

# ECHO WORLD



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## Mandsaur gangrape case

### Chargesheet filed against 2 accused

MANDSAUR, JULY 10 /- / A special investigation team (SIT) of Madhya Pradesh police today filed a charge sheet against the two accused in the alleged gangrape of an eight-year-old girl in the city on June 26. The SIT filed the charge sheet, running into over 350 pages, in the court of Additional District and Sessions Judge Nisha Gupta.

The charge sheet contains 100 documents and statements of 92 witnesses, including doctors, police said. Besides, 50 different objects and the knife used by Irfan alias Bhayyu (20) and Asif (24) allegedly to slit the throat of the victim in the attempt to kill her after abducting and raping her, were submitted to the court. Talking to PTI, deputy director of prosecution B S Thakur said they would make every effort so that the trial of the case ends within a month. The duo, who are lodged in the district jail, were not brought to the court for security reasons. However, they were informed about the charge sheet through a video-conferencing. The accused have been charge-sheeted under IPC sections 376 (d) (gangrape), 366 (kidnapping, abducting or inducing woman to compel her marriage), 363 (kidnapping) and relevant sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Superintendent of police Manoj Singh said: "With the filing of the charge sheet, decks have been cleared for the day-to-day hearing of the case in the court." According to the prosecution, the victim was allegedly abducted from outside her school and raped by the duo. They also tried to kill her by slitting her throat. (PTI)

## I & B Min seeks data on job creation from 10 ministries

NEW DELHI, JULY 10 /- / The Union ministry of information and broadcasting has written to 10 ministries, including labour ministry, seeking data on employment generated in various sectors under them, the official source said. The ministry has sought the details ostensibly to counter allegations that the opposition parties that the NDA government has failed to generate employment. The I & B ministry is collating this data as part of its efforts to highlight, during Independence Day celebrations next month, that the promises made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his previous four E Day speeches have been fulfilled, they said. The data collected would be projected by I & B ministry through various mediums such as Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC), Doodarshan, press releases, and monthly magazines Yojana and Kurukshetra, the sources said. The ministries of food processing industries, labour, and micro, small and medium enterprises, are among the 10 ministries that have been asked to send data on the jobs created in the sectors that come under them. The move by the I & B ministry comes days after Prime Minister Modi rejected the opposition's charge of lack of employment generation, citing data provided by the governments to ask how the Centre could create joblessness if the states are creating "good numbers of jobs".

# JU bows to students' demand, brings back entrance test for Humanities

## 50:50 formula to be followed, admission panel to be formed

EOI CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA 10 JULY /- / After 90 hours of hunger-strike by students of Jadavpur University, the Executive Council of Jadavpur University (JU) had to bow before the students and conceded to the demand for return of entrance test at Humanities section. This is also considered a loss of face for a section of the state government which is believed to have exerted the pressure on the University to scrap the entrance test for Humanities at the University.

The university will follow a 50:50 formula for admission. While 50 per cent of new students will get admission on the basis of their merit, the remaining 50 per cent will have to sit for the entrance exam. Today the University authorities convened an emergency Executive Council (EC) meeting and after a prolonged meeting for four hours it was decided that entrance test will be conducted for students who will join the undergraduate humanities stream at JU. On 26 June in an EC

meeting a notice was issued by the University authorities whereby it was mentioned that half of the seats will be filled up in accordance with the merit list and half of them will be filled up through admission test. This notice came into force again after Tuesday's EC meeting. A student of International Relations who is continuing his hunger-strike for more than 90 hours said, "Most of our students have become sick as we are continuing our hunger-strike. We heard that University authorities have decided to conduct admission test, but it needs to be seen whether our teachers will be given the charge to check the answer scripts of the admission test, or it will be outsourced. If

teachers of other Universities look after the answer-scripts of the admission test, then we will continue our hunger-strike."

