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Kamal Nath's row, BJP alleges sedition

Ashish Bhandarkar

Former chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, Kamal Nath has been accused of leaking vital information about India's nuclear programme to the United States diplomat David Korn, as per the document declassified by WikiLeaks, a non-profit publisher and a media organisation headquartered in Iceland.

On Friday, July 21, several BJP ministers took to Twitter, sharing the document and accusing Nath of sedition. This allegation was picked up by netizens and has created outrage on the platform. The document itself dates back to November 26, 1976, extracted from The Public Library of US Diplomacy.

The document alleges Nath of boasting about the two nuclear bombs India was building at the time and the plan of a peaceful nuclear test under the leadership of Indira Gandhi, over a diplomatic lunch in the United States. The Congress has released a statement deeming the allegations as baseless and a political stunt for the impending general elections in 2024.

Talking to the Indian Express, Madhya Pradesh BJP President V D Sharma said, "Kamal Nath has betrayed the country and has to reply to the WikiLeaks expose. He has had a tainted legacy from the days of the 1984 Anti-Sikh riots. I urge the centre to form a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the matter."

Cheap transport with a heavy price to pay

Sowmya A

The recent increase in cases of violence against women in Chennai Railway Stations has led many to shift to other forms of transportation and has increased the cost of living and caused inconvenience to many women.

On July 19, a woman was stabbed to death at Saidapet Railway Station. Another 22-year-old woman was pushed to death from a train during a phone snatching on July 2. These two incidents in 20 days have scared the public from using public transportation.

Speaking to The Beacon, Keerthana, an IT employee, who travels from Chennai Egmore to Guindy by local train, said, "I stopped using suburban rails due to increasing crimes against women in railway stations. Having shifted to the metro, I feel



Representational Image

PTI

safe but the fare is higher as compared to other transportation like buses and trains and it takes thrice the time that I usually spend."

The Zero Ticket Bus Travel Scheme, which is implemented by the Government of Tamil Nadu exclusively for women,

enables women to travel without paying a single rupee on a bus. However, doing so is very challenging because of the heavy traffic and crowded buses.

Poornima, a homemaker, claims that she used to travel from her place to Nungambakkam by local

train to attend college but when the murder of Swathi, an IT employee, took place in the same station, in the year 2016, she stopped using the local train.

"I still remember what happened that day. After the incident, I went to my college using my own ve-

hicle for a week because I was scared of that incident," said Poornima.

Sadhana B, a student, who travels from Arakkonam to Nungambakkam every day remarked, "My place is around 70 km from my college and the only way I can reach faster is by train." After stating that these events make her very anxious to use trains, she said, "But, I don't have any other option."

The government should take the necessary steps to stop these incidents and ensure women's security using public transportation. The government of Tamil Nadu implemented an app called Kaavalan SOS to safeguard the safety of women, however, it is no longer functioning effectively. This has made it harder for women who commute by rail to support their families.

'Women are not weapons for your battlefield'

Ashish Bhandarkar

BENGALURU: The Manipur viral video incident is a disgrace for any society claiming to be civilised, but the violence against women has been weaponised for conflict from time immemorial. This heinous practice has been getting traction in recent times, said Madhu Bhushan, a women's rights activist associated with Gamana Mahila Samuha.

In solidarity with the victims of Manipur, a peaceful protest was held on July 21, in front of Town Hall, Bengaluru, organised collectively by Gamana Mahila



United we stand

NewsHamster

Samuha and Samakalina Samajika Samskratika Vedike. The protest saw the participation of several activists, advocates and students.

Talking to The Beacon, Bhushan said, "The current context is much worse because the political impu-

nity that's been granted to these criminals is unprecedented. It is the politics and culture of violence that has seeped into the very conscience of not just our society but our minds and hearts."

There is nothing fundamentally good or evil in any

culture; it is always a matter of conflict within. It is injudicious that the most bigoted and misogynistic values are openly being endorsed and flaunted by a considerable section of society, she added.

Talking about the failure of mainstream media to break the story, she stated, "It is a highly compromised institution today, striving only to make a profit. In India, it is also compromised by the fascist ideology that is ruling us, not only politically but also at an individual level. Hence we see people on social media proactively immersed in containing our dwindling fourth estate."

Immunity for criminals, fuel for civil unrest

Jenett Jose

BENGALURU: The inhumane treatment inflicted upon the girls and the lack of police action to prevent the incident in Manipur are a testimony to the mishandling of the situation by the BJP government, said, Abhaya Diwakar, the district president, while addressing the gathering, expressing anguish.

The All India Democratic Students Organisation (AIDSO) held a protest meeting on July 22, 2023, in Bengaluru, strongly condemning the rape of two girls in Manipur who were subjected to the horrific act of violence and paraded naked. The press release issued on Saturday stated how the incident, which was videotaped and circulated on social media, has triggered nationwide outrage.

"The policies of the central and state BJP governments have caused division between communities and led to Manipur (situation)," said Diwakar in the press statement.

AIDSO urges the people of Manipur to unite in opposing the disruptive policies of the ruling government and advocate for the preservation of humanity and culture, the release read. The organisation invited students and intellectuals to come and participate in the fight against violence and communal strife.

A solution to nurture young minds

Jesbin Sam Mathew

BENGALURU: It's important to find a solution to the problem of children's increasing screen addiction, and we believe that audio platforms are a fantastic way to foster children's creativity and imagination, said Sowmya, co-founder of Wobble.

Wobble, a Bangalore-based organisation created by two artists and mothers, Sowmya and Neha, dedicated to reducing children's dependence on screen time by introducing them to the world of audio, held a one-day camp at Domlur on July 22, with more than 500



Kids exploring the realm of audio

Jesbin Sam Mathew

minutes of programming.

The camp included stories of fascinating journeys through fantastical lands and exciting adventures involving pirates and mystical creatures, filling the young listeners' minds with

wonder and curiosity.

Speaking to The Beacon, Sai, the event organiser, said, "When the kids put on the headphones and listen to content, it's like watching Netflix with their closed eyes."

AI reinstating balance in life

Anuja Jose

BENGALURU: Balance is the key to a fulfilling life; an interplay between linear and cyclical perspectives of human life, says an AI-based model, rendered in the form of Albert Einstein.

An AI-based interactive session was conducted by Harry Dhaur, founder and director general of The Independent Power Producers Association of India (IPPAI), based on the documentary 'Expanding Imagination' by Dhaur and Devdatt Pattanaik on July 21 at Bengaluru International Centre (BIC).

The event aimed at exploring the various facets of human imagination and philosophy.

"Linear way of life may provide structure and stability, but they can also limit creativity and spontaneity. On the other hand, cyclical ways of life may offer more freedom and variety, but they can also lack direction and purpose," replied the AI model to Dhaur's question on striking a balance between ways of living. It is up to the individual to find their own balance. "It'd require experimentation and reflection to determine what works best for them," said the model.