

After blast, permit for fashion show featuring Bollywood star Sunny Leone cancelled



IT News
Imphal, Feb 4:

Following a bomb blast that took place at Hapta Kangjeibung in Imphal East where hectic preparation for fashion show featuring Bollywood star Sunny Leone, scheduled tomorrow,

the district administration of Imphal East cancelled the permission for organising the Fashion by an order issued today.

It may be mentioned that unknown miscreants blasted a bomb at the event site at around 6.30 am today morning. However, the blast

hurt no persons as none were present at the time. The fashion show is planned to organise by a group call House of Ali run by Fashion Designer Ali & Daya to promote Manipuri handloom and Tourism. According to a source, some rebel groups strongly opposed and warn

inviting of Bollywood actors in the name of promoting Manipur's handloom products.

Soon after the blast, a team of state police rushed to the site and inspected the area. A pitch was found due to the impact of the blast however, no damages have occurred to any properties or the sets of the stage being constructed.

In an order passed by the authority of the District Magistrate Imphal East today, it has been informed that the permit issued to organise Fashion Parade event at Hapta Kangjeibung from 2/2/23 to 5/3/2023 stands cancelled with immediate effect in view of the law and order incident which occurred today morning at Hapta Kangjeibung and as a step for the maintenance of law and order in and around the area.

Railway connectivity already reached Khongsang, says Ashwini Vaishnawna replying to MP Sanajaoba

IT News
Imphal, Feb 4:

The 111 km long railway line from Jiribam to Imphal has been taken up to put Manipur in the Indian Railways network and the cost of the project is Rs. 14,323 crores and upto March 31, 2022, a total of Rs. 12,371 crores has been spent and for the year 2022-23, Rs. 1000 crores has been outlay, this was stated by Ashwini Vaishnawna, Minister of Railways, Communication and Electronics and Information Technology while replying queries by Rajya Sabha MP Leishemba Sanajaoba.

During Question hour in the ongoing Budget session today, MP Sanajaoba had asked the Railway Ministry through the Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha if there is any deadline for the construction of railway connection till Imphal and also regarding reservation of jobs to the railways.

Replying to the queries Ashwini Vaishnawna said that the 55km long railway line from Jiribam to Khongsang has been commissioned and is operating now. Taking into view of the problem faced by the state government in land acquisition, clearance from the forest department, shifting infringing utilities, clearance from different



authorities, geological and topographical condition, law and order, climatic condition etc, the project is being delayed and are unable to complete in the stipulated time. All efforts are being put up to complete the project as soon as possible.

In connection with the job reservation, Ashwini Vaishnawna said that as Railways is a pan India character organisation and any person from across the country can apply if eligible for any post at Railways. "There are no relaxation or preference given to any candidate from any specific region", the Minister said.

Replying to another question regarding the menace of Fake Aadhaar card, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of

State for Electronics and Information Technology said, Aadhaar is a very secure system. Every eligible Indian is allotted a unique number as per Section 3 of Aadhaar Act, 2016. According to Section 4(3) of the Aadhaar Act 2016, every Aadhaar card holder has the right to use his Aadhaar number authenticated or verified offline in either Physical or electronic format. Aadhaar letter, e-Aadhaar, Aadhaar PVC is verified with Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), by online of offline method and the said service is available in UIDAI website or mAadhaar app. In the case of fake Aadhaar card, appropriate actions can be taken up as per IPC by law-enforcement agencies.

Kangpokpi Forest Division all out to fight the menace of Deforestation

IT News
Imphal, Feb 4:

Kangpokpi Forest Division and other agencies have carried out destruction of Poppy in 19 instances in 2022-23 in which 590 Acres of area under poppy cultivation was cleared of poppy and FIR were filed in 14 instances by Officers of the Division under Section 26 of Indian Forest Act and ND & PS Act. Operations to clear poppy of remaining areas is still going on. The Division was ably supported by Foresters of Central and Senapati Division. Drone survey is also being conducted to identify areas under cultivation of any form on Reserved Forest (RF) land and Forest Offence cases will also be filed against people indulging in any form of cultivation in RF.

The Range Forest Officers were ordered to investigate into the matters of poppy cult-



tivation inside Reserved Forest Areas in August 2022. This office has issued summons to around 23 villages namely Phaijiang, A. Songpijiang, Phailengkot, Thomjiang, Phoibung, Thotne, Makuli, Chandraman, Amaledara, Mahabir, L. Thomjiang, Mangjol, Kolpechang, Lhangkichei, Kaithe Imanbi, Chingloubung, Gopibung, KPI Ward No. 14, Saikotjang, Tujang, Kholjang and investigated the matter thoroughly with respect to Poppy cultivation within the Kanglatongbi Kangpokpi RF (KKRF)/ Koubru Hill Range

and other RF areas. Complaints has been registered against 24 such cultivators of poppy inside RF in last two days besides FIRs in 14 instances filed earlier. More FIRs will be filed based on further investigation. The DFO has coordinated with Police to effect the arrest of these offenders immediately under IFA 1927 and NDPS acts. It may also be noted that this exercise has been carried out on a regular basis, but not just as a knee jerk reaction.

Apart from Poppy Destruction, on other fronts of Forest management, this Of-

fice will be dispatching a team of Forest officials to camp permanently at Koubru peak for the entire fire season to prevent any forest fire in the KKRF. The team will be patrolling the entire KKRF area, operating from Koubru peak and will also be involved in making large fire lines in KKRF which will act as break to any forest fire. Also keeping the fire season in mind and as a preventive measure to avoid any forest fire, restrictions were imposed on camping, trekking, expedition, etc without the permission of competent Authority inside KKRF vide Order of the DFO Kangpokpi, No TEC-FD/3/2022-e-FOR-1/39588/2023 dated 26th January, 2023.

