



AS WRESTLERS' PROTEST INTENSIFIES, RAHUL GANDHI CALLS MODI GOVERNMENT'S BETI BACHAO MOVEMENT A 'SHAM'

The wrestlers have alleged that the Delhi police (who report to the Centre) abused them and used violence to prevent folding cots from reaching the protest site here

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has termed the government's Beti Bachao slogan a "sham", referring to allegations by sobbing women wrestlers about police highhandedness on Wednesday night at their street protest.

"Such behaviour with the country's sportspersons is extremely shameful. Beti Bachao is just a sham. In reality, the BJP has never shied away from torturing the daughters of India," Rahul tweeted in Hindi on Thursday. The wrestlers have alleged that the Delhi police (who report to the Centre) abused them and used violence to prevent folding cots reaching the protest site here.

The women wrestlers are protesting mattresses got wet after a heavy downpour, and we against alleged sexual harassment of had asked for some folding cots. The police didn't some of their colleagues with Wrestling allow that. They also abused us and hit some of the Federation of India chief and BJP boys (men wrestlers who have joined the protest). One parliamentary Brij Bhushan Sharan of them is in hospital." Videos of Vinesh and fellow Singh. Vinesh Phogat, an international woman wrestler Sakshi Malik crying along with some champion, has complained: "As our other protesters have triggered an avalanche of criticism



on social media. Vinesh told the media: "Is this why we won medals for the country? That Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh is sleeping in his house and we can't even get replacements for our wet mattresses? We are sleeping on the road and the police are harassing us. If they want to kill us, we are ready to die."

Singh has repeatedly said that he would quit only if Prime Minister Narendra Modi or home minister Amit Shah asks him to. Neither has responded, prompting the Congress to allege that they are protecting an "oppressor".

Modi, in keeping with his habit of maintaining complete silence on uncomfortable subjects, has never spoken a word on horrific crimes against women such as the Unnao rape and the Hathras rape and murder in BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh. He remained silent also when a Union minister's son was accused of mowing down four protesting farmers and a journalist in Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh. Nor has he commented on the death of over



SPORTS Virat Kohli and Gautam Gambhir Should Be Signed For This Ad Campaign, Yuvraj Singh Quips

Virat Kohli and Gautam Gambhir, two very big names in Indian cricket, have been grabbing the headlines since the IPL 2023 game between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Lucknow Super Giants on Monday. LSG mentor Gambhir and RCB mainstay Kohli were involved in a heated exchange after the game on Monday. After a charged-up game, where Kohli could be seen celebrating every LSG wicket animatedly and even had an altercation.

WILL WITHDRAW PROHIBITORY ORDERS ON 8 BARSU FARMERS, STATE TELLS HC

The Bombay high court heard a case on Thursday in which eight villagers in Ratnagiri district were restrained from entering Rajapur taluka and posting content on social media about a proposed refinery. The state government has since assured the court that it will withdraw the prohibitory orders.

The state government on Thursday assured the Bombay high court that it would soon withdraw the prohibitory orders which restrained eight Barsu villagers in Ratnagiri district from entering Rajapur taluka till May 31 and from posting any content on social media about the proposed refinery.

The eight residents, who are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood, have been holding protests, for some time, against the

refinery project in Rajapur's Barsu and Solgaon villages. After the state issued gag orders on April 22 and April 25 barring their entry into the taluka for more than a month, the farmers approached the HC. On Thursday, the state filed its response to their petition before a division bench of Justice Revati Mohite Dere and Justice Sharmila Deshmukh. Advocate Swaraj Jadhav, appearing for the petitioners, told the bench that the orders had been issued under section 144 (2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure and those found violating the orders would be liable for prosecution under section 188 (for disobedience to an order duly promulgated by a public servant) of the Indian Penal Code. This, Jadhav said, was excessive in nature and violated the rights of the petitioners guaranteed under articles 14, 19 and 21 of the constitution. The orders had also banned posts, pictures, and videos on social media about the proposed refinery, as it may cause confusion and incite a law-and-order situation, the petitioners' counsel said and added that the residents were not given a hearing before the orders were passed. After the state informed the bench that it would soon withdraw the two orders, the latter disposed of the petition. In October 2019, the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation notified that the state government would be acquiring 2,300 acres at Barsu and Solgaon. The refinery project is a ₹1 lakh-crore joint venture between the three public sector oil companies and the Saudi behemoth, Aramco.



