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Alarming Rise in Persecution of Hindus in Bangladesh, A Call for Global Attention

Bangladesh woman TV journalist's body recovered from lake in Dhaka

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PTI



TV Journalist Sarah Rahanuma. | Photo Credit: Sarah Rahanuma Facebook

The ongoing persecution of the Hindu minority in Bangladesh has reached a critical juncture, raising

concerns over the country's repression that includes the civil society groups unite to demand commitment to democratic values burning of minority homes, the accountability and justice for the and human rights. A recent report systematic rape of Hindu women, victims of these heinous acts.The by Voice of Bangladeshi Hindus, an and the forced resignation of persecution of Hindus in organization dedicated to minorities from their jobs. Bangladesh is a stark reminder of highlighting the struggles of Hindus Additionally, fatwas are being the fragility of minority rights in in the country, has brought to light issued, mandating Hindu women to regions where religious extremism and violence against minorities. personal autonomy.These actions lives are destroyed in the name of According to the report, journalists are not isolated incidents but rather religious intolerance. It is time for who dare to speak out against symptomatic of a larger pattern of decisive action to ensure that Islamic extremism in Bangladesh discrimination and violence against Bangladesh upholds its democratic are being targeted with deadly religious minorities in Bangladesh.It principles and protects the rights of violence. This disturbing trend is is imperative that world leaders, all its citizens, regardless of their part of a broader campaign of human rights organizations, and faith.

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Keshav Prasad Maurya a Strong Counter to Samajwadi Party's PDA Claims



Uttar Pradesh |

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya has positioned himself as a formidable opponent to the Samajwadi Party (SP) and its initiative known as PDA an acronym for Pichhda, Dalit, and Alpasankhyak, aimed at addressing the concerns of backward classes, Dalits, and minorities. Maurya, representing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has criticized the SP's approach, suggesting that it is merely a facade for political gain.Maurya asserted that the SP's PDA is nothing more than a Parivar Development Authority,implying that SP Chief Akhilesh Yadav is more focused on the development of his family rather than the communities he claims to represent. He stated,The opposition has lost the semi-finals and will lose the Lok Sabha polls too,reinforcing his confidence in the BJP's prospects in the upcoming elections.The political

landscape in Uttar Pradesh is heating up as both parties prepare for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Maurya emphasized the BJP's commitment to development and governance, stating that the party is on the path to progress and will emerge victorious in the elections.However, the SP has countered these claims, alleging that the BJP is grappling with internal conflicts and governance issues. Akhilesh Yadav has accused the ruling party of neglecting public welfare amidst its internal power struggles, suggesting that the BJP's focus on infighting is detrimental to the people of Uttar Pradesh.As the political rivalry intensifies, the question remains whether the BJP's strategy, as articulated by Maurya, will resonate with voters or if the SP's appeal to marginalized communities will prove more

BJP Launches Membership Drive to Empower Women in Andhra Pradesh

Join the movement for women's self-reliance and leadership by calling 88 00 002 024

Andhra Pradesh

In a significant initiative aimed at promoting women's empowerment, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has launched a membership registration campaign focused on elevating the status of women in society.The campaign encourages women to join the party and participate actively in its efforts to foster self-reliance and leadership among women across Andhra Pradesh.The BJP has long been an advocate for women's rights and empowerment,emphasizing the need for equal opportunities and representation in all spheres of life. With this new campaign,the party aims to create a robust platform for women to voice their concerns, contribute to decision-making processes,and access various government schemes designed to uplift their status.Party

leaders have stated that the membership drive is not just about increasing numbers but about building a community of empowered women who can support each other and work towards common goals.The campaign is expected to provide women with the resources and support they need to thrive in their personal and professional lives.To participate in the membership drive, interested individuals can simply give a missed call to 88 00 002 024.This easy process is designed to encourage more women to engage with the party and take advantage of the opportunities available to them.The BJP's commitment to women's empowerment includes a range of initiatives, such as providing free education, promoting legal rights,and ensuring equal opportunities in employment.By joining the party,women can play a crucial role in shaping policies that directly impact their lives and communities.As the campaign gains momentum,the BJP hopes to inspire a new generation of women leaders who will champion the cause of gender equality and contribute to the overall development of society.The party's focus on women's empowerment is seen as a vital step towards creating a more inclusive and equitable future for all.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Maharashtra



