

Links to Pulwama terror attack : Man loses Rs 10L to fraudsters

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NEW DELHI

A 32-year-old Delhi resident was allegedly duped of over Rs 9 lakh by a person posing as the chief of the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) and accusing him of being involved in the Pulwama terror attack, police said on Monday.

A case was registered on October 14 after the complainant, a resident of Karol Bagh, told police that on August 13, he received calls from multiple unknown numbers whose callers falsely accused him of being involved in the 2019 Pulwama terror attack.

I received phone calls on my mobile number from three different numbers where the callers falsely accused me of being involved in the Pulwama Attack in Kashmir and alleged that an amount of Rs 50 lakhs had been credited to a bank account opened in my name in Kashmir: 32-year-old Delhi resident

They claimed Rs 50 lakh had been deposited in a bank account opened under the victim's name in Kashmir, police said, citing an FIR.

"I received phone calls on my mobile number from three different numbers where the callers falsely accused me of being involved

in the Pulwama Attack in Kashmir and alleged that an amount of Rs 50 lakhs had been credited to a bank account opened in my name in Kashmir," it said.

Claiming the account was linked to his ID, the callers warned the victim to keep the matter secret, claiming



'influential persons' were involved, the FIR said.

The callers then allegedly instructed him to switch on his camera, lock his room, and avoid informing his family members.

They "interrogated" him, collected details of his bank accounts, and connected him to another person who introduced himself as the chief of the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), the FIR said.

The complainant said the accused directed him to come to the Lucknow office to join the investigation, but he conveyed unwillingness.

The victim was allegedly told to transfer money for "fund legalisation" to an account purportedly approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Anxious over the threats, the complainant transferred Rs 8.9 lakh through RTGS from his bank account and an additional Rs 77,000 via online payment application to a UPI ID, according to the FIR.

Later, the accused sent him a forged bail applica-

tion, demanding another Rs 4 lakh for his "release". When he refused to pay further, the callers disconnected and switched off their phones, police said.

"I have suffered a total loss of Rs 9,67,000 and mental harassment due to the fraudulent acts of these unknown persons," the complainant told police.

A case was registered under section 318(4) (cheating) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita on October 14, and efforts are underway to trace the accused and recover the cheated amount, the senior police officer said.

Earlier in a similar mo-

dis operandi, a 78-year-old retired banker from South Delhi lost nearly Rs 23 crore in a digital arrest scam between August 4 and September 4. The accused threatened him with being involved in funding the Pulwama terror attack.

On February 14, 2019, a devastating terror attack took place in Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir, when an explosive-laden vehicle rammed into a convoy carrying CRPF personnel, killing at least 40 jawans. The attacker was identified as Adil Ahmed Dar, a member of Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammad.

Voting in JNUSU elections today

Campaign silence falls after fiery final debate; It is expected to be a closely contested poll between the Left Unity and the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad

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NEW DELHI

CAMPAIGNING ended on the early hours of Monday for the JNU Students' Union elections, paving the way for voting on Tuesday, in what is expected to be a closely contested poll between the Left Unity and the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP).

Polling will be held on November 4 in two sessions, from 9 am to 1 pm and 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm, with counting to begin at 9 pm. The final results will be declared on November 6.

The polls have brought the campus alive after months of political activity, protests and debates over accessibility, inclusion and university governance.

This year's contest is primarily between the Left Unity, comprising the All India Students' Association (AISA), Students' Federation of India (SFI) and Democratic Students' Federation (DSF), and the ABVP, which has mounted an aggressive



campaign centred on "performance and nationalism."

The mandatory 24-hour "no-campaigning" period began after the presidential debate in the early hours of Monday, the campaign's grand finale, where six candidates from the Left, ABVP, NSUI, Progressive Students' Association (PSA), Dissha Students' Organisation (DSO) and independent panels faced off before a packed audience at the Students' Activity Centre. The BAPSA candidate could not participate because of a personal

issue.

Left candidate Aditi Mishra, a PhD scholar from the School of International Studies, said the polls were being held "at a time when dissent and equality are under threat," and promised to defend "an inclusive JNU that remains accessible to all."

Her main rival, ABVP's Vikas Patel, accused the Left of "ruling and ruining JNU for five decades," saying students now want "accountability and solution-oriented politics."

Other candidates, including PSA's Shinde Vijayalaxmi Vyankat Rao, NSUI's Vikash and independent Angad Singh, criticised both dominant blocs for "ignoring core student issues" such as fellowships, hostel safety and research support.

Rao's fiery speech against campus restrictions, punctuated with poetry by Bashir Badr, drew strong applause from the crowd.

The Left Unity has fielded Aditi Mishra (President), Kizhakoot Gopika Babu (Vice-President), Sunil Yadav (General Secretary) and Danish Ali (Joint Secretary), while the ABVP's panel includes Vikas Patel (President), Tanya Kumari (Vice-President), Rajeshwar Kant Dubey (General Secretary) and Anuj (Joint Secretary).

