

Fifth accused arrested in Bhopal college rape case; new victim comes forward

PTI, BHOPAL: Police on Tuesday arrested the fifth accused in connection with the alleged rape and blackmailing of some female students of a college in Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal, a senior official said.

One more victim also came forward to file a complaint in connection with the incident, based on which a case was registered and investigation was being conducted, he said.

"Today, one more accused has been arrested and further action is being taken," Bhopal's Commissioner of Police Harinarayanchari Mishra told PTI.

"One more victim has also come forward and lodged a

The city police had registered a case on April 25 for alleged rape of three girl students in a Bhopal-based private college and then blackmailing them by making objectionable videos. The police then arrested three accused, including Farhan Ali

complaint," he said.

It was complained that the accused persons raped the girl students by hiding their identity and blackmailing them by making videos. On Monday, the fourth victim had alleged that an accused molested her and pressured her to convert her religion.

Four accused, including main accused Farhan Ali, have been arrested in this case so far, police said.

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istered a case on April 25 for alleged rape of three girl students in a Bhopal-based private college and then blackmailing them by making objectionable videos. The police then arrested three accused, including Farhan Ali.

Ali Khan, the fourth accused in the case who was absconding, was arrested on Monday. After the case came to light, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said the state government will not

tolerate 'jihad or love jihad' in the state and the criminals will not be spared at any cost.

Earlier in the day, taking suo motu cognisance of the case, the National Commission for Women (NCW) constituted a three-member inquiry committee, headed by retired IPS officer and former Jharkhand Director General of Police Nirmal Kaur.

Meanwhile, a case of rape and blackmailing of girl students has also come to light in an engineering college in Indore. Police officials say they were trying to investigate this matter thoroughly and will bring everything to the fore.

B Arch, B Tech graduates arrested for ganja peddling in Hyderabad

PTI, HYDERABAD: Four people, including a B Arch and three engineering graduates were arrested on Tuesday for allegedly peddling Hydroponic Ganja (OG) and seized 1.4 kg of marijuana and other goods worth Rs 1.4 crore from them.

Harshvardan Shrivastava, an architect from Madhya Pradesh acted as a middleman, purchasing the substance using an app and distributing it to needy peddlers and used cryptocurrency and Hawala by using VPN to avoid police surveillance, a press release from the police said.

Shrivastava wanted to start a business and in order to raise capital he indulged in Ganja trade. He learned how to procure and supply drugs through Reddit community and other online platforms.

B Srinivasa Rahul from Chennai, completed engineering in B.Tech in Information Technology in 2016 and worked as IT employee in Chennai. He was addicted to Ganja.

A police official involved in the case said all the arrested were remanded to judicial custody by a local court.

14 protesters held for throwing stones at police in Jharkhand's Giridih

PTI, GIRIDIH: At least 14 people were arrested for allegedly pelting police personnel with stones and locking a circle officer in his chamber during a protest in Jharkhand's Giridih district, police said on Tuesday.

Two police personnel and a block development officer were injured in the clash outside the office of the circle officer (CO) in Tisri area on Monday.

"An FIR was lodged against 14 named individuals after the incident. All 14 have been arrested. Video footage is still being reviewed, and action will be

taken against anyone else found guilty," Khorimahua Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Rajendra Prasad told PTI.

The protesters allegedly locked Tisri Circle Officer Akhilesh Prasad in his chamber when he arrived at the office around 11 am on Monday.

The agitators, under the banner of the Kisan Janata Party (KJP), have been staging a dharna since March 20 outside the circle office, demanding certified copies of "Register Two", a record of land ownership and other details for a specific plot.

The protest turned violent on Monday. When the police arrived to free the circle officer, the protesters allegedly threw stones at them. The police then resorted to a lathi charge to disperse the agitators.

The KJP claimed that several of their members were also injured in the incident and are being treated at a local hospital.

"If someone purchases land, the owner cannot claim the land until it is registered in Register two. But the circle officer has been reluctant in providing the certified copy," a KJP member claimed.

Mephedrone drug worth Rs 1 crore seized in two cases; four held

PTI, INDORE: Police in Madhya Pradesh's Indore on Tuesday arrested four persons in two separate incidents following the recovery of mephedrone worth around Rs one crore from them, an official said.

Talking to reporters, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Rajesh Kumar Tripathi said 154 grams of MD

drug was recovered from the possession of Ahmed Shah (42) and Pappu Saroga (45) after their arrest on Indore's Patthar Godown Road. Shah hails from Pratapgarh district in Rajasthan while Saroga belongs to Mandasaur in Madhya Pradesh, he said.

In the second case, Harion Jha and Lakshya Singh Rajput (both 26) were ar-

rested under a bridge on Indore's MR-10 Road and 36 grams of MD was recovered from them during their search, the DCP said.

Jha is from New Delhi, while Rajput hails from Rajasthan's Dausa district, he said.

"The total value of MD recovered in both the cases is estimated to be around Rs one crore in the inter-

national market. Interrogation of the smugglers revealed that MD is being supplied to Indore through the border districts of Rajasthan," Tripathi said.

