

EX BIHAR MP'S SURPRISE DAWN RELEASE FROM JAIL AMID PRISON RULE CHANGE ROW

THE CURRENT LOCATION OF ANAND MOHAN SINGH, WHO HAS SERVED 15 YEARS IN JAIL FOR ABETTING THE MURDER OF AN IAS OFFICER IN 1994, IS NOT KNOWN.

Patna: Former Bihar MP Anand Mohan Singh walked out of jail in the early hours today amid a huge row over the Bihar government's prison rule change that cleared the path for his release.

The current location of Singh, who has served 15 years in jail for abetting the murder of an IAS officer in 1994, is not known. His son and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) MLA Chetan Anand is unreachable on phone and the family's house in Saharsa is locked.

The gangster-turned-politician was initially to be released around 7 am. But the sudden change of plan was reportedly made to avoid the media.

BJP's MP Sushil Kumar Modi, also Bihar's former deputy Chief Minister, has said Mr Kumar had sacrificed law to stay on in power with support from ally RJD. Singh, who represented RJD in Lok Sabha, is considered a prominent Rajput face. And his release is being seen as a move to attract Bihar's upper caste votes in the 2024 general election. The release also comes against the backdrop of Mr Kumar meeting Opposition leaders to stitch a joint front to take on the BJP in 2024. Singh, who faced multiple cases, was found guilty of instigating a mob that lynched district magistrate G Krishnaiah, a Dalit IAS officer, in 1994. Krishnaiah was attacked by a mob protesting with the body of Chhotan Shukla, another gangster-politician of Anand Mohan's party, who had been killed a day earlier. Singh was sentenced to death by a lower court in 2007, but the Patna High Court later commuted the penalty to life imprisonment.



Singh was out on a 15-day parole for his son's wedding. During the break, he spoke to the media. He returned to jail only yesterday.

The former MP's release from jail comes after the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar tweaked the jail rules. Earlier, anyone convicted in connection with the murder of a public servant on duty was not eligible for a remission in sentence. This was changed by the Bihar government, paving the way for the release of 27 convicts, including Singh, who has served 14 years or more behind bars.

The move has sparked a huge controversy, with Nitish Kumar's government drawing fire from the Opposition BJP.



ENTERTAINMENT

'Drug influx' in Malayalam film industry: Kerala govt plans conclave to discuss issue

With major stakeholders in the Malayalam film industry expressing deep concern over the "influx of drugs" in the industry, Kerala Culture and Films Minister Saji Cherian, on Wednesday, April 26, said that the government will seriously look into issues. "We plan to hold a conclave extending for even two days by inviting all the stakeholders in the film industry. We expect the cooperation of all towards the efforts of the government," said Cherian.

'YOGI BABA WON'T ALLOW CRIMINALS TO SURVIVE'

The murder of Atiq and his brother and the police encounter with his son have raised many questions about the propriety of how crime is tackled by the government.

But Yogi knows he has the support of the people who are fed up with crime holding the state to ransom for decades, asserts Ramesh Menon.

While human rights activists and the Opposition were critical of the manner in which Uttar Pradesh gangsters Atiq Ahmed, his brother Ashraf Ahmed and Atiq's son Asad were shot dead, people in the state justified it, saying that they were hardened criminals and were brought to justice by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's government when the law failed.

This is not a new sentiment in the state. The man on the street in any town in UP will tell you this. Criminals have dominated the state's politics for decades now. It started with the Congress and then every party in the state that was in power went to bed with them. Every party has its share of criminals contesting and winning elections.

It is a sad commentary on how the system failed to convict criminals and how commoners got comfortable with unconstitutional methods of getting them eliminated, like police encounters.

In the last assembly elections, Adityanath used bulldozers in election rallies to push the point that he would bulldoze the houses of criminals and those who broke the law. It got him votes. That the BJP under him swept the elections is a telling reminder of the times and realities we live in. He beat incumbency as the voter saw him taking action while criminal cases in the courts dragged on for years. Ultimately, in most of the cases, criminals walked free as all the witnesses turned hostile as they feared for their lives.

In October 2022, Adityanath at a meeting organised by the Union Ministry of home affairs, said no criminal engaged in organised crime could now roam freely in his state. The meeting was attended by chief ministers, home ministers, lieutenant governors and administrators of Union Territories. Adityanath stressed that there was a new sense of security that women, weaker sections, and businessmen experienced due to strict action by the police. Atiq had nearly 100 cases registered against him that covered numerous heinous crimes like murder, kidnapping, and extortion. He grew rapidly. He had started off by stealing coal from rail wagons and selling it. He committed his first murder when he was just 17. That was in 1979.



