

7 EXPRESS NETWORK



NORTH

Man fakes murder for loan waiver, insurance money

Chandigarh: A man whose family operated a wholesale business in Amritsar allegedly faked his own murder after eliminating someone else for loan waiver and insurance money, police said on Saturday. The Tarn Taran police said Anoop Singh did this to have financial gains over Rs 1 crore. He was

charged with murdering a homeless man and destroying evidence, police said, adding that his brother Karandeep Singh and domestic help Karan, alias Kaka, had been arrested for the planning, preparation and execution of the murder plot, a Punjab Police spokesperson said in a release. **PTI**



Fog on Srinagar-Bandipora highway on Saturday. Drass was the coldest place in the region, at minus 25.4°C; Srinagar recorded a low of minus 3.6°C *Shuaib Masoodi*

EAST

Odisha: Tribal girl raped by teacher's husband

Koraput (Odisha): A Class VII student of a state-run residential school in Odisha's Koraput district was allegedly raped for months by the headmistress' husband, who has been arrested after the tribal girl was found to be pregnant, police said on Saturday. The 60-year-old man, who used to stay with his wife at the staff quarters

of the school, was arrested on Friday. He used to call the girl to the staff quarters and sexually exploited her a number of times, police said. He has been booked under relevant sections of the IPC, POCSO, and SC/ST Act, police said. The district child protection officer said the girl will be kept at a child care institution after medical examination. **PTI**

WEST

Man held for raping, blackmailing woman

Rajkot: A man was held from Chotila in Gujarat's Surendranagar district for allegedly raping a woman on the pretext of offering her a job after assuming a fake identity online and blackmailing her, police said on Saturday. Aijaz Gadhwal assumed a fake identity as Ravirajsinh on online classifieds platform OLX and called

the victim to a hotel room in Chotila where he raped her, said a Rajkot police official. "He developed a friendship by claiming he was the son of a policeman. He promised to get her a job in the police using his father's contact," said a police official. "He also took Rs 2 lakh from the victim. Gadhwal has been arrested." **PTI**

SOUTH

Woman sets her children on fire, immolates self

Hyderabad: A woman in Kollapur town in Telangana's Nagarkurnool district set herself on fire after setting ablaze both her children. The incident happened at around 11 am on Saturday. While the woman and her 2-year-old son died at their residence, her 4-year-old daughter succumbed to injuries while being shifted to a nearby hospital. Police said

prima facie it appears to be a case of suicide. The family of the deceased woman have approached the police with a complaint against the husband and in-laws of their daughter, Kollapur police said. "We are still investigating into the allegations against the victim's husband and in-laws," Nagarkurnool SP K Apoorva Rao said. **ENS**

Objections from Rajasthan, Punjab to gun law changes

DEEP MUKHERJEE & KANCHAN VASDEV
JAIPUR, CHANDIGARH,
DECEMBER 7

THE CENTRE'S decision to further tighten the gun law has met with resistance from traditional gun-owning communities in Rajasthan and Punjab.

Members of the Rajput community and Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh have objected to a provision in the Centre's proposed amendments to the 1959 Arms Act that prohibit an Indian citizen from owning more than one gun. The 1959 Arms Act allowed a licence holder to have three firearms.

There are about 5 lakh registered gun licence holders in Punjab and about 8 lakh registered firearms, according to government records. A chunk of them are .12 bore-single and double barrel guns, 303 rifles, and most of the licences were issued during the two decades of militancy in the state.

The state government argues that Punjab has 16 lakh farmers, and they need guns to kill vermin — nilgai and birds. The farmers need three types of weapons — for shooting birds, blue bulls and for their security. Punjab recently classified blue bull as a vermin, allowing it to be culled.

State officials say only 11 per cent of licensed weapons are used in crimes across the state "In 89 per cent of crimes involving weapons, illegal weapons are used. It does not make any sense to deprive people of their weapons on this argument that these were giving rise to crimes," said a government official.

Amarinder, a scion of the erstwhile Patiala Royal Estate, had spoken to Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the amendments during the latter's visit to Punjab during the 550th

EXPLAINED
E Discussion coming up in Lok Sabha

A BILL was introduced in Lok Sabha last week seeking to enhance punishment for illegally possessing and making prohibited arms, besides other changes in the six-decade-old Arms Act. The Arms (Amendment) Bill, which also provides for restrictions on the number of firearms a person can have, is listed for discussion in Lok Sabha on Monday.

birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev, and has followed it up with a letter to the PM.

The official said Amarinder has stated that Punjab agrees with most of the proposed amendments but had "strong reservations regarding restricting the number of firearms".

