

MP MAN HELD FOR KIDNAPPING, RAPING A 17-YEAR-OLD GIRL FROM MUMBAI: POLICE

THE ACCUSED HAS BEEN ARRESTED, THE POLICE SAID, ADDING THAT HE ALSO ALLEGEDLY EXTORTED MONEY FROM THE GIRL'S FATHER TO LET HIM TALK TO HIS DAUGHTER.

A 17-year-old girl from Mumbai's central suburbs was allegedly kidnapped, raped and robbed of her mobile phone by a man from Bhopal, who she had befriended on Instagram, the police said. The accused has been arrested, the police said, adding that he also allegedly extorted money from the girl's father to let him talk to his daughter.



According to the police, the accused befriended the girl on Instagram around six months ago after which they would often chat and were in regular touch over phone. Last month, the accused asked the girl to come to Bhopal and meet him. "He started calling her to Bhopal under the pretext of marrying her. He promised her that they would stay together in Bhopal," an officer said.

After her examinations got over, the police said that she left her house on March 28 claiming that she was going with her friend and went to Madhya Pradesh.

They met in Bhopal following which they checked into a hotel. The victim in her statement to the police said that the accused force

himself on her. "While staying in the hotel, the accused would allegedly call her father and blackmail him. He allegedly demanded money from her father to let him talk to his daughter," a police officer said.

The police said that the girl's father paid Rs 7,000 but the accus

did not allow him to talk to the girl and kept demanding more money. The victim's father then approached the police and lodged a complaint. A case of kidnapping was registered on April 4. According to the police, the duo was staying in a hotel in Bhopal. The accused left her in the hotel one day claiming he was going out for some work and never returned. The accused also took her mobile phone with him, the police said.

According to the victim's statement, the duo even visited Rajasthan before the accused abandoned her in Bhopal. After realising that the accused was not going to return, the 17-year-old went to Bhopal railway station, where she met a woman. "The woman took her to Ahmedabad.



STOCK
Aditya Birla Fashion & Retail, Bank of Baroda, Ugar Sugar can fetch 13-21% in short term
The Nifty ended in the negative on April 17, breaking a nine-day winning streak. The high-low bar for the day engulfs that of the previous two sessions. This could mean formation of a short-term top and rises

MUMBAI: RESCUED SEX WORKERS EVICTED FROM NGO SHELTER AS LANDLORD DEFAULTS ON MORTGAGE DUES

NGO Kranti ran the accommodation from a rented home whose landlord Dilip Mudaliar defaulted on mortgage dues.

Fifteen adolescent girls - daughters of commercial sex workers - hoping for a new life had their dreams shattered after being evicted from their shelter at Santacruz. NGO Kranti ran the accommodation from a rented home whose landlord Dilip Mudaliar defaulted on mortgage dues. Consequently, officials of the Mogaveera Cooperative Bank accompanied by the Mumbai Police drove the marginalised inhabitants out of the house on Ambedkar Jayanti last week, ending their four-year stay. "We are the lowest of Dalits, survivors of human trafficking and daughters of sex workers.

with no home, no dignity or right of representation," lamented Bani Das, founder of NGO Kranti that rehabilitates victims of trafficking and their daughters and educates the young girls for a better life. Besides providing a roof on their heads, the NGO uses therapy, theatre, travel, workshops and spirituality to help the girls discover their best potential.

All the occupants, including the young girls, were thrown out on the street and the policemen mocked us, asking the girls to go back to Kamathipura," said an enraged Bani Das. However, Santacruz police denied making any derogatory comments.



K SERA SERA FILES ₹1.4 CRORE CHEATING CASE AGAINST VIKRAM BHATT, DAUGHTER KRISHNA

MUMBAI: A cheating case has been registered against filmmaker Vikram Bhatt and his daughter Krishna Bhatt after K Sera Sera Productions lodged a complaint alleging that the director duo promised a cut of ₹1.40 crore for a joint production which was not given to their company.

The Amboli police have registered a case against the two at the direction of a metropolitan magistrate court.

According to the FIR, K Sera Sera Box Office Productions Limited and Vikram Bhatt Studios entered a contract in March 2022. According to it, the profits of their collaborative projects under the banner of K Sera Sera and Vikram Bhatt Virtual World were to be shared. For this, the production house invested an amount of ₹1,39,30,999.

"The complainant, who is a representative of the production company, said that this amount was supposed to be used for the joint venture. They claim that directors instead used the money for some other projects of theirs, for which no profit sharing was done," said an officer from Amboli police.