Business Apple CEO sees India at 'tipping point' as China pivot quickens

Apple Inc. chief Tim Cook singled out India on Thursday as pivotal for the iPhone maker, underscoring how the world's most populous country is on the cusp of becoming both a major market and production base.

Cook, who presided over the opening of Apple's first two Indian retail outlets last month, joined his lieutenants in mentioning India roughly 20 times on a conference call after unveiling earnings. The company posted record sales for a March quarter in India, reflecting its increasing reliance on the market to galvanize overall growth.

"There are lot of people coming into the middle class and I really feel that India is at a tipping point," Cook told analysts on the call. "And the dynamism in the market. The vibrancy is unbelievable." Apple seeks to accelerate growth in a country of 1.4 billion.

SANJAY RAUT ALLEGES CONSPIRACY TO SEPARATE MUMBAI FROM MAHARASHTRA; SAYS ATTEMPTS TO WEAKEN IT THROUGH CONSTANT ATTACKS

Sanjay Raut said his party will not let anyone harm Mumbai or turn it into a Union Territory. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Thursday alleged that there was a conspiracy to separate Mumbai from Maharashtra, and said those who are ruling are plotting it to weaken the city at all levels by subjecting it to constant attacks.

Talking to reporters, he said his party will not let anyone harm Mumbai or turn it into a Union Territory. "Be it my party or past chief ministers of Maharashtra belonging to the Congress - from Vasantdada Patil to Vasantrao Naik - all tried to protect Mumbai," the Rajya Sabha member said. But attempts are on even today to make Mumbai a slave of capitalists, he alleged.

MUMBAI: DRDO SCIENTIST ARRESTED FOR SENDING CRUCIAL INTEL TO PAKISTAN

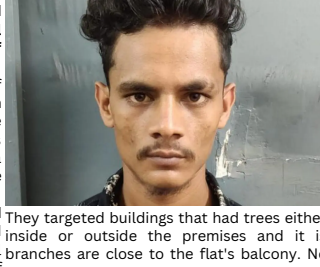
Suspicious activity was noticed by DRDO officials who informed initially to ATS. A scientist employed at India's ATS. An esteemed Defence Research and Development Organisation Kurulkar while the DRDO (DRDO) has been arrested by the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism leading to a complaint being filed Squad (ATS) on charges of allegedly providing crucial information to a Pakistani complaint, Kurulkar was arrested intelligence operative that could on Thursday under various potentially endanger India's sections of the Official Secrets national security. Act and remanded to ATS Maharashtra ATS chief Sadanand custody till May 9. Date confirmed the arrest of Investigators have discovered Pradeep Kurulkar, a director at a that Kurulkar communicated with DRDO research unit based in Pakistani intelligence agents via Pune. Kurulkar has been accused WhatsApp calls, voice messages of being in contact with the and video calls, during which he intelligence unit of Pakistan, shared some crucial details that providing crucial information may endanger India's national security. Officials are currently.

MUMBAI CRIME: DUO HELD FOR HOUSE THEFT IN BORIVALI, VALUABLES RECOVERED

The arrested accused have been identified as Santosh Chaudhary (25) and Zeemad Arman Ali Sayed (23). Both habitual criminals have multiple criminal records of house theft using the same modus

The Borivali police have arrested a thief who used to climb trees like a Spider-Man and enter buildings to steal houses. The police have also arrested one of his accomplices who used to stand with a motorcycle outside the building to escape after committing the crime.

The arrested accused have been identified as Santosh Chaudhary (25) and Zeemad Arman Ali Sayed (23). Both habitual criminals have multiple criminal records of house theft using the same modus. The detection officer API R Tadvii and his staff checked hundreds of CCTV footage and managed to trace the accused and caught the duo from Andheri's Veera Desai area on Monday, said an officer. Accused Chaudhary used a unique modus as he mastered and was an expert in climbing the huge trees.