Senior officials of the University said that at the EC meeting majority of the teachers demand for return of entrance examination. The dean of arts also stated he preferred admission test as the best possible alternative, and urged the authorities to give a go ahead signal for the entrance test. Suranjan Das VC of Jadavpur University said "I have not taken any decision alone. It has been decided at the EC meeting unanimously that admission test in six subjects of humanities will be conducted and I have agreed to the proposal, looking

at all the legalities. I urged the students to withdraw their hungerstrike." Partha Pratim Biswas, member of JUTA said "We feel that all the stakeholders of the University authorities have taken a collective decision to resolve the current impasse at JU and we feel that University authorities should look into the fact that admission test answer scripts should be checked by the respective teachers of the departments. They should not outsource it to other teachers of the University." It may be mentioned that the executive council (EC) of Jadavpur University (JU) had decided to scrap admission tests for six humanities subjects on 4 July and had announced to admit undergraduate students in English, Comparative Literature, Bengali, History, Political Science and Philosophy only on the basis of marks. After EC meeting where it was decided that admission test will be scrapped in the humanities subjects, teachers of all six departments have already submitted a letter to the VC that they want to dissociate themselves from the admission process.



Jadavpur University VC Suranjan Das leaving the campus after the meeting of the council

## All 12 boys and coach rescued from Thai cave

MAE SAI, JULY 10 /- / All 12 boys and their coach who became trapped in a flooded Thai cave more than a fortnight ago have been rescued, the Navy SEALs announced today, completing an astonishing against-the-odds rescue mission that has captivated the world.

The Thai SEALs and elite foreign divers extracted the final batch of four boys, plus the 25-year-old coach, today afternoon via a perilous escape route that required them to squeeze through narrow, water-filled tunnels. "All 12 'Wild Boars' and coach have been extracted from the cave," the SEALs said in a Facebook post. "All are safe," they added, signing off with what has become their trademark "Hooyah" to celebrate the successful extractions of the other boys over the previous two days. The 12 boys, aged from 11 to 16, and their coach, venturing into the Tham Luang cave in mountainous northern Thailand on June 23 after football practice and got caught deep inside when heavy rains caused flooding that trapped them on a muddy ledge.

# SC agrees to hear next week Delhi govt's pleas over exercise of its power

## LG, chief secy meet Union home secy

NEW DELHI, JULY 10 /- / The Supreme Court today agreed to hear next week appeals of the Delhi government relating to the scope of its various powers in view of the Delhi government's plea that it held that the Lieutenant Governor has no independent power to take decisions. A five-judge Constitution bench headed by the Delhi government in exercise of its administrative and legislative powers would be dealt separately by an appropriate smaller bench.

The bench comprising Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud considered the submission of the Delhi government that even after the verdict the stalemated over the issue of public services was continuing and that needed to be dealt with by an appropriate bench. "It will be listed sometime in next week," the bench told lawyer Rahul Mehra, representing the Delhi government. The apex court had in its July 4 ruling, vindicated Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, who has long accused the LG of preventing his government from functioning properly. It had said that barring three issues of public order, police and land, the Delhi government has the power to legislate and govern on other issues. There were two LGs - incumbent Anil Bajjal and his predecessor Najeib Jung - with whom Kejriwal was at loggerheads, accusing them of preventing the functioning of his government at the behest of the Centre. The Delhi LG and chief secretary Anshu Prakash today had a meeting with Union home secretary Rajiv Gauba amid the continuing tussle with Arvind Kejriwal government on the issue of public services. During the 30-minute meeting at the home ministry, Bajjal, Prakash and Gauba are believed to have discussed the issues related to services in the Delhi government, a home ministry official said. Bajjal refused to divulge the details of the meeting. When asked whether the issue of services was discussed at the meeting, the LG said, "All is well between me and Kejriwal." The meeting came a day after chief minister Arvind Kejriwal wrote to the LG Governor wondering how he can be "selective" in accepting the Supreme Court verdict. Earlier today, the LG had transferred three IAS officers. According to a new order, Soumya Gupta has been replaced by Sanjay Goyal as education department director. Similarly, Chanchal Yadav, who served as south DM's Deputy Commissioner has been shifted as Special Secretary to LG. Vasanthakumar N. has been made Special Commissioner (Trade and Taxes). Deputy chief minister manish Sisodia slammed the move as "bossing around" by the LG.

At A Glance

**Two militants killed in Shopian encounter**  
SRINAGAR: Two militants and a civilian were killed and 21 others, including a jawan, injured in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district where an encounter took place between terrorists and security forces, police said. The bodies of the militants were recovered from the encounter site at Kundullian village in the district, police spokesperson said. Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in the village early this morning following information about the presence of militants there, a police official said.