Sports

IPL 2023 - Virat Kohli's Dismissal - Shocked As Venkatesh Iyer Takes Stunning Catch

Virat Kohli's departure was a telling blow for RCB against KKR in an IPL 2023 match. For Royal Challengers Bangalore, the M Chinnaswamy Stadium was not a happy hunting ground on Wednesday as they tasted loss at the hands of Kolkata Knight Riders in an IPL 2023 match. On a batting paradise, KKR set RCB a 201-run target. The start of RCB's chase was fine with Virat Kohli and Faf du Plessis finding the gaps easily. Though the latter departed, the former continued his onslaught despite wickets falling in regular intervals at the other end. Kohli reached his fifth half-century of the IPL 2023 off just 33 balls. Kohli's presence meant that RCB were in with a chance. However, on the first ball of the 13th over by Andre Russell, the turning point happened. Against a short ball, Kohli hit a pull shot as Venkatesh Iyer dived to his left to take a stunning catch at deep midwicket.

UNDERGROUND METRO STATIONS TO GET ISLAND PLATFORMS

On Metro line 3, there are 26 underground stations and one at-grade station in Aarey.

When the first phase of Mumbai's first underground Metro is commissioned, probably by the end of this year, commuters using the Colaba-Bandra-Seeepz Metro line will start using island platforms than the conventional side platforms used in most metro lines.

An island platform is an arrangement where a platform is positioned between two Metro tracks and will have facilities such as escalators, elevators, shops, toilets and waiting rooms. An island platform prevents crowding as the same large platform is used for trains travelling in either direction and reduces the cost of maintenance.

Another feature of the 26 stations that are part of the Metro 3 line is that they will be larger in size than conventional stations.

Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (MMRC) managing director Ashwini Bhide said, "At each station, about 20,000 square metres of space has been created. Around 17 lakh passengers would take this line daily."

The MMRC aims to begin the Metro 3 line Phase 1 from BKC to Aarey by December this year.

Except Aarey Metro station, at all other nine stations on Phase 1, the civil work is more than 90 per cent complete and system works are also 50 per cent done, said the official.

The work of Metro 3 stations started in July 2016 and as per the MMRC, all stations are 250 metres long and 22 metres wide.

MUMBAI: TWO WEEKS AFTER DEMOLITION, FOUNDRIES MUSHROOM AGAIN AT KHARANI ROAD, CLAIM RESIDENTS

Earlier, the residents of Chandivali Citizens Welfare Association and Khairani Road areas had (CCWA), they have raised the complaint about air pollution issue with the civic officials in L and smoke emanating from ready-Ward in a meeting recently and mix concrete (RMC) plants and have requested to take chimneys of factories in their appropriate action against the vicinity. The complaint led to the illegal foundries in the locality.

Earlier, the residents of against the foundries and the Chandivali and Khairani Road chimneys causing pollution in the areas had complained about air area around two weeks ago pollution and smoke emanating Two weeks after the from ready-mix concrete (RMC) Brihanmumbai Municipal plants and chimneys of factories Corporation (BMC) carried out in their vicinity. The complaint led major demolition drive to remove to the action taken by BMC's L illegal foundries from Khairani ward against the foundries and Road in Sakinaka area of Mumbai, the chimneys causing pollution in the local residents have alleged the area around two weeks ago. that the foundries have sprung up Meanwhile, according to the data in the area again shared by BMC, they demolished According to the Chandival at least 11 foundries at Khairani.

RENT PAID BY BUILDER IN REDEVELOPMENT CASES NOT TAXABLE: ITAT-MUMBAI

MUMBAI: The Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal's (ITAT) Mumbai bench recently held that the rental compensation received from a builder due to a redevelopment project is not taxable in the hands of the former flat owner. ITAT adopted this stand even as the taxpayer, the former flat owner, had not taken another accommodation on rent but had moved in with his parents. Typically, when a building goes in for redevelopment, the flat owners are either provided with alternate accommodation by the builder or more commonly paid a monthly rental compensation. The ITAT held the rental compensation is a 'capital receipt' and not a 'revenue stream of income', thus it is not taxable in the hands of the former flat owner. This order, which followed a similar order passed by the Mumbai bench earlier, will come as a relief to Mumbaiers, considering the large number of redevelopment projects across the city. This case of Ajay Parasmal Kothari was



picked up for scrutiny under the computer-aided scrutiny selection (CASS) mechanism for the financial year 2012-13. During the course of the scrutiny assessment, the income-tax (I-T) officer observed that Kothari had received Rs 3.7 lakh from the builder. Kothari had a flat in a cooperative housing society in Malad and the building had gone in for redevelopment. This sum of Rs 3.7 lakh comprised the monthly rental compensation received for alternate accommodation. The I-T officer further observed the taxpayer had not utilised this sum for an alternate accommodation.