In the last one year over 1 lakh seedlings have been planted by the Division at Koubru hill range alone. In the upcoming plantation season, the Division has plans to plant more than 1.5 lakh seedlings at Koubru ranges.

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Sit in protest held against temple desecration

IT News
Imphal, Feb 4:

More than 100 locals gathered to organise a sit-in protest to condemn the desecration of more than three centuries old Krishna idol and temple at Brahmapur Guruaribam locality in Imphal East district.

Unidentified miscreants on Friday midnight desecrated one of the oldest temple in the state protected by Manipur Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains Act 1976.

Founder G Ranjit Sharma



of All Manipur Dharma Raksha Samiti said "it is high time for the authorities to root out the elements targeting a particular religion for the last few decades."

The incident is the second

in less than three months involving desecration of an idol at a place of worship.

Speaker and local MLA Th Satyabrata who visited the temple on Friday had assured of possible assistance.

AMMDO to be known as AMMPACO

IT News
Imphal, Feb 4:

The All Manipur Muslim Development Organization (AMMDO) will now be known as the All Manipur Meitei Pangal Clubs' Organisation (AMMPACO). This was jointly declared by the AMUCO and the AMMDO in the latter's 20th Foundation Day at Hatta Golapati today. Elaborating on how the Meitei Pangal community flourishes in Manipur, the Muslim word has been dropped seeing the socio-political history of Manipur says the joint declaration.

IT News
Imphal, Feb 4:

Taking a step forward to provide an encouraging hand of help and strengthening its association with the people of North East, leading technology-led oncology platform Karkinos Manipur Cancer Care and Research Institute organized several Cancer Awareness Programs at different places in Imphal on the occasion of World Cancer Day.

Dr. K Rajo Singh Senior Consultant, Anaesthesiology, Karkinos Manipur Cancer

Care and Research Institute and Former Director of Health Services, Government of Manipur was present along with other Doctors of the Hospital to address different queries related to cancer during the Cancer Awareness Programs.

KarkinosHealthcare Manipur also organized a Football Match to create awareness about the disease. The football match was played between Manipur Stars, which included former national football players from Manipur and Manipur Cancer

Warriors, led by veterans of Manipur Cancer Society and Cancer Survivors at Eastern Sporting Union Ground, Wangkhei.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. (Prof) GS Moirangthem, Director and CEO, Karkinos Manipur Cancer Care and Research Institute said, "It is estimated that there are 2.25 million cases of cancer in India every year, which doubles every 10 years. Three quarters of these cancers are detected in the late stages and mortality rates are devastatingly high because of lack of access

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- * Karkinos Healthcare Manipur also organized a Football Match to create awareness about the disease.
- * Dr. K Rajo Singh Senior Consultant, Anaesthesiology, and Former Director of Health Services, Government of Manipur along with other Doctors of the Hospital addressed the programs.

to standardized cancer care. On World Cancer Day we are organizing several activities across Imphal to raise aware-

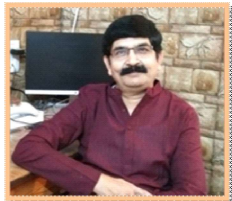
ness about cancer, prevention and importance of early detection. Karkinos plans to address these problems with an

end-to-end technology platform which coordinates cancer care continuum; medical center for treatment of complex cancers; and research center which leverages technologies such as genomics, synthetic biology, sensors, and AI to analyze data and leading to the development of affordable cancer interventions. The fundamental principle of Karkinos is democratization of cancer care in a participatory fashion with existing health providers, researchers and technologists."

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Karkinos Healthcare Manipur organizes Cancer Awareness Programs on World Cancer Day

Where is the safety of Bankers ?



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

without any reason.

FBOIOA and BOIOA (Gujarat Unit) has strongly condemned such unprovoked and vengeful act against a colleague who was merely doing his duty as every banker is entitled to a life of dignity and safety at the workplace. This is not first incident. There have been series of assaults on bankers while on duty, which various banking organisations like AIBOC & FBOIOA have earlier highlighted to the Ministry of Finance from time to time. In past taking cognisance of a bank employee being manhandled, the finance ministry has assured that the government is committed to the safety of bankers and swift action will be taken against the person involved in the incident.

In past, the incident of manhandling of a banker of State Bank of India was reported from Wardha district of Maharashtra. In 2020a police constable in Surat, Gujarat allegedly manhandled a female employee of Saroli branch of Canara Bank. She was allegedly abused and pushed for not being able to print passbook as the printer was not working. After the incident of attack on woman banker, Finance



Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said and assured to ensure the safety of workers and timely action in the matter and nothing should threaten the safety and dignity of bank employees. Most banks tend to attend to not more than 100 customers on normal days. No doubt, an employee may err but nobody has the right to physically assault him on duty.

Stating that banking operations are crucial to the economy, the Department of Financial Services has already written a letter to the chief secretary of states that in the light of rising incidents of unruly behaviour of anti-social elements against the bankers but the government needs to take stern actions. There is a need to deal firmly with miscreants who indulge in such attacks. Such repeated incidents need to be responded to proactively and with a firm hand, strict action taken against such elements with full force of law so that bankers are protected and the public assured of secured access to banking services. Security arrangements must be reviewed in the branches to prevent such kind of heinous attack on the bankers.

Despite of amid challenges, banks are extending all services to public and therefore the safety of all bankers is very important. The entire nation has observed that the staff of banks and other financial sector entities had played a critical role in providing essential services during the pandemic. According to data, more than 600 bank staff lost their lives and the percentage of death in the banking industry is even higher in comparison to the entire country.

Misbehaving, Abusing and Assaulting with a Bank employee comes under IPC 332 and 352 which may attract 2 to 3 year imprisonment and a non bailable crime. Bank employees need to be assured about their safety as such incidents result in the exact opposite and end up demoralizing their families. Government must enact a new legislation to protect Bank employees from physical assault while on duty. Don't we think bankers life must be protected who work hard though in stress? Don't we think a deterrent action against such culprits must be dealt with? Don't we think such incidents need to be dealt with promptly to infuse confidence among the bankers community?