August 30, 2024

11:00 AM

PM to address Global Fintech Fest 2024 in Mumbai

1:30 PM

PM to lay foundation stone of Vadkhan Port project worth around ₹ 76,000 crores in Palghar

Vadkhan to be one of India's largest deep water ports

PM to also inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of 218 fisheries projects worth around ₹ 1,560 crores



Monkeypox Claims 610 Lives in Congo, Says Health Minister



urged the public to adhere strictly to protective measures, especially with the school year commencing in early September. He emphasized the importance of vaccination, encouraging citizens to get vaccinated as soon as vaccines become available, Xinhua news agency reported. The ongoing outbreak has heightened concerns over public health in Congo, which is already grappling with multiple health crises. The government is working to ramp up vaccination efforts and ensure that health guidelines are followed to prevent further spread of the disease.

Monkeypox has claimed the lives of 610 people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, according to Health Minister Roger Kamba. The alarming death toll is part of a broader outbreak, with the country reporting 17,801 suspected cases of the viral disease so far. Minister Kamba


Assam Assembly Passes Controversial Bill to Abolish Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act

Opposition decries legislation as discriminatory, raising questions about its implications for social harmony

MUSLIM LAW

Assam to introduce bill to repeal Muslim Marriage Act in Assembly

While the state government has claimed that the proposed law aims to stop child marriage, experts contended that repealing the 1935 Act would cause confusion.



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In a significant and contentious move, the Assam Assembly has passed the Assam Repealing Bill, 2024, which abolishes the Assam Muslim Marriages and Divorces Registration Act of 1935. The bill, introduced by Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Jogen Mohan, mandates that all Muslim marriages and divorces must now be registered with the government, effectively ending the previous system where such registrations were conducted by Kazis. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma defended the legislation, stating that it aims to combat social issues such as child marriage and to ensure that all marriages comply with legal age requirements—18 years for women and 21 years for men. Sarma emphasized that the bill is designed to protect the rights of women and children, prevent polygamy, and provide legal recognition for marriages, thereby

improving the overall quality of life for young girls in the state. However, the bill has faced severe backlash from opposition parties and various Muslim organizations, who argue that it discriminates against the Muslim community and undermines their personal laws. Critics have labeled the legislation as an attempt to further marginalize Muslims in Assam, raising concerns about its potential to exacerbate communal tensions. Opposition leaders have condemned the bill as divisive, arguing that it targets a specific community while ignoring broader issues affecting all citizens. They assert that the move is part of a larger agenda by the ruling BJP government to impose a uniform civil code that may not respect the diverse cultural and religious practices of India's population. The passage of the bill has reignited debates about the balance

between legal uniformity and the recognition of personal laws, particularly in a diverse society like India. Proponents argue that the legislation is a progressive step towards ensuring all marriages are documented and adhere to legal standards, while opponents fear it could lead to increased discrimination and social unrest. As the state prepares to implement this new law, the question remains: Is this bill a progressive measure aimed at safeguarding women's rights, or is it a divisive tactic that undermines the cultural fabric of Assam? The discourse surrounding this issue is likely to continue, reflecting the complex interplay of law, religion, and social justice in contemporary India.

