

INDIA RECORDS 4,435 COVID CASES IN 24 HOURS, HIGHEST SINCE SEPTEMBER-END

THE DEATH COUNT INCREASED TO 5,30,916 WITH 15 DEATHS, THE DATA UPDATED AT 8 AM STATED.

New Delhi: India on Wednesday recorded 4,435 new COVID-19 infections, the biggest single-day jump in 163 days (five months and 13 days), while the number of active cases increased to 23,091, according to Union health ministry data.

A total of 4,777 cases were recorded on September 25 last year. With the fresh cases, India's COVID-19 tally climbed to 4.47 crore (4,47,33,719). The death count increased to 5,30,916 with 15 deaths, the data updated at 8 am stated.

Four deaths were reported from Maharashtra; one death each was reported from Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Puducherry and Rajasthan; and four were recouched by Kerala.

At 23,091, the active cases now comprise 0.05 per cent of the total infections. The national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.76 per cent, according to the health ministry website.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 3.38 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 2.79 per cent.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,41,79,712, while the case fatality rate stood at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry's website, 220.66 crore doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.



APPLE TAKES WRAPS OFF ITS FIRST STORE IN INDIA IN MUMBAI

THE LAUNCH OF THE FIRST APPLE STORE IN INDIA COMES AFTER YEARS OF REGULATORY HURDLES AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT.



Mumbai: Apple's first official store in India has revealed its exterior presence in Mumbai, a milestone for the company that has been trying to expand its presence in one of the world's fastest-growing smartphone markets. The company's brick-and-mortar retail footprint so far had been limited to resellers.

The store, located in the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) in Mumbai, will open its doors to customers soon. "Inspired by the iconic Kaali Peeli taxi art unique to Mumbai, the Apple BKC creative includes colourful interpretations of the decals combined with many Apple products and services that will be available for our customers to discover," the company said.

It will offer a range of products and services, including the latest iPhone 14 models, MacBooks, iPads, AirPods, Apple Watches, Apple TVs and HomePods. Customers will also be able to access Apple's storied trade-in program.

The launch of the Apple Store in India comes after years of regulatory hurdles and negotiations with the Indian government. Apple had to comply with local sourcing norms that require foreign companies to source at least 30 per cent of their components from domestic suppliers. Apple also had to compete with other smartphone brands that have a larger market share and lower prices in India.

KERALA TRAIN ATTACKER HELD FROM MAHARASHTRA'S RATNAGIRI, SAYS 'WAS ASKED TO SET PEOPLE ON FIRE'

KERALA TRAIN FIRE: WHEN KERALA POLICE CONTACTED SAIFI'S FAMILY IN DELHI'S SHAHEEN BAGH, THEY SAID THAT THEIR SON WAS MISSING AND HAD REGISTERED A REPORT ON MARCH 31. FOLLOWING THIS, THE AGENCIES, WITH THE HELP OF THE FAMILY, NABBED THE ACCUSED

A joint team of Central Intelligence and Maharashtra ATS nabbed Sharukh Saifi, the absconding accused in Kerala train fire case, from Ratnagiri Railway Station of Maharashtra on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday.

Saifi is accused of setting on fire a co-passenger on Alappuzha-Kannur Executive Express by pouring an inflammable liquid at around 9:45 pm on Sunday, April 2, when the train reached the Korapuzha railway bridge after crossing Kozhikode city.

While eight other passengers were injured in the process, three persons, including a one-year-old child and a woman, were found dead on the tracks hours later near the Elathur railway station in Kozhikode.

Saifi's location was traced to Ratnagiri on Tuesday. News18 has learnt that Sharukh Saifi was at Ratnagiri civil hospital for treatment of head injuries that he received after falling off the train he had targeted in Kerala.

The accused, however, fled from the hospital without completing the treatment.

Subsequently, extensive searches were conducted in Ratnagiri area and Sharukh Saifi was traced and detained.

