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RAJASTHAN HORROR: DALIT WOMAN RAPED, SET ON FIRE IN BARMER

PACHPADRA POLICE STATION SHO RAJENDRA SINGH SAID THE ALLEGED INCIDENT OCCURRED ON THURSDAY. THE ACCUSED, IDENTIFIED AS SHAKOOR, ALLEGEDLY RAPED THE WOMAN AND THEN POURED SOME CHEMICAL ON HER BEFORE SETTING HER ON FIRE. THE ACCUSED, WHO LIVES NEAR THE VICTIM'S HOUSE, HAS BEEN ARRESTED, SINGH SAID.

Pachpadra police station SHO Rajendra Singh said the alleged incident occurred on Thursday. The accused, identified as Shakoor, allegedly raped the woman and then poured some chemical on her before setting her on fire. The accused, who lives near the victim's house, has been arrested, Singh said.

A case has been registered under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, the police added.

BJP slams Congress

Kailash Choudhary, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Barmer MP, slammed the Congress government while condemning the incident. In a series of tweets he said, "The incident is a black spot on Rajasthan along with the entire region and proof of poor law and order situation."

"This jungle raj prevailing under Congress has become a curse for every common man of the state and Gehlot ji sitting on the post of Home Minister has turned a blind eye to the law and order of the state," he added.

"I wish speedy recovery to the victim woman. In this regard, after talking to the regional administration, taking cognizance of this incident with immediate effect, it was directed to take strict action against the culprits," he said in another tweet.



GOOGLE PLAY STORE UPDATES MAKE REMOVAL EASIER

PLAY POLICY TO STORE PRIVACY CONCERNS
APP DATA

TO TIGHTEN UP PRIVACY CONCERNS GOOGLE IS SET TO INTRODUCE A NEW POLICY MANDATING APPS IN ITS PLAY STORE TO ALLOW EASY ACCESS TO DATA DELETION. Google is introducing a new policy for app developers to provide more transparency and control over the data users share with apps. Developers must provide users with the option to delete their accounts and data both online and within the app under this policy.

Currently, the PlayStore's data safety section only allows developers to declare that you can request data deletion. However, the new policy mandates apps that allow account creation (from within the app) to give access to request account deletion. According to the new policy, the deletion option should be easily accessible both within the app and outside of it, such as on the web, so that the user can request to delete the account and data without having to reinstall the app.

When a user requests to delete an account from an app, the app must also delete all data associated with that account, according to the new policy. Users who do not want to delete their entire account can choose to delete only specific data, such as activity history, photos, and videos, where applicable.

Google has also requested that developers include web links to resources where users can request data and account deletion.

TWO HELD FOR STEALING ATM CARDS, SIPHONING OFF MONEY

POLICE HAD GOT COMPLAINTS OF ATM CARDS BEING STOLEN, MONEY DISAPPEARING FROM ACCOUNTS

Two people have been **arrested** for allegedly stealing ATM cards and siphoning off money from people's bank accounts in the Palghar district, the **police** said on Friday.

The police on Tuesday arrested the accused and seized Rs 1.5 lakh from them, a police officer said.

The police had received several complaints about ATM cards being stolen from customers and money being siphoned off from their accounts, senior inspector Pramod Badakh said.

A man has been cheated of Rs 44,000 at an ATM in Nalasopara last month, and while probing the case, the police zeroed in on the two accused, he said.

With the arrests, the police have detected six cases registered in Pelhar, Tulinj, Shanti Nagar, and Lalpur of Uttar Pradesh, the police said.

MUMBAI: 'TEACHERS BOOKED FOR ASSAULT NOT YET ARRESTED'

CCTV FOOTAGES COULD BE RETRIEVED ONLY BETWEEN JANUARY AND MARCH. MOST OF THE PARENTS BELIEVE THAT THE ACCUSED TEACHERS HAD BEEN ASSAULTING THEIR CHILDREN EVEN BEFORE JANUARY AT THE KANDIVLI PRE-SCHOOL

The police have not made any arrests in the case of the Kandivli pre-school, whose two teachers were booked under the Juvenile Justice Act for assaulting the children there. While a parent alleged that police told them the teachers have secured **anticipatory bail**, the zonal deputy commissioner said no arrests are required in the case and they are following procedure.