FIRs have been filed under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and detailed investigation was underway in both the cases, he said.

Manipur police launches survey to identify illegal foreign nationals

PTI, IMPHAL: In the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack, Manipur police will conduct a "survey and verification" drive across the state to detect the presence of illegal Bangladeshi and Pakistani nationals staying without valid documents, an official said.

The drive will be focusing on areas like Lilong, Minuthong, and Kwakta.

THREE NSCN CADRES KILLED IN ASSAM ENCOUNTER; ARMS, AMMUNITION SEIZED

PTI, GUWAHATI: At least three suspected NSCN cadres were killed in an encounter with Assam Police in Dima Hasao district on Tuesday, officers said. A cache of arms and ammunition were also recovered. Senior officers of Assam Police headquarters told PTI that the encounter took place at a place between N Kubin and Herakilo under Haflong police station limits after the NSCN cadres came from Nagaland.

voice of business

India, US looking for 'early mutual wins' before concluding first phase of trade pact

PTI, NEW DELHI: India and the US are exploring opportunities for an interim trade arrangement in goods to secure an "early mutual wins" ahead of finalising the first phase of the proposed bilateral trade agreement by fall of this year.

The commerce ministry said on Tuesday that both the countries have initiated sectoral level talks and more engagements are planned from May end.

To give an impetus to the talks, India's chief negotiator Rajesh Agrawal, additional secretary in the department of commerce, and Assistant US Trade Representative for South and Central Asia Brendan Lynch held a three-day talks last week in Washington.

During the meetings in Washington, the teams deliberated on wide-ranging subjects including tariff (related to goods) and non-tariff matters.

"The team discussed the pathway for concluding the

first tranche of the mutually beneficial, multi-sector bilateral trade agreement (BTA) by fall (September-October) of 2025, including...opportunities for early mutual wins," the ministry said in a statement.

An official said that an interim agreement with regard to trade in goods could take place as part of early mutual wins in case both sides agree.

"Initially we are focusing on goods. The non-tariff barriers being flagged by Indian side included in sectors such as marine," the official said, adding the formal first round of negotiations are expected to start after the May meetings.

These deliberations assume significance as the US has suspended the additional 26% tariffs on India till July 9. Both the nations want to take advantage of this window to push the trade talks.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Monday said that India is likely to be

among the first countries to finalise a bilateral trade agreement with the US to avert reciprocal tariffs by President Donald Trump.

"Negotiations with our Asian trading partners are going very well. Vice President (JD) Vance was in India last week and talked about substantial progress. I have mentioned that the negotiations with the Republic of Korea have gone very well. And I think we've had some very substantial negotiations with our Japanese allies," Bessent said during an interview with CNBC's Squawk Box.

The US, on April 2, announced an additional 26% tariff on Indian goods entering the US. But on April 9, the Trump administration announced the suspension of these on India for 90 days until July 9 this year. However, the 10% baseline tariff imposed on the countries will continue to remain in place.

India is seeking duty

US AGAIN PUTS INDIA ON 'PRIORITY WATCH LIST' FOR ALLEGED IP RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

PTI, NEW DELHI: The US on Tuesday once again placed India on its 'priority watch list', stating that New Delhi remains one of the world's most challenging major economies for the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPRs). The US Trade Representative's (USTR) 2025 Special 301 report, an annual review of the global state of IPR protection and enforcement, said that over the past year, India has remained inconsistent in its progress on intellectual property protection and enforcement.

It said that although India has worked to strengthen its IP regime, including raising public awareness about the importance of the subject, and engagement with the US on IP issues has increased, there continues to be a lack of progress on many long-standing IP concerns.

"India remains one of the world's most challenging major economies with respect to protection and enforcement of IP... India remains on the Priority Watch List in 2025," it said. The country had earlier stated that this report is a unilateral measure taken by the US under their Trade Act, 1974 to create pressure on countries to increase IPR protection beyond the TRIPS agreement. Besides, India has maintained that its IPR regime is fully compliant with global trade norms.

concessions for labour-intensive sectors like textiles, gems and jewellery, leather goods, garments, plas-

tics, chemicals, shrimp, oil seeds, chemicals, grapes and bananas in the proposed pact with America.

On the other hand, the US wants duty concessions in sectors like certain industrial goods, automobiles (electric vehicles particularly), wines, petrochemical products, dairy, agriculture items such as apples, and tree nuts, they said.

The terms of references (ToRs) for the BTA have been finalised by India and the US for the proposed agreement, which include around 19 chapters covering issues such as tariffs, goods, services, rules of origin, non-tariff barriers, and customs facilitation.

The US has on multiple times raised concerns over certain non-tariff barriers being faced by American goods in the Indian markets.

On April 22 in Jaipur, US Vice President J D Vance urged India to drop non-tariff barriers, give greater access to its markets. Indian products too face these issues in the international markets including in America, EU, China, Japan, and Korea.

businessday



A woman and child look at a lobster at the Bashi seafood market in Xiamen, China's southeastern Fujian province

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Wanted Female Account Assistant with knowledge of Computer and Tally must. Min 1-2yrs experience, staying in around Raia, Arlem Whatsapp CV 9822141531.

