared him dead upon arrival.

According to prison officials, Tajpuriya who was lodged on the ground floor of the high-security ward was attacked by the four inmates, who were lodged on the first floor of the same ward. The four cut open the security iron grill using "improvised sua" and jumped on the ground floor using bedsheets.

**Rohini court shootout**

In September 2021, two armed men opened fire inside Delhi's Rohini court, killing dreaded jailed gangster Maan alias Gogi, who was a rival of Tillu Tajpuriya. The two attackers, identified as Rahul Tyagi and Jagdeep, entered a crowded Rohini courtroom posing as lawyers and shot dead gangster Gogi. Both assailants were shot dead by the police in retaliatory firing.

## CRIME BRANCH TEAM RECOVERS 71 LOST MOBILE PHONES



Kanpur: The Crime Branch of Commissionerate police recovered 71 mobile phones and returned them to the owners on Tuesday.

The Crime Branch team had initiated action on the basis of the applications received through surveillance regarding the lost mobile phones in the city.

"As many as 71 mobile phones worth more than Rs 10 lakh have been recovered by the police through surveillance.

The team continuously traced the mobile phones and returned them to the owners," said DCP Crime Shivaji Shukla.

"The cost of 71 mobiles is said to be more than Rs 10 lakh", he added.

Meanwhile, joy erupted among the mobile phone owners and they thanked the police team for their efforts in recovering the gadgets.

## DELHI: BODY STUFFED IN DELIVERY BAG FOUND IN NAJAFGARH DRAIN COUPLE ARRESTED

Delhi crime news: Body of a man, aged between 20-25 years, was found in a large bag, commonly used for e-commerce deliveries, in Delhi's Najafgarh drain, an official said on Tuesday (May 2). The deceased was identified as Umesh, a resident of Vikas Nagar.

According to police, a PCR call was received that a large bag has been thrown in Najafgarh drain opposite dump yard at Shiv Vihar JJ Colony in Uttam Nagar, following which a police team rushed to the spot.

"Body of a man was found in the said large bag. A case under relevant sections of the IPC was registered at Uttam Nagar police station and further investigation was taken up," said M Harsha Vardhan, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka).

On investigation, it was revealed that the deceased had gone to the room of his acquaintance Sunny, known to him, for taking some intoxicating substances where others were also present.

"Scuffle took place there and he was murdered on April 30 evening hours. Subsequently the accused tried to dispose off the body by dumping it in a bag on May 1," said Vardhan.

The official said that they have arrested the accused identified as Subham alias Viraj and his wife Fatama while the third accused Sunny is still absconding.

## INDIA'S GO FIRST CANCELS FLIGHTS AFTER BANKRUPTCY

**INDIAN BUDGET AIRLINE GO FIRST HAS CANCELLED ALL OF ITS FLIGHTS FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS AFTER FILING FOR BANKRUPTCY PROTECTION.**

The carrier says "A full refund will be issued" to affected customers.

It is the first major airline in the country to file for bankruptcy since Jet Airways went bust in 2019.

Go First blamed US engine maker Pratt & Whitney for having to ground many of its planes, which it says caused a severe cash flow problem.

The company "had to take this step due to the ever-increasing number of failing engines supplied by Pratt & Whitney," Go First said in a statement.

The airline said that the problem forced it to ground 25 aircraft - about half of its fleet of Airbus A320neo planes - which caused about 108bn rupees (€1bn; \$1.3bn) in lost revenue and expenses.

The airline also accused Pratt & Whitney of not following an order by an emergency arbitrator, which included supplying "at least 10 serviceable spare leased engines by 27 April 2023".

In response, Pratt & Whitney said it was "complying with the March 2023 arbitration ruling" and it cannot comment further as "this is now a matter of litigation". India's Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said: "The government of India has been assisting the airline in every possible manner."