The officer also informed that the FIR was registered on March 14 after they received an order for the same from the Andheri magistrate court. Based on the statements given by the company, Advocate Rizwan Siddiquee, representing Vikram Bhatt, said, "The FIR against my clients is absolutely baseless and untenable, and I shall therefore be challenging the same before the Bombay high court, on merits. The same shall soon be challenged.

'25 YEARS OF TIES, BUT...': UDDHAV THACKERAY ON BJP AFTER CONGRESS MEET

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Monday said the Shiv Sena (undivided) maintained a relationship with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for nearly three decades but still the BJP could not understand their "friendship and betrayed the Sena".

Thackeray's comments came after he met with several Congress leaders, including party general secretary KC Venugopal, on Monday at his residence Matoshree in Mumbai, as the Congress ramps up its efforts to build national unity within the opposition ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Thackeray accused the BJP of "misusing" federal agencies against the opposition parties while asserting their alliance would fight to "save" the democracy in the country.

"We maintained a relationship with the BJP for 25-30 years, but they did not understand who was a friend and who was an opponent. We will together fight the fight for democracy in the country," the former Maharashtra chief minister said. The Sena and the BJP first came together in 1994.

He added that the BJP's efforts to topple opposition governments is the "biggest betrayal" to all the other parties. "Last time when BJP chief JP Nadda came to Mumbai, he said that there will be only one party and that's BJP. This is the biggest betrayal to all other parties. The way they tried to finish Shiv Sena, and betrayed the party, they're trying to do the same with other parties too," Thackeray said.



WORLD

Sudan violence: Death toll climbs to 185 as generals' battle rages

At least 185 people have been killed and over 1,800 wounded since the fighting erupted, UN envoy Volker Perthes told reporters.

As explosions and gunfire thundered outside, Sudanese in the capital Khartoum and other cities huddled in their homes for a third day Monday, while the army and a powerful rival force battled in the streets for control of the country.

At least 185 people have been killed and over 1,800 wounded since the fighting erupted, U.N. envoy Volker Perthes told reporters. The two sides are using tanks, artillery and other heavy weapons in densely populated areas. Fighter jets swooped overhead and anti-aircraft fire lit up the skies as darkness fell. The toll could be much higher because there are many bodies in the streets around central Khartoum that no one can reach because of the clashes. There has been no official word on how many civilians or combatants have been killed. The doctors' syndicate earlier put the number of civilian deaths at 97. The sudden outbreak of violence over the weekend between the nation's two top generals, each backed by tens of thousands of heavily armed fighters, trapped millions of people in their homes or wherever they could find shelter, with supplies running low and several hospitals forced to shut down.

DUMPER HITS BIKE ON SION-PANVEL HIGHWAY: 1 DEAD, 1 INJURED

The deceased, identified as Vipul Bhoir, was an engineering student and resided in Ghatla village, Chembur. As per the police, the incident happened on Saturday night when the duo were returning home after shopping.

Mumbai: A 25-year-old pillar was killed, while a woman biker rider sustained severe injuries after a speeding dumper dashed into their vehicle near T-junction at Mankhurd on Sion-Panvel Highway. The driver of the dumper - identified as Dharmendra Singh, 32 - fled from the spot but was arrested later. He was coming from Turbhe. The deceased, identified as Vipul Bhoir, was an engineering student and resided in Ghatla village Chembur. As per the police, the incident happened on Saturday night when the duo were returning home after shopping.



As per the police, the 22-year-old pillar rider - also an engineering student and a resident of Chembur - had gone shopping in D-Mart at Vashi and around 8 pm met Bhoir, who had given her a lift to drop her home. While returning around 8:30 pm, the speeding dumper came from behind and hit Bhoir's bike. "The pillar rider was thrown away from the vehicle and fell on the left side of the road while Bhoir was dragged along with his bike around 25 feet and dashed with a safety wall on the highway," said a police officer.

4 WORKERS KILLED, MANY FEARED TRAPPED AS 3-STOREY RICE MILL COLLAPSES IN HARYANA

The incident took place around 3 am on Tuesday at the Shiv Shakti rice mill in Taraori town of Karnal district.

Four people were killed and 20 others sustained injuries after a three-storey rice mill building collapsed in Haryana's Karnal district on Tuesday, police said. The incident took place around 3 am at the Shiv Shakti rice mill in Taraori town of the district. As around 200 labourers were sleeping, the roof of the building's top floor collapsed, resulting in the death of four migrant workers.