Last year, AISA's Nitish Kumar had won the president's post, while ABVP's Vaibhav Meena broke a decade-long drought to secure the Joint Secretary position, a result the organisation hailed as "a historic shift" in campus politics.

Infant mowed down by SUV in Delhi's Samaypur Badli

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NEW DELHI

AN infant was killed allegedly after being hit by an SUV in outer Delhi's Samaypur Badli area, police said on Monday.

The incident took place around 4 pm on Sunday near Balaji Nursery on the Siras Pur Road, when the vehicle, being driven by a 20-year-old youth, hit the 14-month-old baby, the police said.

"The victim's mother was standing by the road with her son when the speeding vehicle struck the boy. The child sustained grievous injuries and was rushed to Burari hospital, where doctors declared him dead," a senior police officer said.

A case has been registered under sections 281 (rash driving) and 106(1) (causing death by negligence) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the officer added.

The driver, Samar Choudhary, a resident of Rohini, has been arrested, and the offending vehicle has been seized, police said. Further investigation is underway.

Man held for extorting money after forcing girl to share obscene pics

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NEW DELHI

A man has been arrested for allegedly extorting money from a girl and her family after coercing her into sharing obscene pictures of herself, police said on Monday.

The accused, identified as Sumit Kumar (28), was previously arrested in a case registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) in 2020. He secured bail in February 2021 and was declared a proclaimed offender in March 2024 after failing to appear before the court.

According to police, the complainant reported that his daughter received a message on social media from a hacked ID of her ex-tutor. The sender falsely claimed that her nude photographs were available online and sent a phishing link requiring her social media credentials.

Upon login, the accused hacked her account and co-



erced her to share obscene images under fear and deception.

He had also blackmailed the complainant by sending her morphed images and threatening to circulate them unless she paid him money, a senior police officer said.

On Monday, he was arrested from a wine shop in Noida following a well-coordinated operation, the officer said.

Police said the accused is a repeat cyber-offender and had earlier been arrested in another case in Malviya Nagar for a similar modus operandi — hacking social

media accounts of women, impersonating them, and extorting money by threatening to share their morphed images.

During interrogation, Kumar disclosed that after jumping bail in 2021, he had fled to his native village in Bihar and later took up a job as a housekeeping supervisor in an IT firm in Noida, believing he would not be traced.

He confessed to committing such crimes to make easy money, police said.

Police said efforts are underway to examine whether the accused was involved in any other similar offences.



Leaked audio clips alleging Biren's role tampered with: SC

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NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Monday observed that the National Forensic Science Laboratory (NFSL) at Gujarat has said the leaked audio clips, which allegedly pointed to the purported role of former Manipur CM N Biren Singh in the 2023 ethnic violence in the state, were "tampered with".

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and Alok Aradhe observed that according to the NFSL's report, the audio clips exhibited signs of editing and tampering and were not scientifically fit for forensic voice comparison.

"Consequently, no opinion regarding the similarity or dissimilarity of the speakers in the question and the controlled clips can be offered," the bench said, while referring to the NFSL's report.

The apex court was hearing a petition filed by Kuki Organisation for Human Rights Trust (KOHUR) which has sought an independent SIT probe into the matter. Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for KOHUR, said that a copy of the NFSL's report be shared with the parties so that they could respond to it.

The bench directed the apex court registry to submit a copy of the report to the counsel appearing for the parties and posted the matter for hearing on December 8.

Rekha begins three-day Bihar campaign for NDA candidates

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

DELHI Chief Minister Rekha Gupta is set to leave for Bihar this evening to campaign in the ongoing Assembly elections. Over the next three days, she will lead an intensive campaign across the state, rallying support for National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidates.

Gupta will be joined by senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders, representatives from allied parties, and local party workers. Her campaign schedule includes multiple public meetings and roadshows aimed at energizing voters ahead of the upcoming polling phases.

This marks Gupta's third visit to Bihar during the current election season, described by party insiders as a high-impact outreach effort. During the three-day tour, she is expected to address gatherings in 12 to 15 constituencies, focusing particularly on regions heading to the polls on November 6 and



11. The Chief Minister will arrive in Patnaand is scheduled to kick off her campaign with a public rally in the Bankipur Assembly constituency later that night.

Her itinerary includes rallies and roadshows in Siwan, Barharia, Baikunthpur, and nearby constituencies on November 4.

The following day, she will campaign in Gaura Bauram, Arwal, Gaya City, and Aurangabad. On November 6, her tour will conclude with rallies in Bhagalpur, Warisalganj, Hisua, and Dinara.

Gupta is expected to return to New Delhi on the night of November 6 after completing the high-intensity campaign.