The **parents** of the kids at the preschool have also claimed that the accused teachers also would use one tissue to wipe the noses of four-five kids, causing them to fall sick. They claimed most of the pre-schoolers had fallen sick and were admitted to hospitals with high-grade fevers, infectious throats, etc. One of the girls was recently discharged from an Intensive Care Unit (ICU), they said.

A 35-year-old chartered accountant, the parent of one of the kids, registered a First Information Report (FIR) at Kandivli police station against the Rhymes and Rumbles Playgroup's teachers, Jeenal Chheda and Bhakti Shaha, after seeing multiple CCTV footage grabs showing them being brutal with the preschoolers.

Assaults from before?

The brutal assaults brought alarming behavioural changes in the pre-schoolers, who are mostly between 2-2.5 years old. Though the CCTV footage could be retrieved only between January and March, most of the parents believe that the accused teachers had been assaulting their children even before January. The records are available only for the past three months. The preschool was started in September 2022.

Talking to mid-day, the complainant's counsel advocate Mrunmayee Chowkidar said, "These teachers - Chheda and Shaha - would often assault the children at the play school. Though the FIR has been registered under sections 75 and 23 of the Juvenile Justice Act, the police have not arrested either of them." "When we asked the cops, why they have not been arrested, the Kandivli police told us the accused teachers had applied for anticipatory bail. How can they do this when electronic evidence has been provided to them?" asked one of the mothers whose boy was assaulted at the preschool. Around 30 pre-schoolers had taken admitted to the recently opened play school, where the parents had paid around Rs 28,000 for six months.

Aggressive behaviour

mid-day spoke to a number of the parents and most of them had noticed injury marks and bruises on the bodies of their children. "When asked, Chheda told me that my child might have had fights with the other children and got injured. I was convinced but there were many behavioural changes in my baby," said another mother, whose two and half-year-old daughter is at the playschool.

"My daughter had become very aggressive and would point her finger while talking to us whenever we tried to mend her habits. It was something very unusual that she learnt at pre-school. She would often throw her food plates, had become very aggressive and hit her grandparents for no reason," added the woman. She further said, "I have learnt that the teachers would assault children for going to the washroom. My daughter would stand in a corner and soil her clothes instead of asking to go to the washroom. This was something very alarming."



MUMBAI CRIME: TWO BROTHERS HELD FOR KILLING MAN AT BIRTHDAY PARTY IN MUMBA

THE MURDER TOOK PLACE IN MUMBAI AFTER A BIRTHDAY PARTY IN THE INTERVENING NIGHT OF FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, HE SAID

TWO BROTHERS WERE ARRESTED IN MAHARASHTRA'S THANE DISTRICT ON SATURDAY FOR ALLEGEDLY KILLING A 29-YEAR-OLD MAN, A POLICE OFFICIAL SAID.

THE MURDER TOOK PLACE IN MUMBAI AFTER A BIRTHDAY PARTY IN THE INTERVENING NIGHT OF FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, HE SAID.

"THE VICTIM AND THE ACCUSED SIBLINGS HAD AN ARGUMENT AFTER A DRINKING SESSION. THE ACCUSED STABBED UDAY KADAM TO DEATH. BOTH HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH MURDER," THE MUMBAI POLICE STATION OFFICIAL SAID.