According to Karnal Superintendent of Police Shashank Kumar Sawan, the four deceased individuals who were found under the debris of the collapsed building have been identified as Chandan, Avdesh, Sanjay, and Pankaj. They were migrant workers and hailed from Samastipur in Bihar.

The injured ones have been immediately taken to nearby hospitals for medical treatment. Many workers are still feared to be trapped inside the rubble and rescue operations are currently underway, with the involvement of fire brigades, police, and ambulances. National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams have been called in and heavy police deployment has been made as hundreds of labourers have gathered at the incident spot. Further information about the incident is still awaited.

SUPREME COURT: INDIA BEGINS HISTORIC DEBATE INTO THE SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

THE INDIAN SUPREME COURT IS HEARING FINAL ARGUMENTS ON A NUMBER OF PETITIONS SEEKING TO LEGALISE SAME-SEX MARRIAGE. THE HEARINGS ARE BEING 'LIVESTREAMED IN PUBLIC INTEREST'.



With same-sex couples and LGBTQ+ activists hoping for a judgement in their favour and the government and religious leaders strongly opposing same-sex unions, the debate is expected to be a lively one. Among those keenly watching the proceedings are Dr Kavita Arora and Anika Khanna, a same-sex couple who've been waiting for years to tie the knot.

For Kavita and Anika, it wasn't love at first sight. The women first became co-workers, then friends, and then came love. Their families and friends readily accepted their relationship, but 17 years after they met and more than a decade after they started living together, the mental health professionals say they are unable to marry - "something most couples aspire to".

The two are among 18 couples who have petitioned the Supreme Court to allow same-sex marriage in India. At least three of the petitions have been filed by couples who are raising children together.

Chief Justice DY Chandrachud called it a matter of "seminal importance" and set up a five-judge constitutional bench - which deals with important questions of law - to rule on it.

The debate is important in a country that is home to estimated tens of millions of LGBTQ+ people. In 2012, the Indian government put their population at 2.5 million, but calculations using global estimates believe it to be at least 10% of the entire population - of more than 135 million. Over the years, acceptance of homosexuality has also grown in India. A Pew survey in 2020 had 37% of people saying it should be accepted - an increase of 22% from 15% in 2014, the first time the question was asked in the country.

But despite the change, attitudes to sex and sexuality remain largely conservative and activists say most LGBTQ+ people are afraid to come out, even to their friends and family, and attacks on same-sex couples routinely make headlines.

So a lot of attention is focussed on what happens in the top court in the coming days - a favourable decision will make India the 35th country in the world to legalise same-sex union and set off momentous changes in society. A lot of other laws, such as those governing adoption, divorce and inheritance, will also have to be rejigged.

DU FIXES RULES FOR COLLEGE FESTS, EVENTS

PROCTOR RAJNI ABBI SAID THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HOLDING EVENTS WILL REST WITH COLLEGE AUTHORITIES.



No objection certificate (NOC) from the police, capacity assessment of venue, CCTV coverage, multiple gates, and pre-registration of student attendees - these are some of the new suggestions outlined in Delhi University's advisory for holding any event in its constituent colleges and departments that were issued on Monday.

According to DU officials, the new guidelines were framed by the proctor's office in the aftermath of a March 28 incident during the annual cultural festival of the Indraprastha College for Women when men entered the college by scaling the boundary wall and allegedly molested students. The guidelines were framed in consultation with the Delhi Police, they said. DU proctor Rajni Abbi said that the responsibility for holding events will rest with college authorities and they should exercise due diligence while organising the programmes.

"There should be a careful assessment of the capacity of the venue in relation to the attendees expected. Information on the capacity of the various venues should be mapped and the total number of participants allowed should be in accordance with the available space. Keeping in mind the number of their own students, teachers, and staff members, present at the event, the number of outside registrations should be kept below the venue's capacity," state the guidelines issued by Abbi on Monday.

The guidelines said that a NOC from the police will be necessary for holding any event or concert to which outsiders are invited. Prior to any such event, colleges will have to hold a security meeting with all stakeholders such as the police, electricity department, college university security, college representatives, and event management company, they said.

The guidelines also require colleges to scale up security infrastructure. If the boundary wall of the college is low, authorities need to put in place concertina wires to prevent outsiders from scaling the walls.