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Wanted Sales Person at Home appliance store. Contact: 9823239451

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2025012418

Urgently required female office assistant with computer knowledge, graduate, fluent English and female tour guide and LMV batch driver contact margao office 9822168585

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Wanted female assistant for dental clinic in Margao. 10/12 pass only. Should be from in and around Margao. 7038839454.

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IndusInd accounting lapses: Sumant Kathpalia steps down as CEO

PTI, NEW DELHI: IndusInd Bank MD and CEO Sumant Kathpalia on Tuesday resigned with immediate effect, taking moral responsibility of accounting lapses in the derivatives portfolio, having financial implication of Rs 1,960 crore to the bank.

This comes a day after the bank's Deputy CEO Arun Khurana had tendered his resignation on Monday. Its Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Govind Jain had quit in January before the lapses came to light.

Kathpalia, Managing Director & CEO, has by his letter dated April 29, 2025, resigned from services of the bank with effect from close of working hours on April 29, 2025, IndusInd Bank said in a regulatory filing.

"I undertake moral responsibility, given the various acts of commission/omission that have been brought to my notice. I would request that my resignation be taken on record at close of working hours today," Kathpalia said in a resignation letter addressed to the board of the bank.

The board has sought approval of the Reserve Bank of India to constitute a 'Committee of Executives', to discharge the duties, roles and responsibilities of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the bank, for an interim period until a permanent CEO is appointed by the bank, as per the filing.

Earlier this week, the private sector lender had informed that a bank-appointed external auditor has determined a cumulative adverse accounting impact on profit & loss at Rs 1,959.98 crore as on March 31, which is similar to the amount disclosed on April 15.

On April 15, IndusInd Bank disclosed on the basis of a report of another external agency that accounting lapses in the derivative portfolio will have a negative impact of Rs 1,979 crore on its net worth. The bank has assessed an adverse impact (on a post-tax basis) of 2.27% to its net worth as of December 2024 on account of discrepancies relating to derivative deals.

The private sector lender reported last month the accounting lapses in the derivative portfolio, estimated to have an adverse impact of approximately 2.35% of the bank's net worth as of December 2024.

Piyush Goyal addresses India-UK Business Roundtable in London

PTI, LONDON: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, who is in London on a two-day visit focused on bilateral trade and investment ties, addressed an India-UK Business Roundtable bringing together prominent business leaders and CEOs from both countries on Tuesday.

The roundtable heard from the minister about the wide-ranging investment opportunities across sectors in India and the potential for innovation-led growth with greater two-way partnerships.

"Highlighted opportunities to strengthen economic ties, drive innovation-led growth, and expand investment avenues between India and the UK," Goyal said after the roundtable.

It follows his interactions on Monday with a range of senior business leaders to explore the potential for greater collaborations with the UK.

After a meeting with UK Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds to advance the ongoing Free

Independent review finds no irregularities amid US indictment

PTI, NEW DELHI: Adani Green Energy has said an independent review of its regulatory compliances related to an alleged breach that led to the indictment of founder chairman Gautam Adani and two company executives in a US court, did not find irregularities or non-compliances on the issue.

ADANI ON COURSE

In November last year, US authorities charged Adani, his nephew and executive director Sagar Adani and managing director Vneet S Jaain for being involved in an alleged scheme to pay bribes to Indian government officials to win solar energy contracts, and concealed the plan as they sought to raise money from US investors.

In its FY25 earning announcement, Adani Green Energy - the firm at the heart of allegation of \$265 million bribes allegedly being paid to Indian officials to secure solar power sale contracts that could bring in \$2 billion of profits over 20 year period to the firm - said its holding company has not been named as a defendant in the indictment and civil complaint and the matter was pending for further proceedings.

Adani Group had previously denied all allegations as baseless and said it would seek legal recourse to defend itself.

"To uphold the principles of good governance, the Holding Company (of AGEL) appointed independent law firms to perform an independent review to assess and evaluate related non-compliance, if any, in this matter," the filing said.

"Such independent review also did not identify any non-compliances or irregularities in the matter."

In November 2024, the United States Department of Justice (US DoJ) filed an indictment against two executive directors and one non-executive director of the holding company and a civil complaint by the Securities and Exchange Commission (US SEC).

AGEL said its holding company has confirmed making "all appropriate disclosures in the past, including in bond offering circulars" that raised money from the US markets.

Xi Jinping visits BRICS bank HQ in Shanghai

PTI, BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday called for improvement of the management and operations of the New Development Bank of the BRICS countries in his rare visit to its headquarters in Shanghai.

During his interaction with the New Development Bank (NDB) president, Dilma Rousseff, and four vice presidents and other employees, Xi said the bank needs to improve its management and operations and implement more technology and green finance projects, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

He also said that the bank needs to help developing countries bridge the digital divide and accelerate green and low-carbon transformation. In discussions on the reform of international financial architecture, the bank should amplify the voice of the Global South, safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of these countries and support them in their pursuit of modernisation, he said.

He said that the NDB is the world's first multilateral development institution established and led by emerging markets and developing countries.