Workshop to combat new-age nicotine devices

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NEW DELHI

THE Delhi Police has become the first police force to organise a dedicated capacity-building workshop on tackling the menace of vaping and new-age nicotine devices, an official said on Monday. The half-day session, titled "Enforcement in the Digital Age: Tackling the Vape Culture Among Youth", was held at the Delhi Police Academy in Rajinder Nagar on Sunday, in collaboration with the citizen-led movement Mothers Against Vaping (MAV). "The initiative aimed to equip officers with a clear understanding of the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act (PECA), 2019 and address digital enforcement challenges such as online smuggling, illegal promotion, and disguised sales," said MAV in a statement.

Addressing the participants, Dr Rajesh Gupta, Director and Head, Respiratory Medicine, Yashoda Medicity, said many youngsters today are being drawn to sleek, flavoured products that appear harmless but are gateways to nicotine dependence and more serious addictions.

tioner's counsel, stating that such a plea should never have been brought before the court.

The lawyer expressed regret and sought to withdraw the petition. The petition was then dismissed as withdrawn.

Besides the Registrar General of the High Court, the plea had made the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Home Affairs, the leader of opposition in Lok Sabha, the Registrar General of the apex court and others as parties.

Dynastic politics 'grave threat' to democracy: Shashi Tharoor

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

SENIOR Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has said that dynastic politics across the political spectrum poses a "grave threat" to Indian democracy and asserted it is high time that India traded "dynasty for meritocracy".

He said that when political power is determined by lineage rather than ability, commitment or grassroots engagement, the quality of governance suffers.

In an article for international media organisation Project Syndicate, the Thiruvananthapuram MP pointed out that while the Nehru-Gandhi family is associated with the Congress, dynastic succession prevails across the political spectrum.

Tharoor's remarks come weeks after the row over his comments on the India-Pakistan conflict and the diplomatic outreach after the Pahalgam attack. His comments were at variance with the Congress stand and many party leaders took a swipe at him, questioning his intentions.

In the article titled 'Indian Politics Are a Family Business', Tharoor said that for decades, one family has towered over Indian politics and the influence of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty -- including independent India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, prime ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, and current opposition leader Rahul Gandhi and MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra -- is bound up with the history of India's struggle for freedom.

"But it has also cemented



the idea that political leadership can be a birthright. This idea has penetrated Indian politics across every party, in every region, and at every level," Tharoor said.

Pointing out that dynastic succession prevails across the political spectrum, Tharoor said that after the passing of Biju Patnaik, his son Naveen won his father's vacant seat in the Lok Sabha.

The Maharashtra-based Shiv Sena's founder Bal Thackeray passed the mantle to his son Uddhav, whose own son Aditya is waiting visibly in the wings, he said.

"The same goes for Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav, a former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, whose son Akhilesh Yadav later served in the same post; Akhilesh is now an MP and the president of the party. In Bihar state, the leader of the Lok Janshakti Party, Ram Vilas Paswan, was succeeded by his son Chirag Paswan," Tharoor said, citing more examples of political dynasties.

Beyond the Indian "heartland", Jammu and Kashmir has been led by three generations of Abdullahs, with the principal opposition party dominated by two generations of Muf-tis, he said.

"In Punjab, the Shiromani Akali Dal, long commanded by Parkash Singh Badal, has been taken over by his son Sukhbir. Telangana is currently witnessing a battle for succession between the son and the daughter of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi's founder, K Chandrasekhara Rao. In Tamil Nadu, the late M Karunanidhi's family controls the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam party, with his son M K Stalin now serving as chief minister and his grandson anointed as heir apparent," he said in his article.

Tharoor also argued that this phenomenon is not limited to a handful of prominent families but is rather woven deeply into the fabric of Indian governance, from village councils to the highest echelons of Parliament.

"To be fair, such dynastic politics are practised across the Indian subcontinent," he said, citing examples of the Bhuttos and Sharifs in Pakistan, the Sheikh and Zia families in Bangladesh, and the Bandaranaiques and the Rajapaksas in Sri Lanka.

"But they appear particularly incongruous with India's vibrant democracy. Why then has India embraced the dynastic model so fully? One reason might be that a family can serve effectively as a brand: candidates with built-in name recognition do not have to work as hard to attract voters' attention or build their trust. If voters accept a candidate's father, aunt or sibling, they would probably accept the candidate -- no credibility-building required," Tharoor said in

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the article published October 31.

However, he noted that with the literacy rate approaching 81 per cent and mobile-internet penetration exceeding 95 per cent, other forces must also be at work.

"Perhaps the most important arises from internal party dynamics. Indian political parties are largely personality-driven (with a few exceptions). Leadership-selection processes are often opaque, with decisions made by a small clique or even a single leader -- figures with little interest in rocking the boat. As a result, nepotism generally trumps meritocracy," he said.

Tharoor asserted that dynastic politics pose a grave threat to Indian democracy.

"When political power is determined by lineage rather than ability, commitment or grassroots engagement, the quality of governance suffers. Drawing from a smaller talent pool is never advantageous, but it is especially problematic when candidates' main qualification is their surname," he said. In fact, given that members of political dynasties are likely to be insulated from the challenges faced by ordinary people, they are often particularly ill-equipped to respond effectively to their constituents' needs, Tharoor said.

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