He is currently under the custody of Railway Protection Force (RPF), Ratnagiri and his interrogation is yet to start. Kerala Police has also reached Ratnagiri.

A team of Kerala police also arrived in Delhi's Shaheen Bagh to conduct searches as sources said that "one of the addresses traced to Saifi is of the area in the national capital. "But there's no clarity yet if he is the same Sharukh," sources added. Top intel sources told News18 that a diary and phone were recovered from the spot of the fire. Some eyewitnesses told police that the suspect was not South Indian.



THANE: UDDHAV THACKERAY DEMANDS RESIGNATION OF DEVENDRA FADNAVIS AFTER ATTACK ON WOMAN PARTY WORKER

'WOMEN ARE BEING BEATEN, AND IF YOU DO NOT DARE TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE ACCUSED, THEN RESIGN', THACKERAY SAID IN A SCATHING ATTACK AGAINST FADNAVIS, WHO HAPPENS TO BE THE HOME MINISTER OF THE STATE.



On Tuesday, former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray visited Roshni Shinde, a woman activist of Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray (UBT) Shivsena who was brutally beaten by women activists of Eknath Shinde-led Shivsena group in Thane on Monday night. After meeting with Roshni, Uddhav Thackeray addressed reporters at the Thane rest house. While Uddhav Thackeray spoke to reporters, women workers of the party started protesting outside the rest house.

Thackeray demands Fadnavis's resignation

Speaking to reporters, Thackeray demanded the resignation of State Home Minister Devendra Fadnavis in connection with the incident.

Expressing his anger, Uddhav Thackeray said, "The State Home Minister should be honest with the public and resign immediately. Women are being beaten, and if you do not dare to take action against the accused, then resign."

Uddhav Thackeray, along with Aditya Thackeray and Rashmi Thackeray, visited Roshni Shinde at Sampada Hospital in Thane to inquire about her health. He also attempted to meet with Thane Police Commissioner Jai Jeet Singh to discuss the matter but was unable to do so as Singh was not present in the office.

Attempt to erase identity of Thane: Uddhav Thackeray

During a press conference at Thane Rest House, Uddhav Thackeray launched a scathing attack on the Shinde-Fadnavis government, saying, "The Supreme Court last week called the government impotent, and it was confirmed. An attempt has been made to erase the identity of Thane, which is the Thane of Shiv Sena, Thane of Shiv Sainiks who give life and protect women, Thane of Dharmaveer Anand Dighe, educated and cultured Thane. Until today, I had only heard of gangs. Today, if women's gangs and women start bullying, what will happen to our country, state, and Thane? The common Thanekar has a question in his mind."

Uddhav Thackeray demanded immediate resignation of the Home Minister and the suspension of the 'incompetent commissioner'. He also criticised the government for not registering an FIR in the case of Roshni Shinde's attack.

"If real Shiv Sainiks take to street...": Uddhav warns

"If you pretend of having a 'safe Maharashtra' and a Maharashtra that respects women, then why is an FIR not registered when a woman was kicked in the stomach? She was undergoing maternity treatment. The women of the Shinde group kicked her in the stomach despite having the idea that she is pregnant. If you cannot respect women, then don't go on a yatra like Savarkar Gaurav Yatra. Resign first," said Uddhav Thackeray.

He further stated, "If real Shiv Sainiks take to the streets, then the fake Shiv Sainiks who dance with Balasaheb's photo and saffron flag will not be able to face it. Hooliganism is increasing. Journalists are being threatened, women are being beaten, and the Home Minister is just sitting quietly. The rule of gangsterism is going on, and now the CM is called gangster minister. I ask CM to create a special department in the cabinet and give it to those who feed gangsters."