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Use of Unfair Means (Cheating) in Examinations



By: Vijay GarG

Education System is a tool that enables people to lead productive lives according to their talents and interests. For Education systems to be fully effective it must give an individual the training of a independence and leadership. At the same time, it should provide for the development of all the vocational abilities needed for the creation of a progressive and democratic society. The quality of education that is imparted to youths contribute largely to the formation of their attitudes. So whatever kind of education is imparted will determine the quality and nature of the educated youth coming out of the schools, colleges and universities. Education is a great builder and if it is deficient or decadent it can be a destroyer too. History is proof of such deficiencies or lack in education. Greece and Rome were once world leaders owing to the fact that these were great centres of learning and education. But when these centres ceased to exist it resulted in the downfall of these empires.

If current education systems are to be evaluated they too suffer from various shortcomings and faults, though there are still many exceptions. Nonetheless, there is a need to address and end the malpractices that are commonly committed during examinations. These malpractices are at the pre-conduct, conduct and evaluation stages and range from leakage of question papers to copying, changing answer books, impersonation, misconduct in examination centre, approaching invigilators/examiners, making false entries in award list/ examination registers and issuing fake certificate/ degrees etc. The use of unfair means in the examination is a trend that isn't going to end soon.

The whole system of education revolves around Examinations which play a pivotal role in the suc-

cess or failure of the system. They are also the barometers of the success or failure of students. The resort to copying and use of other unfair means/ malpractices in examinations is a serious problem which needs an immediate solution. This problem is like a disease in our educational system which is messing up the future of the youth and the society as a whole as well.

Why do Students Resort to Unfair Means?

Fear of Failure: The fear of is one of the top reason for some students to cheat in exams. Some students anticipate a lot of problems if they fail the exams. Their fear dwells in their parents complain about bad grades, their friends mocking and a possible dark future too. They get stressed and the end result is cheating in exams.

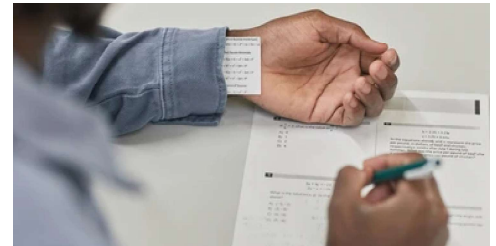
Lack of Ability: There are few students who have no potential of taking up the challenge of exams. Low self-esteem and lack of self-confidence cause them to cheat. Instead of studying hard, paying attention to classes, reviewing lessons and doing exercises they cheat in exams.

Lack of Interest: Some students have no interest in studies at all. They find it useless as they know that they are going to take over their father's business or follow traditional family business after their studies. For them, school is just a formality and a pass time. They find no need to study and cheating seems to be an easy way out.

Cheating for Fun & Show-off: Some students cheat in exams is because enjoy taking risks. It sounds ridiculous but in reality, there are certain students who get thrilled and excitement in doing such malpractices. They want to be popular by showing-off their ability. For some, it is an ego issue and for some, it is a dare for a bet or otherwise.

Availability of Sources: Technology and money facilitated cheating tools in the form of elements such as ex-students, co-students, parents, teachers, examiners, invigilators, examination staff and outside elements. They are readily available either due to money or otherwise.

Easy Approach: Using unfair means in the form of chits, guides, paid candidate, question paper leak, bribed teachers or examiners etc. appears to be a shortcut to hard work. When there are shortcuts who wants



to make efforts to study.

Habitual Use: For successful cheaters, it becomes a bad habit which gives them the confidence to do it again. Such students just can't do without cheating in spite of the fear of getting caught as the fear is overshadowed by tasted success.

Poverty: Some students come from poor families and they are working too many hours in paid employment to cope with schoolwork. They can either study or work so an easy way out is using unfair means.

Substance Addiction: Some have developed an addiction to drugs or alcohol. Such students have only one thing in mind and that one thing sways them away from studies.

Anti-social Elements: Students from families having a history of violence and psychiatric problems tend to be influenced by their environment. They indulge in crime and other anti-social activities which alienates them from studies.

Good Grades: Some students are ambitious and want good grades at all cost to get admissions in reputed college or university. Though many of them are bright students, they want to leave no chance to top and the temptation to cheat to get the coveted admission or scholarships becomes very powerful.

By Hook or by Crook: The prevalent attitude of getting things done either By Hook or By Crook in present times is becoming acceptable and sort of norm. Corrupt officials and governments are leading examples. In such an environment cheating is no big deal.

How to deal with the Problem of Use of Unfair Means in Exam?

Purpose of Examinations: When the purpose of examinations becomes a method to gain grades rather than for it's learning value, there is degradation in the value of examinations in the eyes of the stu-

dents. It becomes a formality then.

Legal Consequences: Strict laws regarding cheating should be implemented to prevent cheating.

Incentives to Informers: Students who are aware of cheaters should be given incentives in secret to prevent this malpractice.

Video Surveillance: Using cameras even if they are dummies instils a fear of being taped and 100 % chance of getting caught which itself will prevent cheating.

Tracking School Staff: School staff can be tracked by hired detectives for the possible perpetrator.

Extra Stress on Policies and Guidelines Regarding Cheating: These need to be fully communicated to students in various ways like the bulletin board, verbal announcement before the exams, warning on the exam sheet etc. This induces a fear and rejection of cheating.

Fair Exams: There is a need to create a test that is fair to the students. Some students use an instructor's reputation for giving "unfair" tests as an excuse to cheat. "Fair" means that the exam tests the material that you said it would cover, that students have enough time to complete the exam and that there is a reasonable grade distribution.