2006 MUMBAI TRAIN BLASTS: DEATH SENTENCE CONVICT'S PLEA FOR ACTION AGAINST PROSECUTION WITNESSES REJECTED BY COURT

MUMBAI: A special trial court in Mumbai rejected a plea filed by a 2006 Mumbai train blast convict who was handed a death sentence in 2015, invoking a provision of law to seek orders for initiation of action against three witnesses by invoking Section 340 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) on the ground that they had given false evidence on oath. Ehtesham Siddiqui, lodged at Nagpur Central Prison, had filed and argued himself the plea that he was falsely implicated and held guilty to the "false evidence" given by three court Judge A M Patil on April 24, witnesses which he wanted the court to examine under section 340 of CrPC. His plea desired that the trial court must come to a conclusion that these three witnesses had deposed falsely when there was no such observation made by the special Judge who had presided over the Court during the trial proceedings. The guilty verdict was pronounced in the coordinated blasts during evening rush hour left 189 commuters dead and over 824 injured, on July 11, 2006. The reasoned judgment available on Wednesday said, "The court has passed the observation made by the special Judge who had presided over the Court during the trial record. Now, after seven years applicant filed this application... with no explanation for the guilty verdict was pronounced in the seven-year delay" AM Chimalkar, a special public prosecutor for the State, opposed confirmation of the death sentence is pending Siddiqui's application saying, the train blasts trial lasted for seven years during.



RURAL CRIME: ROBBED POWYS COUPLE URGE POLICE COLLABORATION



A couple who have had tens of thousands of pounds of equipment stolen from their farm say more needs to be done to tackle rural crime. Ellen and John Jones from Llanerfyl in north Powys were left "shaken" after three robberies in 10 years took vital farming equipment. Statistics from 2022 show the cost of rural crime was £1.3m.. It comes as the Welsh government announces it is collaborating with police forces.

The first Wales Wildlife and Rural Crime Strategy, being launched on Thursday at the Royal Welsh showground in Llanellwedd, Powys, hopes to tackle crimes including theft of agricultural equipment, livestock offences, and the destruction of wildlife and their habitats.

- 'Tens of thousands lost'
- Ellen and John put the value of the goods stolen from them in the past decade in the tens of thousands of pounds. These include Land Rovers and trailers that are essential to their farm.
- While they got a lot of money back from their insurance, it did not cover the cost of repairs, and said: "it was not much police could do".
- On one occasion a truck had tracking capabilities, and police were able to locate it in Telford in Shropshire, but John said without that they would not have had any information.
- Ellen said she still feels "shaken" and particularly vulnerable to have been robbed on her farm that houses lambs, cattle and their dogs.
- John said he did not realise until later quite how much it affected him. It made them feel they needed to take extra precautions, double-checking gates at night and installing expensive security measures.
- The couple said it remained a problem for all farms in the area, with what they believed were organised and targeted attacks.
- 'It is a terrible strain'
- Elen said while there was often the attitude that "nothing much can be done", she hoped more collaboration between police forces would help targeted rural areas.
- "I think we're just frustrated, we do feel that not enough is being done because it's just the same old story," she said.
- "You hear about these thefts don't you, and we know how emotional it can be on everybody.
- "It is a terrible strain on top of everything else. It's frightening,"

MUMBAI: NO VEHICLES TO BE ALLOWED ON EASTERN EXPRESS HIGHWAY SERVICE ROAD FOR 2.5 HOURS ON ALL DAYS

AS PER AN ORDER ISSUED BY MUMBAI TRAFFIC POLICE, VEHICLES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE SERVICE ROAD BETWEEN AIROLI JUNCTION AND PANT NAGAR IN GHATKOPAR ON THE EASTERN EXPRESS HIGHWAY FROM 5 AM TO 7:30 AM.



Due to large number of citizens using South bound service road of EEH from Airoli Jtn. till Ghatkopar Pant Nagar for Morning walk, the road is closed for vehicular movement from 5 am to 7.30 am.

The order shall be applicable from 26 April to 31 July 2023.