"Punjab being a border state and having gone through a long period of terrorist violence, a large number of people possess more than one firearm and many farmers who reside away from the villages in their agricultural lands/farms, also possess firearms for crop protection. It was also significant to note that only a very small fraction of crime was committed using licensed weapons. These facts could be independently ascertained as they were within the domain of the MHA," the letter says.

However, farmers' organisations in Punjab aren't amused with the government firing from their shoulder. "We represent poor farmers who do not have enough to eat. How can they afford weapons? We have called a

meeting," said Sukhdev Singh Kokri Kalan of Bharti Kisan Union (Ugrahan). He said guns control law may be hurting big farmers.

Among those worried are also people who treasure weapons handed down as heirloom. The amendment says that "...while granting arms licence on inheritance or heirloom basis, the limit of one firearm shall not be exceeded". Rajput outfits such as Shree Rashtriya Rajput Karni Sena (SRRKS) and Rajput Sabha have warned of protests.

"Many Rajput families trace their lineage from the erstwhile jagirdars and royalty, people who have antique guns as family heirlooms. Weapons have immense sentimental value for us. The amendments, if passed, will rob us of these treasured possessions. If the government doesn't listen, we will see what we can do," said Giriraj Singh Lotwara, president, Rajput Sabha.

Rajasthan Additional Director General (crime), B L Soni, said at present 1.72 lakh gun licences have been issued in the state. "Around 10 per cent of these license holders are people with multiple weapons. And many of them are those who either own ancestral weapons, or are in the sport of shooting or are members of the armed forces," Soni told *The Sunday Express*.

The Rajput Sabha president said he had written a letter to the PM. "The Rajput community should be made a stakeholder in the discussion process for the Act," said Lotwara.

"Weapons are reflective of the glorious past of the Rajputs. People from all over the world come to Rajasthan to see these antique weapons, it is a part of our heritage. If the central government doesn't take our feelings into consideration, then we will protest," said Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi, president, SRRKS.

BODY DUMPED IN SEA IN 3 BAGS

Arrested for killing man, 'adopted daughter' says he sexually abused her

MOHAMED THAYER
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 7

FIVE DAYS after a suitcase stuffed with dismembered body parts was found floating in the sea, Mumbai crime branch Saturday identified the deceased as a 59-year-old resident of a Mumbai suburb and arrested his 19-year-old "adopted" daughter and detained her 16-year-old boyfriend in connection with the murder.

Officers said the duo told the police they killed the man, a guitarist, as he did not approve of their relationship, and also sexually abused the woman.

According to police, the two accused had hit the man on the head with a bamboo stick and a guitar at his residence. They reportedly stabbed him with a knife and when "he still did not appear to die, they sprayed an insect repellent on his face".

Deputy Commissioner of Police (crime branch) Shahaji Umap said, "The woman has told us that the deceased, who had 'adopted' her two years ago, had

been sexually exploiting her and was against her relationship with the 16-year-old boy... So far, we have only found a paper at the man's residence addressed to 'whomsoever it may concern' and written by the woman, where she stated that the man had financially helped her and eventually adopted her... While this does not legally qualify as adoption, the man had reportedly told others that the woman was his adopted daughter."

The woman's biological parents, police said, had driven her out of home two years ago as they reportedly did not approve of her lifestyle. The guitarist had then allowed her to stay with him, they added.

According to police, the man reportedly had an argument with the woman and her friend on November 26, following which the two allegedly hit him on the head with a bamboo stick and his guitar. They then stabbed him with a knife, the police said.

"However, when he still did not die, they sprayed HIT [used to kill insects] on his face, following which he died," Inspector Yogesh Chavan, crime branch (unit V), said.

The accused initially kept the body at his residence and eventually decided to "chop it into pieces and dispose it of separately", Chavan said.

The first bag was disposed of on November 28. The accused made two more trips over the next two days, police said. So far, police have recovered only one of the three bags.

Police had also recovered some clothes from the suitcase, including a shirt, with a tag. Police eventually traced the tailor, went through his records and identified the deceased.

"When we (police) went to his house, the woman told us that her father had gone to Canada. However, she gave evasive replies when we questioned her further. There were also some bloodstains in the house that made us suspicious," Umap said.

The woman was arrested Saturday, while the 16-year-old boy will be sent to Dongri Observation Home, police said.

GUJARAT

Shoot-at-sight order for leopard that killed two

Rajkot: The forest department issued shoot-at-sight orders after a leopard claimed two lives in three days in Gujarat's Amreli district, officials said on Saturday.