Goa Prepares for Grand Exposition of St. Francis Xavier's Relics, Anticipating Global Pilgrimage



Event set to attract millions as state allocates Rs 300 crore for the historic 45-day showcase

Goa is gearing up for a significant spiritual event as the XVIII Exposition of the Sacred Relics of St. Francis Xavier is scheduled to take place from November 21, 2024, to January 5, 2025. This rare occasion, held every ten years, is expected to draw millions of pilgrims and tourists to the Basilica of Bom Jesus in Old Goa, where the saint's mortal remains are enshrined. The state government, led by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, has announced a budget allocation of Rs 300 crore from the central government to ensure the successful execution of this grand event. The

preparations include enhancing infrastructure and facilities to accommodate the expected influx of visitors, which is projected to reach approximately 6.5 million people from around the world. The exposition will feature a series of religious and cultural activities, including daily prayers, art exhibitions, and a special souvenir book detailing the life of St. Francis Xavier. The theme for this year's exposition, "We are Messengers of the Good News," aims to inspire attendees to spread messages of love, hope, and peace.

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Lokayukta Case Filed Against Peerzadiguda Municipal Commissioner Over Illegal Construction

Persistent Inaction by Peerzadiguda Municipal Corporation Leads to Legal Action, Illegal Shed in Ward No. 6 Ignored Despite Numerous Complaints. A case has been filed in the Lokayukta against the Municipal Commissioner of Peerzadiguda for failing to address an illegal shed being constructed in Ward No. 6, located on the main road of Peerzadiguda village. The legal action comes after repeated complaints from residents and concerned citizens were ignored by the Peerzadiguda Municipal Corporation, raising questions about the corporation's commitment to enforcing building regulations and protecting public interest. The controversy centers around an unauthorized shed that has been under construction in a prime area of Ward No. 6. Local residents have expressed their concerns, stating that the structure not only violates zoning laws but also poses potential safety hazards due to its proximity to the main road. Despite these valid concerns, the municipal authorities have allegedly turned a blind eye to the ongoing construction, leading frustrated citizens to seek legal recourse. Complaints regarding the illegal shed were first lodged with the Peerzadiguda Municipal Corporation several months ago. Residents allege that they have submitted numerous petitions, both in writing and in person, urging the authorities to halt the construction and investigate the legality of the project. However, the corporation's response has been marked by inaction, with no visible steps taken to address the issue or enforce the relevant building codes. The situation has now escalated to the point where a case has been brought before the Lokayukta, an anti-corruption ombudsman responsible for investigating complaints against public officials and institutions. The case filed in the Lokayukta seeks an investigation into the conduct of the Municipal Commissioner and other officials who may have been involved in allowing the illegal construction to proceed unchecked. The complainants are demanding that the Lokayukta take swift action to halt the construction, dismantle the illegal structure, and hold the responsible officials accountable.

MEO Shashidhar Under Fire for Withholding Information on Schools Under RTI Act

Public Outrage Grows as Ghatkesar and Uppal MEO Fails to Respond to Whistleblower's RTI Applications on School Operations. In a troubling development, Shashidhar, the Mandal Education Officer (MEO) for Ghatkesar and Uppal, has come under intense scrutiny for his refusal to provide crucial information under the Right to Information (RTI) Act. The information, which pertains to the functioning and operations of schools in these areas, was sought by a whistleblower through formal RTI applications. However, despite the legal obligation to do so, MEO Shashidhar has not furnished any of the requested details, leading to widespread public outrage. The whistleblower, who has been actively involved in advocating for transparency in the education sector, filed the RTI applications several weeks ago. The information sought includes data on school infrastructure, teacher qualifications, student enrollment, and the allocation of government funds. This information is considered vital for ensuring accountability and improving the quality of education in the region. However, MEO Shashidhar has

remained unresponsive, raising serious concerns about transparency and accountability within the education department. According to the RTI Act, public authorities are required to respond to information requests within 30 days. Failure to comply with this mandate not only violates the law but also undermines the citizens' right to access information about public institutions. Many believe that Shashidhar's refusal to release the information is indicative of a broader issue of opacity and possible malpractices within the education system. The withholding of such information has led to suspicions that there may be irregularities in the administration of schools that the MEO is trying to conceal. The RTI Act was enacted to empower citizens and ensure transparency in the functioning of public institutions. Activists are urging the government to take strict action against officials who fail to uphold the principles of transparency and accountability. This is not just about one MEO or one RTI application; it's about the larger issue of how our public institutions are run, said a concerned parent from Ghatkesar.