BRIDE'S EX-LOVER HELD FOR GIFTING HOME THEATRE SYSTEM THAT KILLED NEWLY MARRIED MAN

A NEWLY MARRIED MAN AND HIS BROTHER DIED ON MONDAY AFTER A HOME THEATRE MUSIC SYSTEM HE RECEIVED AS A WEDDING GIFT EXPLODED AS SOON AS IT WAS PLUGGED IN. FOUR OTHERS WERE SERIOUSLY INJURED IN THE BLAST.

CHATTISGARH POLICE HAVE NOW SOLVED THE CASE AND ARRESTED THE FORMER LOVER OF THE NEWLY MARRIED WOMAN FOR ALLEGEDLY PLANTING A BOMB IN THE ELECTRONIC DEVICE TO KILL THE COUPLE, AN OFFICIAL SAID ON WEDNESDAY.

MARKAM WAS ARRESTED FROM BALAGHAT ON TUESDAY AFTER HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE CRIME SURFACED DURING THE INVESTIGATION, KAMRIDDHAM SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE LAL UMIED SINGH TOLD PTI. THE WOMAN'S HUSBAND, HEMENDRA MERAWI (30).

I HAVE BEEN TRAVELLING LIKE THIS FOR MANY MONTHS, SAYS VIRAL DELHI METRO GIRL

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH INDIA TODAY, THE GIRL IDENTIFIED AS RHYTHM CHANANA SPOKE ABOUT THE SUDDEN SOCIAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT ON HER. SHE SAID HER FAMILY MEMBERS WERE QUITE UNHAPPY WITH HER LIFESTYLE AND THAT SHE FACED REGULAR THREATS FROM HER NEIGHBOURS.



A girl was spotted on the Delhi metro dressed in a DIY bralette which she paired with a skirt. Several videos and pictures of the girl started circulating on social media as internet users were eager to know who she was. While some people commented that the girl was imitating Uorfi Javed's style, others were shocked to see her bold attire while using public commute.

In an interview with India Today, the girl identified as Rhythm Chanana spoke about the sudden social media spotlight as well as the story behind her attire and how she deals with the cross gaze of society.

"It's my freedom in what I want to wear. I am not doing this for a publicity stunt or to become famous. I don't care what people have to say. I am not inspired by Uorfi Javed. I didn't even know who she was until recently a friend showed me her photo. However, I look up to her after knowing her story," Chanana told India Today.

However, Chanana has expressed that her family members are quite unhappy with her choice and she gets regular threats from her neighbours. But she doesn't care about what people think of her.

After videos of Chanana's attire went viral, DMRC stated the matter. When asked about it, Chanana pointed out that Delhi Metro has a no-videography policy inside the trains. "It's weird that DMRC has now forgotten their own rule of no videography inside the metro. If they have a problem with my attire, they should also have a problem with those who shot it," she said. "This choice didn't come in a day, it's a process. I also belong from a conservative family where I wasn't allowed to do what I wanted, hence one day I decided I would do as I wanted since it's my life. I have been travelling like this for many months now. It happened to be viral now. I have not been allowed to travel on Delhi's Pink Line, but on any other line I haven't faced such a problem," said the viral Delhi metro girl, who claimed that she is 19 issue. In the case of regular comments and eve teasing, I have learnt to ignore them."

CAUGHT ON CAM: MUMBAI TEACHER SEEN THROWING KIDS AROUND IN PRE-SCHOOL

MUMBAI SCHOOL VIDEO: KANDIVLI POLICE HAVE BOOKED TWO TEACHERS FOR MISBEHAVING KIDS AND SLAPPING THEM. THE MATTER CAME TO LIGHT AFTER A PARENT REPORTED BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE IN THEIR TODDLER.



Mumbai: In a shocking incident reported from the Maharashtra capital Mumbai, a teacher was seen mercilessly throwing the kids around at a preschool. The incident was caught on a CCTV camera.

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The said incident took place at Rhymes and Rumbles School in Kandivli (West).

Kandivli police have booked two teachers for misbehaving kids and slapping them. The matter came to light after a parent reported behavioural change in their toddler.

