

IN BRIEF



Bomb hoax at Salman's house, U.P. boy booked

MUMBAI
A 16-year-old boy from Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh has been booked for allegedly sending a hoax email to Mumbai police, claiming that a bomb was set to go off at actor Salman Khan's residence in Bandra, the police said on Sunday. A non-cognisable offence has been registered against the minor. He was produced in juvenile court, which let him off, police said.

'Mandatory to link PAN-Aadhaar by Dec. 31'

NEW DELHI
It is mandatory to link your PAN with Aadhaar by the end of this year, the Income Tax Department said in a public message on Sunday. "Building a better tomorrow! To reap seamless benefits of income tax services, complete the vital link before 31st December, 2019," it said. It is mandatory to link your PAN with Aadhaar, according to the public message issued a fortnight before the deadline ends. PTI

20,000 litres of synthetic milk seized

BHOPAL
Police have seized 20,000 litres of synthetic milk on its way to the State-run plant in Bhopal and arrested three persons, an officer said on Sunday. The synthetic milk was seized when it was being mixed in a milk tanker on Saturday night. "The genuine milk was brought in the tanker from collection centres of Sanchi, the brand of the government-run milk federation, from Betul district," the officer said. PTI

Let me hang Nirbhaya's killers: shooter to Centre

LUCKNOW
Shooter Vartika Singh on Sunday wrote a letter in blood requesting the Centre to let her hang the rapists convicted in the Nirbhaya rape and murder case, a day before the victim's seventh death anniversary. Ms. Singh said, "I have written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah... with my blood. I have written that I should be allowed to execute the convicts in the Nirbhaya case. This will reinforce the concept that women are viewed as goddesses in India."

Student gang-raped in Uttar Pradesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MAU

Six youths were booked in connection with an alleged gang-rape of a Class 10 student, officials said on Sunday. According to Mau SP Anurag Arya, the prime accused, along with two others, have been detained for questioning. "The incident took place on Friday, when a student of Class 10 left her house around 9 a.m. Around 10 p.m., family members of the girl received a call that she was raped by six youths and that they fled," he said.

Android vulnerable to cyberattack: MHA

A bug, 'StrandHogg', allows malware applications to pose as genuine applications

S. VIJAY KUMAR CHENNAI

The Union Home Ministry has sent an alert to all States warning them about the vulnerability of the Android operating system to a bug called 'StrandHogg' that allows real-time malware applications to pose as genuine applications and access user data of all kind.

While all versions of Android, including Android 10, are vulnerable to this bug, it may not be apparent to the affected users that malware applications are already on board their device. These malware can then potentially listen to their conversations, access photo album, read/send messages, make calls, record conversations and get login



All versions of Android are vulnerable to the bug.

credentials to various accounts.

This apart, things that such malware can access include private images, files, contact details, call logs, and location information.

The information was shared by the Threat Analytical Unit,

Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre, Ministry of Home Affairs. "At least 500 popular apps are at risk because of this malware that hackers can deploy to attack mobile phone users. An alert has been sent to all senior police officials to sensitise them to the threat. Steps will be taken to create awareness among the public on the vulnerability of Android to 'StrandHogg'," a police official said.

Warning signs
Pop-ups asking for permission to send notifications, messages etc., are one of the main entry points for 'StrandHogg' to launch the attack. An app in which the user is already logged in asking him/her to lo-

gin again is another anomaly pointing to the possibilities of a cyberattack. Once users approve such requests, the malware would instantly access the mobile phone or tablet for specific purposes. "It can activate the microphone, allowing a hacker in a remote location to listen to live conversations. The camera can also be switched on to capture visuals."

Links and buttons that become non-functional, apps asking for permissions that are not required are among the other warning signs.

The Ministry also sent a detailed list of the modus operandi of the hackers and latest trends in cyberattacks for appropriate action of the States.