**N D Tiwari's condition deteriorates further**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 10 /- / The condition of veteran politician N D Tiwari, who was shifted to an ICU at a private hospital after several days ago, has deteriorated as many of his organs have stopped working. Uttarakhand chief minister Trivendra Rawat today said. The 92-year-old politician was admitted to Max Hospital, Saket on September 20 last year after suffering a brain stroke. Hospital sources also said that the condition of the former chief minister of Uttarakhand is "very serious".

**Ratan Tata to share dais with RSS chief**  
MUMBAI: The RSS today said industrialist Ratan Tata will share the stage with its chief Mohan Bhagwat at an event to be held here next month. Last month, former president Pranab Mukherjee had attended a function of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in Nagpur, an event which had become a matter of much debate. "Tata and Bhagwat will attend an event in Mumbai on August 24 organised by the National Samiti," a Sangh functionary told news agency PTI here.



Supporters of Belgium cheer team before the match — REUTERS

# India stakeholder in Korean peace process, says Modi

NEW DELHI, JULY 10 /- / Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said India is a stakeholder in the peace process in the Korean peninsula after he held wide-ranging deliberations with South Korean President Moon Jae-in that focused on deepening strategic cooperation between the two countries. In the talks, the two sides agreed to significantly enhance cooperation in a range of areas including defence and security, artificial intelligence, trade besides resolving to work together for regional peace and prevent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The two countries inked a total of 10 agreements covering a broad spectrum of areas for cooperation and signed a document to facilitate negotiations to upgrade the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). At a joint media event with Moon, Modi indirectly referred to North Korea's proliferation linkages with Pakistan and that it was a reason why India is a stakeholder in the peace process. "During our talks, I told President Moon that proliferation is a matter of concern to India. Therefore, India is also a stakeholder in the peace process. We will do our bit to ensure peace," the Prime Minister said in his press statement. India has been pressing for a probe into North Korea's nuclear proliferation linkages with Pakistan and demanded that those responsible for it should be held accountable. The two sides also released a vision document articulating ways to boost their strategic cooperation and reaffirming convergence of their views in dealing with maritime conflicts, in a clear reference to China's expansionist behaviour in critical sea lanes.

# Twitter blocks polling app 'MyVoteToday'

## Says it won't tolerate behaviour that harasses to silence another person's voice

NEW DELHI, JULY 10 /- / As it intensifies the crackdown on bots, trolls, and fake accounts, Twitter has blocked several accounts in India, including the handle of polling app 'MyVoteToday' that in a recent poll had asked people who they want to be 'silenced' and 'blocked' on Twitter. Also, 27 other handles run by the promoter of 'MyVoteToday' have been blocked. "Our investigation on this account violated the Twitter rules," a 'MyVoteToday' follower posted as the response received from Twitter. 'MyVoteToday' (@MyVoteToday), which had claimed to be the world's second largest pollster and a "research partner" of Government of India, was created by Apption Digital Technologies Pvt Ltd based in

Bengaluru and Apption Digital Inc based in Palo Alto, California. In a recent poll, MyVoteToday had asked: "To #MakeIndiaGreatAgain which of the 66 alleged #EnemiesofIndia have to be silenced" and listed 66 names, who were critical of government policies. The list included names of West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee, Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Congress leaders - Sonia Gandhi, P Chidambaram and Salman Khurshid, CPM's Sitaram Yechuri, former Jammu and Kashmir chief ministers Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah as well as several journalists, bloggers, activists, students and separatists. In another poll, it had asked people who they among a list - the incumbent Congress president Rahul Gandhi, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Bollywood stars Aamir Khan and Shah Rukh Khan, want to be 'slapped'. The Twitter spokesperson said it does not com-

ment on individual accounts for privacy and security reasons and does not give out country-wise numbers on the accounts that have been blocked recently. "We take the safety of our users very seriously and do not tolerate behaviour that harasses, intimidates or causes fear to another person's voice," the spokesperson said. While Amit Bagaria, the promoter of Apption Digital, could not be reached for comment today, the Indian Express quoted him saying that the Twitter's "unjustified" "censorship" of "defamation" and these accounts were "wrongly locked or suspended".