HIMANTA SARMA THANKS PUNJAB CM FOR AMRITPAL SINGH CRACKDOWN, TAKES DIGAT ARVIND KEJRIWAL



ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER HIMANTA BISWA SARMA HAS LAUDED HIS PUNJAB COUNTERPART BHAGWANT MANN FOR THE ACTION AGAINST FUGITIVE PRO-KHALISTAN LEADER AMRITPAL SINGH AND HIS OUTFIT 'WARIS PUNJAB DE'. HE, HOWEVER, REITERATED THAT DELHI IS MORE LIKE A "MUNICIPAL CORPORATION", ARVIND KEJRIWAL IS ITS CHIEF MINISTER.

"I WANT TO THANK THE CHIEF MINISTER OF PUNJAB FOR TAKING THE RIGHT ACTION (AGAINST PRO-KHALISTANIS) AT THE RIGHT TIME. I DON'T HAVE ANY POLITICAL ISSUES IN THIS MATTER," SARMA SAID IN AN INTERVIEW TO TV9 BHARATVARSH. WHEN ASKED ABOUT GIVING CREDIT TO KEJRIWAL FOR THE PUNJAB ACTION, SARMA SAID, "KEJRIWAL IS THE CHIEF MINISTER OF ONLY ONE MUNICIPALITY."

CHANGES IN FEE STRUCTURE AMONG ISSUES LIKELY TO BE TAKEN UP AT IIT COUNCIL MEET

CHANGES IN FEE STRUCTURE, STUDENT WELL-BEING, AND VACANT TEACHING POSITIONS ARE AMONG THE ISSUES LIKELY TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (IIT) COUNCIL MEETING BEING HELD ON TUESDAY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TWO YEARS. THE LAST SUCH MEETING WAS HELD VIRTUALLY IN FEBRUARY 2021 AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

UNION EDUCATION MINISTER DHARMENDRA PRADHAN-LED COUNCIL LOOKS AFTER THE ADMINISTRATIVE, AND OTHER KEY AFFAIRS AT THE IITS. IT INCLUDES DIRECTORS AND CHAIRPERSONS OF ALL 23 IITS AND MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT. OFFICIALS FAMILIAR WITH THE ISSUES LIKELY TO BE RAISED AT THE MEETING SAID THE IITS MAY TAKE UP THE ISSUE OF INCREASING THE FEE. "THERE IS A NEED TO MAKE SOME CHANGES IN THE FEE STRUCTURE TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR RUNNING PREMIER INSTITUTIONS LIKE IITS. THEREFORE, IITS MAY SEEK AN INCREASE IN THE FEES," SAID AN IIT OFFICIAL, REQUESTING ANONYMITY. THE OFFICIAL ADDED THERE WILL BE A DISCUSSION ON THE WELL-BEING OF STUDENTS EVEN AS SUICIDES, IN PARTICULAR, WILL NOT BE DISCUSSED.

'GREW UP & REALISED YOU WERE A GOOD MAN': TWITTER USER'S POWERFUL TAKE ON '3 IDIOTS' CHARACTER SUHAS GOES VIRAL

DO YOU RECALL RANCHO TELLING PIA IN THE MOVIE 3 IDIOTS THAT SUHAS IS JUST A PRICE TAG AND NOT A MAN? WE ALL LAUGHED OUT LOUD WHEN RANCHO USED A SMALL AMOUNT OF CHUTNEY TO GAUGE SUHAS' REACTION TO HIS PRICEY POSSESSIONS GETTING RUINED IN ORDER TO EXPOSE HIS CONCEITED NATURE. BUT HAVE YOU EVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT WHY SUHAS BEHAVED LIKE THAT? THE FOLLOWING TWEET SHARES A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON SUHAS' CHARACTER. A RECENT TWEET MADE US AWARE OF A MORE COMPLEX SIDE OF SUHAS THAT WE MIGHT HAVE OVERLOOKED WHEN WE WERE YOUNGER BUT THAT WE CAN NOW RELATE TO MUCH MORE DEEPLY AS ADULTS! TWITTER USER AARAYNSH SHARED A HEARTFELT NOTE THAT SAID, "SUHAS, I USED TO LAUGH AT YOU AS A KID, BUT AS I GREW UP, I REALIZED YOU WERE A GOOD MAN. LOSING A 4-LAKH RUPEE WATCH, FOR WHICH YOU HAD WORKED TIRELESSLY, WOULD DRIVE ANYONE CRAZY. I NOW UNDERSTAND HOW IT FEELS WHEN A PAIR OF 400 DOLLAR SHOES GET DIRTY."



VIRAL TWEET