Chaos in toll plazas over FASTag rollout

Several booths hit by congestion; many vehicles had RFID stickers with insufficient balance

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Confusion reigned supreme at toll plazas after the government issued an order extending the deadline for FASTags to become mandatory by 30 days and requiring 25% of lanes at toll plazas to be kept open for cash transactions.

NHAI officials say they saw a 5% jump in FASTag transactions on Sunday, from when FASTags were to become compulsory until the government provided relief to commuters in a last-minute order issued on Saturday due to a shortage of RFID stickers in the market.

In Chennai, there was traffic congestion at toll plazas as cash lanes saw long queues.

Traffic in FASTag lanes was not seamless either, as many road users had insufficient balance in their RFID stickers. Many motorists said



Obstacle course: Toll personnel diverting vehicles to the FASTag lane in Bengaluru on Sunday. *SUDHAKARA JAIN

they had bought cards online but these were yet to be delivered to them. According to NHAI officials, only 37% of vehicles using toll plazas had FASTags.

This is despite NHAI deploying marshals to manage traffic and each toll plaza be-

ing supervised by its nodal officer as well as being monitored at regional & head-quarter level Control and Command centres.

At a toll plaza at Walayar in Palakkad, trucks instead of car owners were seen to be using FASTags more.

"I rarely use the highway. I don't think I need to get it. If at all I use, I'm willing to pay the double amount," said Mohammed Ashar, a local trader here.

But people in general were happy about the convenience offered by FASTag. "I find it simple and convenient. It saves your time in queue. It saves you from searching around in the pocket for small cash when being stopped at the plaza. And above all, it is a definite step towards digitisation," said Arun Kumar, a trainer in human resources who shuttles between Coimbatore and Kochi frequently.

At Bengaluru's Sadahalli toll plaza, the employees were seen announcing through microphones and directing vehicles with FASTag to use the reserved lanes and diverting other vehicles to the cash ones.

At the toll plaza towards

Kempeogwda International Airport (KIA), five booths have been converted to FASTag lanes and cash was accepted in three lanes. There was a long pile-up of traffic, especially cabs operated to KIA.

The lack of supply of FASTags near the toll plaza also caused a lot of inconvenience to the passengers. People were asked to visit again on Monday.

Seventeen toll plazas across Telangana switched to the FASTag mode in the early hours of Sunday. While it was a smooth and hassle-free passage for FASTag vehicles, non-tag vehicles had to enter the single lane for cash collection, leading to considerable delay in travel.

As the number of non-FASTag vehicle entering the toll plazas increased, NHAI authorities opened additional hybrid lanes to ensure free flow of traffic.

Intoxication not a defence to a criminal charge: SC

'It is at the most a mitigating factor'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has rejected a man's defence that he was too drunk to intend to kill his wife.

In a judgment by a Bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan and M.R. Shah on Friday, the court said intoxication was not a defence to a criminal charge.

The court said defence of drunkenness was at the most a mitigating factor. But for that, the level of inebriation should be such that it leaves the accused incapable of having a "particular intention" to commit the crime. Intoxication, as such, is not a defence to a criminal charge.

At times, it can be considered to be a mitigating circumstance if the accused is not a habitual drinker, otherwise, it has to be considered as an aggravating circumstance.

The onus of proving that he was drunk to the extent of insensibility lies on the accused alone.

"The evidence of drunkenness which renders the accused incapable of forming the specific intent essential to constitute the crime should be taken into account with the other facts proved to determine whether or not he had the intention," Justice Shah wrote in the judgment.

"Merely establishing that the accused's mind was affected by drink so that he more readily gave way to some violent passion, does not rebut the presumption that a man intends the natural consequences of his acts," the court said.

The judgment came on an appeal filed by Suraj Jagannath Jadhav from Maharashtra who set ablaze his pregnant wife and later claimed that he did so in a fit of drunkenness.