Based on a complaint, the police have filed a case on Sunday against two teachers. There are 25 children in the pre-primary class.

"The parents complained to school management on March 27. The school management took the matter seriously and checked the CCTV footage. The management was shocked to see how the teachers were behaving with the kids and approached police," said a police officer.

During the probe, police found that the teachers were found throwing and assaulting the kids with books. The were scared after the fearsome behaviour of the teachers.

UNLIKE INDIRA, SONIA GANDHI IS...: GHULAM NABI AZAD'S SWIPE AT CONGRESS TOP BRASS

AZAD TOOK SEVERAL VEILED DIGS AT FORMER CONGRESS CHIEF SONIA GANDHI, COMPARING HER REIGN TO INDIRA GANDHI'S.



In an exclusive interview with India Today TV, Democratic Progressive Azad Party chief Ghulam Nabi Azad opened up about his experiences in the Congress, his deteriorating relationship with the top brass and his eventual exit from the grand old party. He also talked about his vision for his newly founded party and his home state, Jammu and Kashmir.

While stating that he has no ill will towards the Congress, with which he was associated for decades, Azad also took several jabs at former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and the party's high command.

A former Gandhi family loyalist, Azad compared the Congress's present-day leadership to when Indira Gandhi was at the helm, noting that the party's functioning has undergone a sea change and that "appointment culture" has taken over.

He said he disagreed with Indira Gandhi's perception as a "dictator", insisting that he found her style of working to be very democratic. He recalled the time when, as president of the Indian Youth Congress, he got to work closely with Indira Gandhi.

Azad said, "She was the most democratic person I had the kind of accessibility I had to her, junior leaders today do not have that. You could meet Indira Gandhi any time. Now you can't think of it, it's a thing of the past."

The former Rajya Sabha MP said the Congress became "inimical" to him after he quit the party. "No other party has opposed me as much as the Congress. When Mr Modi praised me on the floor of the House, instead of being happy, they became very annoyed. They even opposed my getting a Padma Bhushan," he detailed.

SUPREME COURT QUASHES CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BAN ON MEDIAONE NEWS CHANNEL; REJECTS MHA'S NATIONAL SECURITY ARGUMENT GIVEN IN SEALED COVER

Pertinently, the Court refused to accept the stance of the Central government that it can only reveal reasons for the ban in sealed cover.



The Central government's refusal to renew broadcasting license of Malayalam news channel MediaOne citing national security concerns, was set aside by the Supreme Court on Wednesday.

A bench of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and Justice Hima Kohli turned down the argument of the Central government that certain broadcasts by the channel affected national security.

"Some of the reports cited by IB are that minorities favoring reports were telecast, there was critique of UAPA, NRC, CAA and criticism of judiciary and executive... such reports are just inference of what is available in the public domain. There was nothing to show terrorist links," the Court said. Claims of national security being affected cannot be made in thin air, the bench underscored.

"We hold national security claims cannot be made on the basis of thin air."

It is seen that none of the material is against national security or threatens public order," the judgment said.

The Central government has raised national security concerns in a cavalier manner and there was nothing to submit that reasons divulged to threaten national security, the Court made it categorical.

"National security is being used to deny citizen their rights which cannot be permitted under law," the judgment further said.

Pertinently, the Court refused to accept the stance of the Central government that it can only reveal reasons for the ban in sealed cover.

The government had disclosed reasons for the ban to the Kerala High Court in a sealed cover and the and channel was not made privy to those reasons.

The Supreme Court made it clear that such a procedure adopted by the government in disclosing reasons for the ban only to the Court and in a sealed cover has affected the rights of the petitioner-channel.

"The sealed cover procedure adopted has rendered the rights of the petitioner as a dry parchment and the procedural guarantees to the petitioners have been rendered otiose. Sealed cover has curbed the right to fair and reasonable proceedings leaving appellants in the dark to fight out the case," the Court said.