MUMBAI: ANOTHER RAPPER BOOKED FOR HIS POLITICAL TRACK WADALA POLICE COME DOWN ON RAPPER UMESH KHADE FOR HIS SONG JANTA BHONGLI KELI ON CHARGES OF OBSCENITY

Two days after the **Ambarnath police** booked a rapper for an allegedly anti-government rap song, the Wadala cops on Friday booked another rapper for obscenity in a song. The rapper, identified as Umesh Khade, was called for questioning on Thursday night and let off. Khade uploaded a rap song that describes how politicians' apathy was leaving common citizens in want of basic needs. On Wednesday, the Shivaji Nagar (Ambarnath East) cops booked Raj Mungase for his rap song, after a complaint was made by a Yuva Sena core committee member. Mungase and the political community have reacted against the police action calling it an attack on freedom of expression.

About the song

On Thursday the Crime Intelligence Unit (CIU) of Mumbai police lodged a complaint against Khade for uploading a song, 'Janta bhongli keli' (You made citizens naked). It later became viral. The song is about the selfishness of politicians and the suffering of the common man. However, unlike Mungase's song, there are no references to the current political scenario or politicians.

"We received complaints from CIU officials, based on which the person was summoned for questioning on Thursday night. He was questioned for around an hour regarding the song and the abusive words included in it, to which he replied he had created the song as he felt it reflected the suffering of many in the country," said an officer from Wadala police station. After a preliminary inquiry, he was allowed to go. On Friday, an FIR was registered against him under IPC sections 504 (intentional insult to provoke breach of peace), 505 part 2 (Statements creating or promoting enmity, hatred or ill will between classes), and section 67 (publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic form) of IT Act, 2000. DCP (Port Zone) Sanjay Latkar said, "As per the complaint, we called him for investigation and allowed him to go. We have served him a notice under section 41 (notice of appearance before police officer) of CRPC, and told him to join the further investigation." When asked why this particular rapper was booked for abusive language when there were several other rap songs available on the internet, he refused to comment. Despite repeated phone calls, messages and an email to Khade, there was no response from him.



ANTI-TERROR NIA ARRESTS MAN IN CHENNAI, SEIZES CASH AND DRUGS OVER ALLEGED ATTEMPT TO REVIVE LTTE

THE ANTI-TERROR AGENCY NIA CONDUCTED SEARCHES AT THE CHENNAI RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS PREMISES OF EIGHT SUSPECTS IN THE CASE



New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has seized a huge cache of cash, gold and drugs, and has arrested one person in connection with the Indo-Sri Lankan illegal drugs, arms trade and hawala racket case aimed at the revival of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the agency said on Friday.

The anti-terror agency conducted searches on Thursday, at the Chennai residential and business premises of eight suspects in the case.

During the searches, it seized a huge cache of cash, gold bars, digital devices (mobile phones, memory cards), drugs and documents, along with other incriminating material.

The agency has also arrested one person during the raids. He has been identified as Ayyappan Nandhu. This took the number of total arrests in the Tamil Nadu case to 14.

As per NIA, Nandhu has been found to be managing the drug trade on behalf of Muhammed Asmin, a Sri Lankan refugee and a drug trafficker who had conspired with other accused to revive LTTE through drugs and arms trade.

Other 13 people were arrested earlier in December 2022 as part of raids conducted in 21 locations in Tamil Nadu following the registration of the case by the NIA in July 2022. The earlier raids had included the accommodation allotted to nine accused in Special Detention Camp, Trichy.

"Investigations into the case have shown that the proceeds of drugs and arms trade in Sri Lanka were received in India through Hawala agents, including one Shahid Ali of Chennai," said the NIA. It was further found that the Hawala transactions to obtain the process of Drugs and Arms trade were done through hotels and businesses based in Mannadi, Chennai, said the agency.

Thursday's seizure included ₹ 68 lacks in Indian currency and 1,000 Singapore Dollars, nine Gold Biscuits (total of 300 grams) from the shop of Shahid Ali. The NIA has also recovered ₹ 12 Lakhs in Indian currency from the Hotel - Orange Palace in Chennai.