Pre-coded Sheets: Use of Pre-code answer sheets and test booklets that use a numbering system so that the number on each test booklet matches the one on each student's answer sheet is also an effective way to prevent cheating.

Clever Marking: To eliminate cheating after the exam has been returned to students, mark the answer sheets in such a way that answers cannot be altered (such as using a permanent felt-tip pen).

Seating Arrangements: Number seats and tests and then assign students to sit in the seat with the same number as the number on their test.

Perfumes and their Care



By: Shahnaz Husain

Are you someone who loves to buy perfumes every now and then? Scents elicit emotions and offer a sense of comfort.

Entering a room with your signature fragrance is the best feeling. But how long will the new fragrance last? We like to smell nice all day long, but sometimes it can feel like your fragrance has faded away by lunchtime while you have spent a pretty penny on it.

It's all about knowing where and how to apply fragrance, so it retains its quality. If you know how to make the most out of your perfume, you won't waste as much as well.

Picking a scent for one occasion, another for that moment, or this perfume to commemorate this moment, having loads of them lined up for

each day, the biggest problem that any perfume user faces is storing them properly. Perfume is a very delicate composition, which can be damaged, ultimately affecting the fragrance and its longevity.

Perfumes not only dilute and lose their flavorful allure over time but discoloration and degradation can lead to bad-smelling perfume.

If stored incorrectly, perfume can start to go bad after a few months. So, what are the best ways to store your fragrance and keep it fresh?

Most of us prefer vanity tables, bathrooms, or cars to keep our perfume bottles. But these are not ideal for storage and can significantly reduce the potency of your scent over time.

The best way to keep perfume fresh for as long as possible is to hide it away—seriously. Dark, dry places are the best go-to's for fragrance storage. The catacombs of a closet or a dark box are ideal for storing a brand-new bottle of perfume.

The way we store our perfumes has an impact on how long they last. It is said that a dark, cool, and dry place would be the best. However, very often, we keep our perfumes on our dressing table, or in the bathroom, so that they are convenient to use. Your fragrances

should be kept away from direct sunlight, due to exposure to ultraviolet rays. Therefore, they are best kept in drawers, away from light. Excessive heat can also break down the chemical bonds in perfumes. Therefore, in hot weather, you can even keep your colognes in your refrigerator. However, concentrated perfumes should not be kept in the fridge or in very hot places, as extremes of temperature can harm the delicate blends of perfumes.

To select the right perfume, one needs to know a few facts. Body chemistry is important, as the effect may depend on individual body odour. That is why it is best to try out the perfume on one's own skin. The exact fragrance of a perfume is apparent only when it comes in contact with the skin.

Climate also plays a part in choosing the right perfume. In hot and humid conditions, it is better to go for light and fresh fragrances, rather than heavy ones. The effect of perfumes intensifies in hot and humid weather. A heavy perfume can be quite overpowering. In fact, some perfumes can even trigger off a headache in some individuals. In cold and dry weather, a heavier scent can be used. Lemon, rose, lavender or sandalwood are light and refreshing during hot weather.

The time of day also matters. Go for light fragrances in the morning and heavier ones for the night.

Colognes and Toilet waters can be used during summer and be added to bath water. You can be generous with the use of colognes, even splashing them on. Colognes and Eau de Toilette constitute mainly of water, or a mixture of alcohol and water, with only 2 to 5 % perfume. They are lighter and the fragrance evaporates, leaving a light lingering fragrance. But, when it comes to perfumes, they should be used sparingly.

· Apply just a drop or two of perfume on the pulse points. These are at the temple, the wrists, the crook of your arm (in front of the elbow), beneath the neck, behind the knees.

· Apply perfumes before wearing your clothes, as they can linger on clothes and mix with other colognes or perfumes.

· If you have an oily skin, colognes are much more suitable.

· Avoid using perfumes if you are going to be out in the sun for a long time. Some perfumes may be photosensitizing, leading to a reaction on the skin, like a rash, or blotches.

(The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India)

Assam Police arrests 2044 in crackdown against child marriage; Faces protest by women

Agency
Guwahati, Feb 4:

In a massive crackdown on child marriage in Assam, the police on Friday arrested 2,044 people including Hindu and Muslim priests who conducted such weddings which, the authorities said, will be declared illegal.

As the police said they have a list of 8,000 accused and the drive will continue, women protested against the move in various districts saying they will face problems without livelihoods.

The police had registered 4,004 cases of child marriage in less than a fortnight since the state cabinet decided on January 23 to arrest offenders, besides launching an extensive awareness campaign against the menace.

"We have a list of 8,000 named accused and so far we have arrested only 2,044 people. The drive against child marriage will continue over the next three to four days and after we get all the data, a proper district-wise analysis can be done," Director General of Police G P Singh said.

Till Friday evening, the highest number of 137 arrests have been made in Bishwanath district, followed by 126 in

Dhubri, 120 in Baksa, 114 in Barpeta, and 96 in Kokrajhar.

Besides members of families that married off their underage children, the police arrested 51 'purohits' and 'kazis' who conducted such wedding rituals in religious institutions, the DGP said.

He said the arrests were made after verification of inputs received from family members, the child welfare society, local people, and the police personnel.

"We will act according to the law, conduct proper investigations and submit charge sheets," Singh said.

The state cabinet recently decided that those having married girls below 14 years of age will be booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, and cases under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 will be registered against those who have married girls in the 14-18 years age group.

They will be arrested and the marriages will be declared illegal. If the groom is also below 14 years of age, he will be sent to a reform house.

How many of the arrested people were minors is not yet known till the publication of the report.

Chief Minister Himanta

Biswa Sarma said he has directed the police to act with a "spirit of zero tolerance against the unpardonable and heinous crime on women".

Meanwhile, women came out in large numbers to protest against the arrest of their husbands and sons.