They targeted buildings that had trees either inside or outside the premises and it is branches are close to the flat's balcony. No matter how tall the tree is, Chaudhary easily climbed on it and entered the house. On April 19, the duo robbed a house in the Borivali's Ganjawala Lane area. He enter the balcony of a house situated on the fourth floor of "The Bhoomi Saraswati building". He entered the bedroom and stole valuables worth about Rs 8 lakh and escaped. The senior citizen couple living inside the flat realized the theft in the morning

FPJ IMPACT: MUMBAI MAN WHO THREW GUTKA PACKET IN AC LOCAL IDENTIFIED, ARRESTED WITHIN 24 HOURS



The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Western Railway (WR) swung into action on Thursday afternoon and arrested a man within hours of FPJ's online report on Wednesday about a viral video showing him throwing a gutka packet in a train coach and gloating over it.

The FPJ had on Thursday morning published the print version of the online post, which showed the man flashing a victory sign while refusing to pick up the empty pouch.

Man littered AC local
The man, identified as Manan Nilesh Gager, 29, works at a hotel on Grant Road. On May 2, he boarded an AC local train at Grant Road around 8.35 pm. He opened a gutka packet, put the contents into his mouth and threw the empty pouch.

When a fellow passenger asked him not to litter the train and, instead, keep the empty pouch in his pocket, Gager started quarrelling. The co-passenger told Gager that he would shoot a video of him but Gager responded that he did not care. The co-passenger then tweeted the video, which went viral with the Twitterati demanding strict action.

Identified through facial recognition technology
"With the help of the facial recognition technology in our CCTV cameras, we learnt that the person concerned often boarded trains at Mira Road. We sent a team in mufti to Mira Road station to keep watch. On Thursday afternoon, our team spotted him and arrested him," an RPF official told FPJ.

"Action was taken against him under section 145 of the Railway Act," the official said.

The accused presented before the magistrate
Gager was produced before a magistrate's court at Andheri. The man not only accepted his guilty but also, for good measure, appealed to fellow commuters to keep railway stations and trains clean.

Gager was released after a fine of Rs 200 was imposed on him. Local commuters were all praised for the FPJ and the RPF. "WR has installed hundreds of cameras with facial recognition systems at entry points of all stations and uploaded photos of history sheeters. When a suspect visits a railway station, the cameras are able to identify the persons concerned and alert the RPF control room immediately," a WR official said.

MUMBAI: MAN GETS 20-YEAR RIGOROUS IMPRISONMENT FOR SEX ASSAULT ON DAUGHTER'S FRIEND



MUMBAI: A special Pocco court on Thursday convicted and sentenced a now 32-year-old man to 20 years rigorous imprisonment for repeatedly sexually assaulting his 5-year-old neighbour who used to visit his house to play with his daughter. The court also fined the accused Rs 17,000.

The accused has been in jail since his arrest on August 19, 2020. The period undergone will be set off against the sentence.

"Under Section 357(a) of CrPC (Criminal Procedure Code) the victim be awarded compensation by District Legal Services Authority, Mumbai, under the various Victim Compensation Scheme as per rule," the special judge said.

Among the witnesses cited by special public prosecutors VD More and Sureeta Singh were the child and her mother.

The mother told the court that in 2020 she was residing with her in-laws and husband in a house next to that of the accused. She further said that on August 3, 2020, at 2 pm, her daughter was playing with the daughter of the accused. She said that the child told her that the accused touched her chest and kissed her on her lips.

The mother said that she then went to the mother of the accused and asked her to speak to her son. She said that the mother of the accused assured me that she would talk it over to her son.

The mother further said that after a few days, once again, the accused did a similar act with the child. This time, the child had confided in her grandfather. The child told him about the accused had committed aggravated sexual assault.

The mother said that the grandmother informed her and then they went to the police station. The statement of the mother and child was recorded. The child was sent to the hospital for her medical examination.

In court, the child iterated the version given to the police. She identified the accused who was present in court.

TO REDUCE THE IMPORTANCE OF MUMBAI, ATTEMPTS ARE BEING MADE TO SHIFT IMPORTANT OFFICES TO GUJARAT: CONGRESS

Nana Patole said that if a special session of the legislature is not called, the Congress party will take to the streets and stage protests across the state to raise the issues faced by the public

Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole on Thursday hit out at the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and said that the Central government is trying to reduce the importance of Mumbai.