Top News Attacks Against Hindus in Bangladesh: A Critical Examination of Western Media Narratives

In a well-researched article, Sheds light on the ongoing violence against Hindus in Bangladesh, questioning the portrayal of these incidents by Western media outlets. Western Media argues that the narrative often presented is misleading and fails to capture the complexities of communal

minority in Bangladesh, particularly during significant religious festivals. Notably, during this year's Durga Puja, communal violence erupted after a viral video allegedly showed a Qur'an placed on a statue in a Hindu shrine, leading to widespread mob attacks. Reports indicated that hundreds were injured, and

Hindus in the country's history, points out that the Hindu population in Bangladesh has dramatically declined from approximately 30% in 1947 to less than 9% today. This demographic shift is attributed to a combination of factors, including social discrimination, economic challenges, and

years, seeking refuge from the escalating communal tensions. The ongoing challenges faced by Hindus in Bangladesh serve as a reminder of the need for comprehensive solutions that promote coexistence and respect for all communities.

Confusion and Anger Grip Uttar Pradesh Village After Two Dalit Girls Found Hanging



A pall of gloom and confusion has descended upon Bhagautipur village in Farrukhabad district of Uttar Pradesh after the bodies of two teenage Dalit girls were found hanging from a tree in a nearby mango orchard on Tuesday morning. The victims, aged 15 and 18, were close friends and neighbors who had gone missing the previous evening after attending Janmashami celebrations at a local temple. The families of the deceased have vehemently rejected the police's preliminary conclusion that the girls died by suicide, alleging that they were murdered. The father of one of the victims claimed that the bodies bore injury marks, including thorns pierced into the skin and belt-like impressions, which he believes are evidence of foul play. He has demanded a thorough investigation to uncover the truth behind the tragic incident. However, the police maintain that

the deaths were a case of suicide, with Superintendent of Police Alok Priyadarshi stating that the post-mortem report and forensic evidence support this theory. He added that the girls' bodies were found hanging from a single dupatta (scarf), suggesting a joint act of self-harm. The police have also recovered a mobile phone near the scene and a SIM card belonging to one of the victims, which they believe could provide crucial clues. The incident has drawn comparisons to the 2014 Badaun case, where two cousins were found hanging from a tree, leading to allegations of gang rape and murder. The families of the current victims, who belong to the Jatav caste, a Dalit community, have demanded justice and a fair investigation, accusing the police of rushing to cremate the bodies without allowing them to see the post-mortem report. Opposition parties, particularly the Samajwadi Party (SP), have seized upon the tragedy to criticize the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Uttar Pradesh. SP chief Akhilesh Yadav has alleged that the BJP's "anti-women thinking and attitude" and the victims' Dalit identity are factors behind the government's silence on the issue. The case has once again highlighted the ongoing challenges of ensuring the safety and justice for women, especially those from marginalized communities, in Uttar Pradesh.

From Swiggy Delivery Partner to Fashion Model: The Inspiring Journey of Sahil Singh

Mumbai man's transformation captivates social media and inspires many with his resilience and determination



in 2012 during a school fashion show, but it wasn't until he began actively pursuing modeling in 2017 that he began to gather the necessary knowledge and experience. To support himself, Sahil juggled multiple odd jobs, including a stint in the kitchen at Burger King, while working as a Swiggy delivery partner for nearly two years. Despite his hard work, he earned only between ₹18,000 and ₹22,000 per month. After enduring the rigors of the modeling audition circuit, which included nearly 200 auditions, Sahil finally landed his first professional gig this year with the haircare brand Streak. His journey to this point was fraught with challenges, particularly regarding his height, which he admits is on the shorter side for a model in India at 5 feet 10 inches. Nevertheless, he persisted, even agreeing to wear five-inch heels for his runway debut. Sahil's story has struck a chord with many, with social media users praising his determination and hard work.