#MTPTrafficUpdates

Mumbai: In a bid to facilitate joggers, the Mumbai traffic police will restrict vehicular movement on a service road on Eastern Express Highway (EEH) during the morning hours. Vehicles will not be allowed to enter the service road between Airoli junction and Pant Nagar in Ghatkopar from 5 am to 7:30 am. The stretch is used by many people for a morning walk and run. The move to ban vehicular entry comes to ensure the safety of the people and to avoid any accidents. Deputy Commissioner of Police Raju Bhujbal (Eastern suburb traffic) issued the order in this regard on Tuesday that will be effective from April 26 to July 31. The notification read, "...southbound of service road of Eastern Express Highway from Airoli Junction till Ghatkopar Pant Nagar is used by (a) large number of people from nearby areas for running, jogging and morning walk between 5 am to 7.30 am. During the same period, vehicles also proceed from (the) service road." "So, there might be minor or major accidents due to which it is necessary to make changes in (the) vehicular movement for the safety of people," it added. The notification said that all types of vehicular movement are prohibited on the service road, southbound of Eastern Express Highway from Airoli Junction to Pant Nagar in Ghatkopar.

G KRISHNAIAH: HOW THE GOPALGANJ DM WAS KILLED BY ANAND MOHAN AND HIS MEN



A murder most foul, a family criminal enterprise and the 'Rifle-Bullet' combination: Indian Express revisits the murder of Gopalganj District Magistrate G Krishnaiah for which Anand Mohan was convicted.

The Bihar government on Monday notified the release of 27 prisoners, including former MP Anand Mohan, after amending the Bihar Police Jail Manuals, 2012. The jail manual change dropped "murder of a public servant on duty" as one of the categories of crime for which the accused could not be considered for premature release, before 20 years. This paved the way for the release of Mohan, who has completed 14 years' life sentence in connection with the murder of an IAS officer in 1994 in Bihar. The Indian Express steps back into 1994 to trace the events that led to the lynching of G Krishnaiah, a young IAS officer who was then the District Magistrate of Gopalganj.

HUGE FIRE AT GREATER NOIDA RESIDENTIAL APARTMENT, NO INJURIES REPORTED

VIDEOS SHOW HUGE FLAMES AND SMOKE AT ONE OF THE RESIDENTIAL TOWERS IN 14 AVENUE SOCIETY IN GREATER NOIDA'S GAUR CITY.

NEW DELHI: A HUGE FIRE HAS BROKEN OUT AT A RESIDENTIAL SOCIETY IN GREATER NOIDA NEAR DELHI AND FIRE FIGHTERS ARE TRYING TO DOUSE THE FLAMES. VIDEOS SHOW HUGE FLAMES AND SMOKE AT ONE OF THE RESIDENTIAL TOWERS IN 14 AVENUE SOCIETY IN GREATER NOIDA'S GAUR CITY. THE FIRE, IT IS LEARNT, STARTED IN THE SECOND FLOOR AND SPREAD TO THE FLOORS ABOVE. INITIALLY, THE SOCIETY'S MAINTENANCE STAFF TRIED TO COMBAT THE FLAMES, BUT AS THE FIRE SPREAD, THEY ALERTED THE FIRE BRIGADE AND LOCAL POLICE. THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF ANY INJURIES SO FAR AND THE CAUSE BEHIND THE FIRE IS NOT KNOWN YET.

WHO IS MALEEKA BOKHARI, THE PAKISTANI POLITICIAN TRENDING ON TWITTER

MALEEKA BOKHARI RECENTLY FELL PREY TO SHADY FAKE PROPAGANDA AFTER ONLINE VIDEOS ALLEGEDLY LINKED TO HER SURFACED ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

WHO IS MALEEKA BOKHARI? Maleeka Ali Bokhari served in Pakistan's National Assembly from August 2018 to January 2023. She was chosen to represent Pakistan in the National Assembly as a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) candidate running for a Punjab-based women's seat in the general election of 2018. On September 7, Prime Minister Imran Khan appointed her to the position of Parliamentary Secretary for Law and Justice. Maleeka Ali Bokhari consistently receive accolades for her excellent work, and over time she also gathered a large following.

WHY IS MALEEKA BOKHARI TRENDING ON TWITTER? As the videos sparked new discussion, a lot of individuals flocked to Twitter to show their support for the former National Assembly member. One of the users said, "I strongly condemn campaign against @MalBokhari she is a woman of substance and role model for young people. Look at her work experience and education mashaallah, she will achieve more ia. Stay strong ♥♥♥"

Another user said, "Till date, N-League remains the most indecent & the most selfish political party of Pakistan, may be the world, using every evil tactic to humiliate opponents & killing every man that is, in any way, a harm to their politics & corruption." The third user wrote, "Stay safe and strong—Nation is with you."

TRENDING ON TWITTER