He said he had tried to pour water on her to douse the fire. But the court found that he tried to save her only after she cried out and attempted to run out of the room.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY











TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Dense fog in some pockets with very dense fog in isolated pockets very likely over Punjab and west Rajasthan and dense fog in isolated pockets over Bihar, east Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, south Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur and Mizoram in the morning hours.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	27.5	13.8	Kozhikode	.....	7.0	33.8
Ahmedabad	26.5	13.7	Kurnool	.....	22.3	20.7
Aizawl	21.4	8.8	Lucknow	.....	22.9	14.2
Allahabad	20.8	15.4	Madurai	.....	3.5	26.8
Bengaluru	25.5	17.6	Mangaluru	.....	38.2	23.7
Bhopal	22.8	14.4	Mumbai	.....	31.3	18.0
Bhubaneswar	29.8	18.2	Mysuru	.....	18.6	18.6
Chandigarh	18.5	9.6	New Delhi	.....	19.2	9.6
Chennai	4.4	26.6	Patna	.....	22.6	14.8
Coimbatore	2.0	24.6	Port Blair	.....	30.4	25.6
Dehradun	18.9	9.8	Puducherry	.....	1.4	29.6
Gangtok	4.0	12.4	Pune	.....	31.0	16.6
Goa	33.6	22.5	Raipur	.....	29.2	18.8
Guwahati	27.2	14.8	Ranchi	.....	16.0	22.0
Hubballi	29.0	19.0	Shillong	.....	18.3	10.1
Hyderabad	30.0	19.2	Shimla	.....	7.3	0.9
Imphal	22.3	5.5	Srinagar	.....	5.8	0.5
Jaipur	19.6	9.4	Thiruvananthapuram	.....	12.8	32.8
Kochi	42.0	31.6	Tiruchi	.....	28.0	26.7
Kohima	24.4	6.5	Vijayawada	.....	30.5	22.2
Kolkata	27.9	18.5	Visakhapatnam	.....	29.5	22.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing						Yesterday
CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE
Ahmedabad.....	33	17	06	92	98	
Bengaluru.....	05	17	45	—	94	
Chennai.....	14	40	51	97	—	
Delhi.....	13	39	65	310	198	
Hyderabad.....	03	64	34	107	—	
Kolkata.....	08	78	32	277	194	
Lucknow.....	23	06	41	196	—	
Mumbai.....	09	26	48	97	91	
Pune.....	85	18	91	132	101	
Visakhapatnam.....	09	34	44	48	60	

In observation made at 6.00 p.m., Howrah, West Bengal recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 274 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Floor, Kerala recorded a healthy AQI score of 26

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.
NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.
CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.
PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

ED zeroes in on assets linked to Deepak Talwar in FCRA case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has identified properties as part of its probe into the alleged violation of the Foreign Contribution

Regulation Act (FCRA) by a non-governmental organisation previously linked to lobbyist Deepak Talwar. The ED may open proceedings under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.



Khadi and Village Industries Commission
Ministry of Micro, Small, & Medium Enterprises
Government of India



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INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR DESIGNER COMPETITION FOR KHADI

KVIC (Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India) proposed to conduct Khadi designer competition online for designers, who wish to associate and collaborate with Khadi and Village Industries Commission in taking a step towards benefit of the rural artisans and creating designer wear from Khadi Fabric. Interested designers are required to visit KVIC website www.kvic.org.in for further details and other terms and conditions.

Eligibility Criteria:

- ◆ Applicants should have at least Two years' experience in fashion industry.
- ◆ Applicants can earn higher scores during scrutiny if they demonstrate solid work experience at fashion houses/retail stores or in any creative capacity in the fashion industry
- ◆ Applicants worked in Khadi Industry will earn higher score.

1 st Prize: INR 10 Lakh	2 nd Prize: INR 5 Lakh	3 rd Prize: INR 2 Lakh
Start Date of Application	16 th December 2019	Director (Khadi)
Last date of Application	16 th January 2020 (till 3.00 PM)	