"Why take only the men? How will we and our children survive? We have no means of income," said 55-year-old Niroda Doley of Majuli district.

Jehira Begum of Dhubri said that her 19-year-old son had brought home a girl who studied in college with him but they were not married yet.

"Her father, however, reported it to the police and now both my son and husband have been arrested," she said.

A woman of the Barpeta district, who did not wish to be named, said her son had "eloped with a minor girl. He made a mistake, but why arrest my sick husband?" Monowara Khatoun of Morigaon said, "My daughter-in-law was 17 when she got married. Now she is 19 and five months pregnant. Who will look after her?"

Protests were also made from other quarters.

Pointing out that campaigning against child marriage is a welcome step, college student Ananya Barua

said, "But it will create a lot of problems for those who are already married and have children." All Assam Minority Students Union (AAMSU) president Rejaul Karim Sarkar claimed they were working to end child marriage in minority-dominated areas for the last five years and had submitted several memoranda to the government but did not get any response from the authorities.

Just arresting people and asking the police to file cases will not solve the problem. All sections of society must be involved in the campaign against child marriage so that people are convinced that it is a wrong practice, Sarkar said.

The chief minister on January 28 had said, "Thousands of husbands will be arrested in the next five-six months as it is a crime to have sexual relations with a girl below 14 years of age, even if he is her legally wed husband... Many (men who marry girls) could face life imprisonment," Sarma said.

Assam has a high rate of maternal and infant mortality, with child marriage being the primary cause as an average of 31 per cent of marriages registered in the state are in the prohibited age, according to reports of the National Family Health Survey.

NIA Receives Threat Mail from "Taliban" About Terror Attack in Mumbai



An anonymous email to carry out terror attack in Mumbai. (a representational image).

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Feb 4:

Several cities in Maharashtra have been put on high alert following an e-mail received by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), from an unidentified person posing a "member of the Taliban" threatening to carry out a terrorist attack in Mumbai.

The Mumbai Police source said that NIA apprised them after the national agency received the e-mail on Thursday. The person who sent the threat mail described himself to be a Talibani and said that there would be a terror attack in Mumbai.

According to the police, the email address used to send

the threat message had "CIA" in it and the sender claimed that a person having links with the Taliban would carry out an attack in the city. The IP (internet protocol) address of the sender has been traced to Pakistan.

Although the police suspect it might be a mischief, the Mumbai Police and the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), have launched an investigation into the matter.

The police had received similar messages earlier too. Last month, the Dhruvhai Ambani International School located at BKC in North West in Mumbai had received a threat call wherein an unidentified caller had threatened to

blow up the school.

A similar suspicious call informing about the bombs planted at Infinity Mall Andheri, PVR Mall Juhu, and Sahara Hotel Airport in North West Mumbai was received in October 2022.

It may be recalled that the NIA in August 2022, had arrested Salim Qureshi alias "Salim Fruiti", a member of the Dawood Ibrahim gang, for allegedly aiding the gang's terrorist activities in Mumbai. He was a close aide of fugitive gangster Chhota Shakeel. Qureshi was instrumental in extorting huge amounts of money in Shakeel's name from property dealings for raising funds for terror activities of D company.

Aatmanirbharta' in Defence: PM Modi to dedicate to the Nation HAL's Helicopter Factory at Tumakuru, Karnataka on February 6

PIB (Defence Wing)
Kohima, Feb 4:

In yet another step towards 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate to the nation a Helicopter Factory of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in Tumakuru, Karnataka on February 06, 2023. Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh and senior officials of Ministry of Defence will be present on the occasion.

The Greenfield Helicopter Factory, spread across 615 acres of land, is planned with a vision to become a one-stop solution for all helicopter requirements of the country. It is India's largest helicopter manufacturing facility and will initially produce Light Utility Helicopters (LUHs).

The LUH is an indigenously designed and developed 3-ton class, single engine multipurpose utility helicopter with unique features of high maneuverability. Initially, this factory will produce around 30 helicopters per year and can be enhanced to 60 and then 90 per year in a phased manner. The first LUH has been flight tested and is ready for unveiling.

The factory will be augmented to produce other helicopters such as Light Combat Helicopters (LCHs) and Indian Multirole Helicopters (IMRHs). It will also be used for Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul of LCH, LUH, Civil Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) and IMRH in the future. Potential exports of civil LUH will also be catered to from this factory.

The HAL plans to produce more than 1,000 helicopters in the range of 3-15 tonnes, with a total business of over Rs four lakh crores over a period of 20 years. Besides generating direct and indirect employment, the Tumakuru facility will boost the development of surrounding areas through its CSR activities with large-scale community centric programmes on which the company will spend substantial amounts. All this will result in improvement in the people's lives in the region.

The proximity of the factory, with the existing HAL facilities in Bengaluru, will boost the aerospace manufacturing ecosystem in the region and support skill & infrastructure development such as schools, colleges and residential areas. Medical and health care would also reach the community residing in the various nearby Panchayats.

With the establishment of facilities like Heli-Runway, Flight Hangar, Final Assembly Hangar, Structure Assembly Hangar, Air Traffic Control and various supporting service facilities, the factory is fully operational. This factory is being equipped with state-of-the-art Industry 4.0 standard tools and techniques for its operations.

The foundation stone of the facility was laid by the Prime Minister in 2016. This factory will enable India to meet its entire requirement of helicopters without import and giving much needed fillip to the Prime Minister's vision of 'Aatmanirbhara Bharat' in helicopter design, development, and manufacture.

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With a rapid decline in the trajectory of Covid cases, scientists believe that Omicron and its sub-lineages will not affect India as a large number

Agency
New Delhi, Feb 4:

India has reported 128 new Covid cases in the last 24 hours, according to the union health ministry data. The total number of Covid cases reached 4.47 crore, with 530,745 Covid-related deaths since the onset of the Covid pandemic.