In a remarkable tale of perseverance, Sahil Singh, a 24-year-old from Mumbai, has transitioned from working as a delivery partner for Swiggy to becoming a budding fashion model. His inspiring journey has resonated with thousands on social media, particularly after a video showcasing his transformation went viral, garnering nearly 4 million views. Sahil's aspiration to model was ignited in 2009 when he saw a poster of a model, which left a lasting impression on him. His first experience with modeling came

Russia Bans 92 More Americans, Including Journalists



Russia

Russia has banned 92 additional American citizens, including several journalists, from entering the country, citing what it calls the "Russophobic course" pursued by the Biden administration. The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced the sanctions as a retaliatory measure against U.S. policies that it claims are aimed at "inflicting a strategic defeat on Moscow." The targeted group includes journalists, politicians, and public figures seen as critical of the Kremlin. The move comes amid escalating

tensions between the two countries, with Russia condemning the U.S. for its support of Ukraine and its sanctions against Russian entities. In its statement, Moscow described the bans as necessary to counter the "increasingly hostile actions" of Washington. This latest development signals a further deterioration in U.S.-Russia relations, which have been strained since the start of the Ukraine conflict. The Biden administration has not yet issued a formal response to the new Russian sanctions.

Israel Kills Five in West Bank, Including Local Commander



Israeli forces killed five Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, including Mohammed Jaber, a local commander of the Islamic Jihad militant group known as Abu Shujaa. The incident occurred during a military raid in the town of Jenin, a frequent flashpoint in recent months. The Israeli military stated that the operation targeted militants involved in planning attacks against Israelis. However, there has been no immediate confirmation from Palestinian

sources regarding the death of Jaber. The raid marks the latest in a series of deadly confrontations in the West Bank, where tensions between Israeli forces and Palestinian militants have been escalating, adding further strain to an already volatile situation in the region. Palestinian officials have condemned the ongoing raids, which have resulted in a significant number of casualties over the past year.

Telegram CEO Pavel Durov Released on Bail, Now Under Investigation



Telegram CEO Pavel Durov, a prominent figure in the tech world, was released on bail and is currently under investigation for six charges, according to French authorities. Durov was apprehended by French police on Saturday night at an airport near Paris, marking a significant development in his legal

challenges. Following his release on bail, French prosecutor Laure Beccuaud confirmed that Durov is prohibited from leaving France while the investigation is ongoing. The exact nature of the charges has not been publicly disclosed, adding to the intrigue surrounding the case. The investigation is expected to shed light on the circumstances that led to Durov's arrest and the specific allegations he faces. The ongoing scrutiny could have significant implications for Durov and his position within Telegram, a platform that has consistently emphasized privacy and security for its users. As the situation unfolds, the tech community and Telegram's millions of users worldwide are closely monitoring the developments.

Outrage Erupts After Viral Video Shows Dalit Woman and Son Beaten by Police in Madhya Pradesh



Incident at Katni GRP Police Station raises serious questions about police conduct and accountability

A disturbing video that surfaced on social media has sparked widespread outrage after it showed a Dalit woman and her minor son being brutally assaulted at the Government Railway Police (GRP) Station in Katni, Madhya Pradesh. The footage, which dates back to October 2023, depicts a woman in civilian clothes attacking the pair, with uniformed police officers later joining in the violence. The victims have been identified as Kusum Vanskar and her 15-year-old son, Deepraj. The incident reportedly occurred in a closed room at the police station, and the video has since gone viral, eliciting strong reactions from the public and political

leaders alike. In response to the public outcry, Madhya Pradesh police announced the transfer of the station in-charge and appointed a DIG-level officer to investigate the incident. The police acknowledged the video, confirming its authenticity and stating that the incident had been under review. Congress state chief Jitu Patwaria criticized the police's behavior, calling it a reflection of the "horrific life" Dalits endure under the current administration. He demanded accountability and questioned the government's commitment to law and order.