GOOGLE CEO SUNDAR PICHAI DROPS BIG HINT ON AI, SEARCH ENGINE

GOOGLE CEO SUNDAR PICHAI SAID THAT THE NEW AI FEATURES WILL ENHANCE THE SEARCH ENGINE'S ABILITY TO ANSWER QUERIES.



Tech giant Google is planning to add artificial intelligence (AI) features to its search engine. This comes as it battles intense competition from Open AI's chatbot ChatGPT. In an interview with Wall Street Journal, Google's chief executive officer (CEO) Sundar Pichai said that the new AI features will enhance the search engine's ability to answer queries. He rejected the notion that chatbots are a threat to Google's search business. The search business accounts for more than half of the revenue at its parent Alphabet. The search ads are the biggest moneymaker for the company, bringing in \$162 billion in revenue last year.

A leader in developing large language models (LLM), Google is yet to develop technology to influence search patterns. Pichai said people will be able to ask questions and engage with these large language models. The rival Microsoft has deployed this technology behind the ChatGPT system in its Bing search engine.

This is one of the toughest threats to Google under Pichai as he faces investor pressures on cost cuts. In January, Google laid off 12,000 jobs which are the largest to date. The CEO said Google is yet to achieve its goal of beaming 20 per cent more productive. According to a latest report, Google is also testing new AI features in Gmail. On the other hand, Microsoft is offering AI in some of its other business software tools. The Mountain View-based technology behemoth is being cautious in terms of technology as the researchers have expressed concerns about the accuracy of AI-powered chatbots. Pichai said it needs to adapt its use resources to continue its work in AI while managing costs.

According to the WSJ report, Google is aiming to win wider business. Last month it opened access to one of its largest AI systems, the Pathways Language Model for developers on its cloud-computing service.

CONGRESS EXPECTING OVER 130 SEATS: SIDDARAMAIAH AHEAD OF KARNATAKA POLLS

SIDDARAMAIAH SAID THAT CONGRESS IS EXPECTING MORE THAN 130 SEATS THIS TIME.

Bengaluru: Karnataka Leader of Opposition (LoP) and Congress leader Siddaramaiah on Friday said that the upcoming Karnataka Assembly elections is going to be his last electoral battle and he will retire from politics.

Talking to ANI, Siddaramaiah said, "I am contesting from Varuna assembly constituency as my native village comes under this constituency. This is going to be my last election. I will retire from electoral politics."

Siddaramaiah further added that he will still be in active politics but after this election he won't accept any posts which will be in Delhi.

"I am contesting from Varuna (assembly constituency) as it has been cleared by the party's high command. It's not that I am interested to contest but Kolar people want me to contest from there", he said.

Siddaramaiah said that Congress is expecting more than 130 seats this time.

"We are expecting more than 130 seats this time and Congress Party will come to power with a comfortable majority on its own. People have decided to change the government", he added.

He also slammed at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Union Home Minister Amit Shah and said, "Basavaraj Bommai miserably failed to protect the interest of Kannadigas. He has no business to continue as CM. Modi and Shah are coming to Karnataka to get votes and claim it's a double-engine government but Maharashtra government is blatantly interfering with the freedom of the state."

Siddaramaiah also added that he treats all human beings equally and not based on which community they identify with.

"BJP is a sectarian party. Ours is a secular party. There can't be any disparity among the people of Karnataka. I treat all human beings equally whether they belong to Hindu, Muslim, Christian, or any other community or religion, I treat them all equally", he said.

Siddaramaiah said that there are no differences between him and Karnataka Congress president DK Shivakumar.

"My relationship with DK Shivakumar is cordial. There are no differences between us. Of course, differences exist in democracy but it is not detrimental to the interests of the party", LoP added.

Siddaramaiah also hit out at the state government's decision to ban reservation of Muslims in the state and said "Recategorising (of reservation) is not proper, not constitutional. It is not valid... We've no objection to increasing the reservation of Vokkaliga & Lingayat.