Covid cases are constantly declining across the country with Karnataka reporting 142 active cases while Kerala has 1196 active cases. Maharashtra has 76 active cases, Odisha 87 cases, Rajasthan with 15 cases, Tamil Nadu has 29 active cases; Uttar Pradesh 15 and West Bengal has 46 active cases.

With a rapid decline in the trajectory of Covid cases, scientists believe that Omicron and its sub-lineages will not affect India as a large number

of the population is already exposed to the virus and vaccinated. Scientists say that people in India have developed hybrid immunity (due to vaccination and natural infection). However, they suggest people wear masks in crowded places and complete their vaccination doses if not done yet.

At present, a large number of cases are being reported in China and other countries. As a result, the Central government has tightened Covid preparedness measures. The government has directed the INSACOG under the supervision of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) to keep a close watch on the Covid situation in the country and continue to do constant genome sequencing to track any new variant.

The government is con-

ducting RT-PCR testing for people returning from China, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, and South Korea and mandated the filling up of 'Air Suvidha' forms for travellers from six countries under which 72-hour prior RT-PCR testing is compulsory.

The country has conducted over 1,42,063 tests in the last 24 hours, taking the total trajectory of Covid testing to 91.60 crore so far.

Under the Covid vaccination drive, more than 220.56 crore vaccine doses have been administered to people across the country so far. In the last 24 hours, around 1,60,769 vaccine doses were administered.

Besides, surveillance at the hospital level is also going on to monitor Influenza-like illness (ILI) & SARI cases.

Adani Group crisis: Nirmala Sitharaman, RBI seek to allay fears on overexposure of SBI, LIC

Agency
New Delhi, Feb 4:

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and the Reserve Bank of India on Friday sought to allay concerns about overexposure of banks and insurers to the crisis-ridden Adani Group.

In the past few days, the Opposition has been claiming that ordinary citizens were losing money on account of investments made by the state-owned Life Insurance Corporation and State Bank of India in the conglomerate led by billion-

aire Gautam Adani.

Sitharaman on Friday said that both the LIC and SBI have issued detailed statements on the matter, CNN-News18 reported. "And I know the chairperson or the CMD has himself come out and explained how they are not overexposed or whatever they said and also said look, we are sitting over profits for the exposure that we have, which is well within the limit," she said.

Sitharaman said that words coming "out of the horse's mouth" have greater credibility. "They have very clearly said

that their exposure is very well within the permitted limits and that they are even now with the valuation falling as well, they are still sitting over profit," she said.

The finance minister also asserted that India remains a well-regulated financial market, and said that investors will continue to have confidence in it.

"Our regulators are normally very, very stringent about certain governance practices," she told CNN-News18 in an interview. "So one instance, however much talked about globally it may be, I would think, it is not going to be indicative of how

well Indian financial markets are governed."

Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank of India said that it maintains a constant vigil on the banking sector and on individual banks with a view to maintaining financial stability.

"As per the RBI's current assessment, the banking sector remains resilient and stable," a press release said on Friday.

"Various parameters relating to capital adequacy, asset quality, liquidity, provision coverage and profitability are healthy. Banks are also in compliance with the Large Exposure Frame-

work [LEF] guidelines issued by the RBI."

The State Bank of India's Chairman Dinesh Khara also said that its overall exposure to the Adani Group is at 0.88% of its loan book, or about Rs 27,000 crore, PTI reported.

Khara said that the bank does not foresee the conglomerate facing any challenge in servicing its debt obligations. He said that the group has an excellent repayment record.

The SBI chairman also said that the bank has not given loans against shares to the Adani Group and also that there has

been no refinance request from the ports-to-mining group, according to PTI.

Crisis in the Adani Group On January 24, Hindenburg Research, a company that specialises in short-selling or betting against a firm's share price in the expectation that it will fall, alleged in a report that the Adani Group had engaged in decades of stock manipulation and accounting fraud. It also accused the conglomerate of improper use of offshore tax havens and raised concerns about high debt of seven listed Adani companies.

Shares of Adani Ports also rose by 7.98% on the Bombay Stock Exchange to end the day at Rs 498.85.

Since the report was published, Adani Group's combined market capitalisation has collapsed by over \$100 billion.

On Friday, shares of Adani Enterprises, the Adani Group's flagship company, plunged 35% to its lowest level since March 2021 in intra-day trading on Friday, before ending with gains of 1.25%. The stock finished in the green for the first time in seven straight trading sessions on the Bombay Stock Exchange.

Shares of Adani Ports also rose by 7.98% on the Bombay Stock Exchange to end the day at Rs 498.85.

G20's sustainable finance group to work on capacity building in Guwahati, says official

Agency
Guwahati, Feb 4:

With sustainable finance being a niche sector and most still in the "learning process", the Sustainable Finance Working Group (SFWG) of G20 under India's presidency will work towards capacity building in the segment by identifying requirements, efforts already in place and existing gaps, an official said.

It will then come up with recommendations on what needs to be done in specific areas and how organisations can contribute towards it, she added.

"Capacity building of the ecosystem for financing sustainable development was among the priority areas taken up for discussion in the 1st SFWG meet," Geetu Joshi, ad-

viser, Ministry of Finance (MoF), said at the end of the two-day meeting here on Friday.

She said it had been taken up because in many countries there is a lack of adequate knowledge and a scarcity of skilled professionals and workforce in sustainable finance.

"There is a lack of adequate knowledge. One member country said during a session that they thought only developing countries lacked this skill, but they realised that it is a global problem," Joshi said.

Pointing out that sustainable finance is a "very technical and niche" area, she said, "Not everybody understands it. Everybody is in the learning process. There are a lot of technical issues that need to

be identified."

"During one of the sessions on the topic, international organisations shared what they are putting in place and based on it, we will identify the areas first, know the demands and then complement it with supply," she said.