"The Bharatiya Janata Party government at the Centre is constantly trying to reduce the importance of Mumbai and Maharashtra. Mumbai is the financial capital of the country. It has an important place in the world. All important financial institutions and headquarters of various companies are in Mumbai. This importance of Mumbai is hurting the eyes of BJP leaders. Attempts are being made to reduce the importance of Mumbai by shifting the important offices in Mumbai to Gujarat," he said.

He said that the bullet trains are being imposed on Mumbai and Maharashtra when there is no need for them.



"The International Financial Services Centre located at BKC in Mumbai has been shifted to the Gandhinagar. Office of Patents, Designs and Trademarks were shifted to Delhi, National Police Academy was shifted from Paighar to Dwarka in Gujarat. A large group of the diamond industry in Mumbai was located in Pancharatna Building which too has been moved to Gujarat. Important offices and projects in Mumbai and the state are being shifted out of the state at the behest of central government. Since Mumbai cannot be taken to Gujarat, the BJP's plan is to destroy it," Patole added.

NOW, MUMBAIKARS CAN BOOK PARKING SLOTS ONLINE BEFORE VENTURING OUT

The civic body is seeking to implement a parking management solution, proposed by the Mumbai Parking Authority, through an integrated IT system that will digitise and consolidate the city's entire inventory of existing and proposed on-street and off-street parking.

Mumbai: Thanks to an initiative by the BMC, it will soon be possible for vehicle-owners to get information about all the parking lots in Mumbai and book a slot by paying online. The civic body is seeking to implement a parking management solution, proposed by the Mumbai Parking Authority, through an integrated IT system that will digitise and consolidate the city's entire inventory of existing and proposed on-street and off-street parking.

"All the available parking lots of the BMC and government organisations like MMRDA, Port Trust, roadside parking and even private housing societies parking will be brought under a single software interface," said P Velrasu, additional municipal commissioner (projects). "This will be a game-changer, as the public will be able to get lots of information about all parking lots.

SHARAD PAWAR FIRM ON HIS STAND, PANEL TO DECIDE NEW NCP CHIEF TODAY

Party workers pen letters in blood senior leaders say NCP chief should stay on for 24 elections.

Mumbai: Two days after Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar decided to step down from his role, on Thursday party workers continued to urge their leader to reconsider his decision - some even penned letters in blood. Meanwhile, the 18-member committee formed by Pawar to name the new national president of the party will meet today.

The committee is likely to consider the demand that the veteran leader rethink his resignation. It is expected to come up with a proposal to appoint a working president to assist Pawar in routine work.

The suggestion was made after NCP leaders urged Pawar to consider leading the party for the crucial Lok Sabha and assembly elections scheduled next year. Pawar however is firm in his decision, said state NCP president Jayant Patil, on Thursday. "I shared with him the sentiments of everyone I met over the last two days. As the Maharashtra president, I am worried about the next elections. I also believe if Pawar saheb continues in his position, there will be justice for all," said Patil. About the committee, he added, "Pawar saheb wants his successor to be named in a democratic way." A senior party functionary said, "The committee could come up with a proposal urging Pawar.

SCHOOL BUS-SIZED ASTEROID TO COME NEARLY AS CLOSE TO EARTH AS THE MOON

THE ASTEROID IS ESTIMATED TO PASS BY EARTH ON WEDNESDAY.

An asteroid the size of a school bus will be passing by Earth at a distance close to that of the moon on Wednesday, according to NASA.

The asteroid, which has an orbit larger than Earth's, will come as close to the planet as 270,000 miles. The moon is 238,900 miles from Earth. The asteroid -- called 2023 HV5 -- is 41 feet in size, according to NASA's lab. The asteroid is moving at about 8.9 kilometres per second, or 5.53 miles per second, according to the agency's calculations. HV5 isn't the only asteroid to pass Earth relatively nearby this week.

The next asteroid approaching Earth, which is the size of a house, could get as close as 397,000 miles away. It will be approaching Earth on Thursday. NASA has discovered 31,831 near-Earth asteroids of all sizes. Near-Earth objects are asteroids and comets that orbit the sun like the planets. As of May 2, NASA had discovered 851 asteroids that were larger than 1 kilometre, or 0.62 miles. An estimated 50 asteroids are left to be found, according to NASA.



Diagram illustrating the orbit of the asteroid 2023 HV5, showing its path relative to Earth and the Sun.