On Thursday, the leopard killed Vaju Borad in Mota Munjiyasar village in Bagasara taluka of Amreli district. The following day, another man was in-

jured in a leopard attack in the same village. On Saturday, a leopard attacked an agricultural labourer from Rajasthan in Munjiyasar at around 3.15 am. Later, the labourer succumbed to his injuries.

Officials told mediapersons in Amreli that forest department teams from the districts of

Junagadh, Amreli and Gandhinagar will work together to capture the man-eating leopard that has been on the prowl in Amreli. A shoot-at-sight orders has also been issued and a team of sharpshooters have been deployed even as the authorities have set up nearly 30 cages, the officials said. **ENS**

The Indian EXPRESS
— JOURNALISM OF COURAGE —

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Beaten, forced to shave off moustache: Dalit youth in Gujarat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, DECEMBER 7

A 20-YEAR-OLD Dalit resident of Mehsana alleged that he was forced to shave off his moustache by upper caste youths from his village on Saturday.

Sanjaybhai Ranchhodhbhai Parmar from Mota Kothasana village alleged that the accused gave him death threats, forced him to shave off his moustache, beat him and made him apologise to them. A video of him apologising to the youths has gone viral, Parmar claimed.

Mehsana Superintendent of Police Manish Singh said an FIR has been registered under various IPC sections, section 67 of the Information & Technology Act (Punishment for publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic form) and several sections of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

"The victim and those he named as accused in the FIR are from the same village. From what we have gathered, it seems the victim was pressured by the accused to shave off his mous-

tache," Singh said. Till late Saturday, no arrests were made.

The FIR states that Parmar got a call at 8.42 am from Sanjaysinh Jethusinh Chauhan, who lives in the same village, asking him to come to Kothasana health sub-centre. On the way, Parmar Sangramsingh Prahladsinh Chauhan and Rajdipsinh Chauhan, residents of Mota Kothasana village.

"I rode pillion with Rajdipsinh, who dropped me at the health sub-centre. Sanjaysinh was not there. Sangramsingh and some others asked me about TikTok videos I had made earlier and hurled casteist slurs at me. They asked me to shave off my moustache and threatened to kill me. I came home and shaved off my moustache. I went back to the health centre where Sangramsingh and others abused me. I was made to apologise. Then Jayendrasinh Velsinh Chauhan, Rajpalsinh Arjunsinh Chauhan, Swarajsinh Jagatsinh Chauhan and an unknown person beat me up. My father Ranchhodhbhai, family members and neighbours came to my rescue," Parmar said in his complaint. Parmar refused to speak to *The Sunday Express*.

100 unemployed women get e-rickshaws in MP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, DECEMBER 7

AS MANY as 100 unemployed women were given e-rickshaws under the Madhya Pradesh government's E-Sawari project, which was launched in Indore by Chief Minister Kamal Nath on Saturday.

Each of the 100 e-rickshaws is equipped with facilities such as Wi-Fi, digital payment and mobile charging points. The 100 women, including a physically challenged beneficiary, were trained for over a month. The approximate cost of each rickshaw is Rs 2 lakh, half of which is subsidised. The state and Central governments provide subsidy in the ratio of 70: 30 and the remaining amount is a loan with interest subsidy borne by the



E-Sawari project was launched by CM in Indore.

state government. The CM said the project aimed to provide employment and empower women. Urban Development and Housing Minister Jaivardhan Singh told *The Sunday Express* that Madhya Pradesh is the first state to launch such a scheme meant only for women. He said the government estimates that about 5,000 e-rickshaws will be run by women alone in Indore.

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, DECEMBER 7

The Kamal Nath government on Saturday bestowed Cabinet minister status on Swami Subodhanand, who currently heads the mutt-mandir advisory committee in Madhya Pradesh. Swami Subodhanand is a personal secretary of Shankaracharya Swami Swaroopanand, who counts senior Congress leader and former CM Digvijaya Singh as his disciples.

The previous Shivraj Singh Chouhan government had bestowed minister of state status on five Hindu religious functionaries and spiritual personalities and Cabinet minister status on Swami Akhileshwaranand, who was the executive council chairman

of Madhya Pradesh Cow Protection Board.

Among the five was Namdev Das Tyagi, also known as Computer Baba. Ahead of 2018 Assembly elections, Computer Baba had quit the panel and started campaigning for the Congress. After holding the post for about six months he resigned, accusing the BJP government of doing little to stop sand mining, failing to stop cow slaughter and being irreligious. He even campaigned against Chouhan in his Assembly constituency.

The Kamal Nath government made Computer Baba the head of the Ma Narmada, Ma Kshipra Evam Ma Mandakini Trust in March this year. He had demanded a ministerial status but the government has not granted his wish yet.