The SFWG will identify the requirements, efforts being made, gaps that are present and come up with recommendations for specific areas and which organisations can contribute.

"We will develop a G20 Sustainable Finance Technical Assistance Action Plan (TAAP)," the official said.

A skilled workforce is always a huge asset, especially in the area of sustainable finance and forms the key to achieving Sustainable Development Goals, Joshi added.

No proposal to use remote voting machines in upcoming elections, Centre tells Parliament

Agency
New Delhi, Feb 4:

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju told Parliament on Friday that there has been no proposal to introduce remote electronic voting machines in the upcoming polls.

Assembly elections are due in Tripura on February 16 while Nagaland, and Meghalaya will vote on February 27. Before the Lok Sabha elections in 2024, Assembly elections are also scheduled to be held in Karnataka, Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana. It is not clear if Rijiju referred to all these polls by saying "upcoming

election".

He made the statement in response to questions from Lok Sabha MPs Anto Antony, Gaurav Gogoi, K Subbarayan and Manickam Tagore on whether the Election Commission had developed a prototype for remote voting machines, and if the poll body intended to introduce them in upcoming elections.

The Election Commission has said it is looking into the prospect of using remote voting machines for domestic migrants who cannot travel to their home constituencies to cast their votes. A single remote polling booth can handle up to 72 multiple constituencies, according to the

poll body.

The Commission had planned a demonstration of the remote voting machines on January 17, but it had to be postponed after the Opposition parties expressed concerns over the reform.

In his response to Parliament on Friday, Rijiju noted that public sector unit Electronic Corporation of India Limited has developed a prototype of the remote electronic voting machine. He also clarified that the proposed remote voting method will not be used for non-resident Indian voters. He expressed confidence that the introduction of remote voting machines would not increase fake votes.

Contd. from Page 1

Kangpokpi Forest Division all...

The Division has also conducted Joint Survey for demarcation of Reserve Forest and Protected Forest which will be followed by consolidation. Joint Survey and signing of map is completed for Khamanthou Ching RF and Khamar PF. Joint survey and map preparation has been done for Kangchup RF and Kangchup Chiru RF and are pending with DC, Imphal West for signature. About 95% of Joint Survey in KKRF has also been completed. Joint survey has also been started for Imphal-Iril PF and Kangchup Laimakhong Irang PF as well. Demarcation will be followed by laying of boundary pillars and consolidation of RF/PF. The Division was able to attain a huge progress in last 4 to 5 months in Survey and demarcation.

The Division has issued Eviction notices to 30 encroachers in KKRF at Mahavir and Thotne. The encroachers will be evicted on 2nd and 3rd week of February after following due procedure. It may also be noted that the Division has evicted resorts and houses from Kangchup Chiru Reserved Forest on 1st week of December 2022.

It has come as a shock to the Department about Phayeng villagers' accusation regarding the eviction drive carried out at Kangchup Chiru RF. Whereas we have acted upon the encroachers very recently and further eviction is put on hold due to stay order by the Honourable High Court. It may be noted that the impending case was filed by one of the encroachers of

Phayeng village only, where a Resort was evicted last December. It is a matter of fact that Kangchup Chiru RF is notified in 1948 and has an area of 2.59 Sq. miles (and not Sq.Km as claimed by Phayeng) and is a record of the Department. The double standards of the Phayeng village is highly condemnable. It is also notable that apart from Umang Lai area of Phayeng, which is being conserved by the community, there are encroachers in the southern side of the Reserved Forest, in the name of Phayeng Khunou, which is very well part of the Kangchup Reserved Forest.

With the arrival of forest fire season, Forest department has laid emphasis on awareness generation by maximum registration of people on FSI Forest Fire alert portal. 4,980 people have already been registered on fire alert portal from Manipur state which includes 2,546 from the Kangpokpi Division. The Division is also conducting Forest Fire awareness workshop and conducting regular patrolling of forest for forest fire. Cutting of fire lines across Division is also being focused upon.

We are aware of the water crisis gripping the city, given the fact that the catchment areas of Singda and Imphal river lies in Kangpokpi District. The Forest Department has also prepared a detailed plan for conservation and development of Singda and Imphal-Iril watershed under Indo-German Project. Out of the total area of 2416 Ha under Singda watershed, interventions are already being undertaken in

1042 Ha in form of plantation, Soil Moisture Conservation works, Area closure, Riparian Afforestation, Jhum Conservation Buffer, Assisted Natural Regeneration. Also livelihood activities and Entry Point Activities such as construction of Water reservoirs, Drainage/Channel facilities, setting up of nurseries, empowering Self Help Groups through skill upgradation and helping set up value chain addition units are already underway in 5 villages of Singda catchment area. In Imphal watershed too interventions have been launched and will be executed in next 3-4 years in 174 SqKm out of 503 SqKm hectares across 19 villages which involve plantation, Soil moisture conservation works and livelihood generation. "Clean Imphal River Campaign" was launched on a large scale in association with volunteers and other government agencies whereby stretches of the Imphal river was cleaned up.

Under the guidance of Chief Minister, Minister of Environment & Forests and PCCF & HoFF, this Division is performing exemplarily and ramped up activities to contain deforestation in the Division. Kangpokpi Forest Division has multitude of works/activities such as Restoration of Degraded Forest Lands, Poppy destructions, Joint Survey of Reserved Forests and Protected Forests, Forest Fire Control-Prevention and Management, Afforestation, Control on Wood Based Industries, Transit of Forest Products and

implementing various CSS schemes such as Green India Mission, NAP, CAMPA, TRIFED and is one of the Project Division of Indo-German Project under Imphal river watershed and Singda river watershed. It may be noted that 75% of the Divisional area is either Protected Forest or Reserved Forests. The Division is also mauling by shortage of staffs, lack of arms and infrastructure but all the staffs are putting in their best efforts to save forest for greener Manipur.

The DFO Kangpokpi has appealed to the people to not indulge in cultivation of poppy and not involve in any form of encroachment into forest land or breaking up of land inside RF for cultivation etc. Such acts attract penalties under Sec 26 of Indian Forest Act, 1927 read with Manipur Forest Rules, 2021. The DFO has also instructed that FIRs be registered against village chiefs if any land is found cultivated for poppy in forest. DFO has also appealed for maximum registration with regard to forest fire alert on FSI alert portal @https://fsiforestfire.gov.in/registration.php and refraining from indulging in kindling of any fire in Reserved Forest which is punishable under Section 26(b) of Indian Forest Act, 1927. DFO has also insisted on maximum participation of people in upcoming plantation drives to contribute towards green Manipur and green Kangpokpi. Kangpokpi Forest Division hereby reaffirms its commitment to conserve and protect its forest.

Karkinos Healthcare Manipur...

Karkinos Manipur Cancer Care and Research Institute in Imphal is comprehensive cancer hospital with all facilities under one roof like radiation oncology, medical oncology and surgical oncology. It is a 150 bedded hospital with fully equipped ICU and OT for handling compli-

cated cancer surgeries backed with an in-house team of experienced Onco-pathologists, technologists, international board of advisors and in order to deliver better diagnostic outcomes and insights to Oncologists across the country and improve the plan of care and quality of life for can-

cer patients with "Precision medicine being the future of oncology this partnership will enable Karkinos to provide high quality advanced cancer care diagnostic services at affordable prices for all cancer patients."

Karkinos Healthcare has 4 state-of-the-art laboratories

located at Cochin, Navi Mumbai, IIT Madras and IIT Guwahati providing wide range of Oncology related diagnostic tests consisting of: Histopathology, Immunohistochemistry, Molecular Diagnostics, Next Generation Sequencing and Flow Cytometry & FISH.

Sports

India rise to 3rd in latest International Boxing Association World Ranking

Agency
New Delhi, Feb 4:

India continues to take rapid strides in the boxing world as it jumped to third spot in the International Boxing Association's (IBA) latest world ranking.

Boxing Federation of India's (BFI) athlete-first approach and exceptional performances from its boxers saw India accumulate 36300 ranking points, only behind Kazakhstan (48100) and Uzbekistan (37600). They have also surpassed top boxing powerhouse nations including countries like the USA and Cuba, which are ranked fourth and ninth respectively in the current standings.

"This is a milestone moment for India, BFI, its boxers and all the fans out there. From the 44th position a few years ago to third, Indian boxing has taken a giant leap. BFI has been working hard to fulfil the mission of making India a boxing powerhouse and it has ensured

the best facilities for players across all age groups, helping them build confidence with regular state and national championships, foreign exposure trips and necessary support system. This ranking indicates India's rapid growth as a boxing nation and also shows its strong position in the world which has been built over the last few years in a focused manner," said Ajay Singh, President of Boxing Federation of India.

Indian boxing has witnessed an unprecedented rise in recent years with the teams consistently finishing amongst the top 5 countries at global multi-nation tournaments such as World Championships, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. In the last two CWG, Indian boxers have won an unprecedented 16 medals and Indian Boxers have 140 medals to their names since 2008 in top international events.

Since 2016, Indian boxers have won 16 Elite World Cham-

pionships medals across men's and women's categories. BFI has also hosted several big-ticket international events in the country and from March 15 to 26, they will organise the prestigious Women's World Boxing Championships for the third time in India.

"Hosting big international tournaments play a crucial role in encouraging domestic growth of the sport as well as inspire the next generation to take up the game. The world has already witnessed our hosting abilities with the Youth Women's World Boxing Championships in Guwahati in 2017 followed by the Elite Women's World Boxing Championships in New Delhi in 2018 and now we are set to organise the third World Elite Women Championships."

India's excellent show has also extended to the junior and youth level with 22 medals from the last two Youth World Championships indicates a shining future of Indian boxing.

'I will return....' Lionel Messi discloses when he will come back to Barcelona

Agency
Barcelona, Feb 4:

Lionel Messi's sensational 17-season association with Barcelona came to a sudden end in 2021. The Argentine failed to renew his contract with Barcelona due to financial difficulties. As a result, Messi had to sever his ties with Barcelona two years back. Rumours of Messi's emotional return to the Camp Nou-based outfit have been rife ever since the 35-year-old left his childhood club in June 2021. The World Cup-winning Argentine striker was recently asked about his possible return to Barcelona and Messi did not think much while responding. Messi, during an interview with Dario Ole, conveyed that he wishes to return to Barcelona after his retirement.

"When I finish my career, I will return to live in Barcelona, it is my home. I kept everything from the final [FIFA World Cup 2022]- the boots, the T-shirts... Everything is there on the AFA property and now in March, I



am going to take everything to Barcelona, where I have my things and my memories," Lionel Messi said during the interview.

Lionel Messi recorded

seven goals and three assists to win the Golden Ball Award at the Qatar World Cup. He also became the first footballer in the history of the game to win two Golden Ball Awards.

The former Barcelona striker had scored a crucial goal in the extra time of the final to earn a 3-2 lead for the Albiceleste. Argentina ultimately prevailed over the Les Bleus in penalty shootout to clinch their second World Cup title.

Coming back to domestic football, Lionel Messi ended his sensational career at Barcelona in 2021 after scoring 672 goals in 778 matches. Messi, during his stint at Barcelona, secured 10 La Liga titles and four Champions League wins. Messi had eventually decided to join Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) on a free transfer.

Lionel Messi will be out of contract at the end of the season and PSG team management, quite understandably, is now desperate to sign a new deal as soon as possible. It is now being reported that a broad agreement over a one-year deal, which includes an option for another spell of 12 months in the offing. Messi's stand on the matter is not yet clear.