

Man arrested for abetting suicide of 17-year-old girl

CHARGES Cops say, Rinku Kumar Meena sent threatening messages to the girl's family after she snapped ties with him

Peeyush Khandelwal

GHAZIABAD: The Ghaziabad police on Sunday arrested a 22-year-old man on charges of abetting the suicide of a 17-year-old BBA student.

The girl jumped off from a mall in East Delhi on the evening of September 21. She reportedly left her house in Ghaziabad following a tiff with her parents. She left behind a suicide note which was recovered later.

The police on Sunday arrested Rinku Kumar Meena, who recently completed BTech and is the son of a farmer from Jaipur. The girl, who was studying at a college in Noida, is the daughter of a sub inspector with provincial armed constabulary at Ghaziabad and her family hails from Baghpat.

Her father had lodged an FIR at Indrapuram police station against an unidentified man for kidnapping under section 363 of IPC after the girl left her house.

"Her father said that an unidentified man sent threatening messages and a picture of the girl with a young man," said Rajesh Kumar, officiating superintendent of police (city).

Police said the photos which the accused sent to her father were general pictures taken outside a mall in Ghaziabad that showed the girl with Ritesh Gaur, a friend of the accused.



22-year-old Rinku Kumar Meena will be booked for abetting suicide and criminal intimidation, police say.

In the suicide note, reportedly addressed to her parents, the girl stated her mother said something which pinched her heart.

"I did things as I never wanted to disturb you... I admit I made a mistake by speaking to him... and my mistake cannot be rectified now. All this drama started because of me and will now end with me..." the note said.

The police arrested Rinku

'INSPIRED' BY JOHN ABRAHAM MOVIE, MAN TURNED ROBBER

HT Correspondent

NEW DELHI: He was a fan of Bollywood actor John Abraham. Inspired by his character in 'Shoutout at Wadala', he wanted to become famous and lead a gang. To fulfil his dream, he left studies and joined a small gang. He started doing drugs, committed thefts and started a gang. The gang carried out robberies masterminded by him. In the last six months, he has been involved in over 12 cases of robberies reported from across Delhi.

Aman (20), along with his associate Abdul (28), landed in the police net on Saturday.

With an increase in the number of robberies in the area, a separate team was formed to keep a close watch on local criminals.

"An information was received that Aman will come near Dwarka Sector 14 Metro station following which a trap was laid and he was apprehended," DCP southwest, Manoj C. said.

Aman, has been allegedly involved in over two dozen robberies. With his arrest, one stolen Bajaj motorcycle and 12 mobile phones have been recovered.

"Aman was a brilliant student till class 12, but fell into bad company after his parents separated. He dropped out of school and started taking drugs. He committed petty crimes. He was inspired by movies and wanted to make his own gang and be identified as a renowned criminal. He served six months in jail and came out in March," the DCP said.

During questioning, Aman told police he wanted to make quick money and be like John Abraham. He said he even went to Mumbai to meet him.

Help finally trickles in for lone teacher of impromptu Pragati Maidan school

HT IMPACT

HT Correspondent

NEW DELHI: About two weeks after Hindustan Times showcased the struggle of 33-year-old Neetu Singh, who teaches children from her neighbourhood slums battling all odds, through a special photo feature on Teachers' Day, help has started coming in.

Volunteers are coming and taking classes at this impromptu school next to Pragati Maidan Gate No. 1, adjacent to the Shiv Hanuman Panchvati Mandir. Some aid in the form of stationery and notebooks is also trickling in. Even the number of students attending her informal school has gone up.



Neetu Singh (in white kurta) with other volunteers, who have started taking classes, at the school.

"Bohot achha lag raha hai mujhe (It feels really good)," Neetu says with a smile. "So many people have come and met

and a plastic sheet as roof have made her "happy".

One of the people lending a helping hand to this tutor is a 65-year-old Defence Colony resident Lata Bhasin.

"Some of my friends and I, who got to know about Neetu through the newspaper coverage, are trying to create an atmosphere for slum children so that they can learn some basic education. Some even go to government schools so they come for help with their studies," Bhasin said.

Donations which have come in include sweets, books and stationery. A sports coordinator is also coming on Saturdays for the past couple of weeks. "The school, it seems, has a future now," Neetu said.

33 test positive for scrub typhus, symptoms similar to chikungunya

Anonna Dutt

NEW DELHI: Of the 150 tested for scrub typhus, a bacterial infection that causes symptoms very similar to chikungunya, 33 tested positive in the last two months at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

"As the symptoms of the disease are similar to that of chikungunya, which is circulating in the city this year, doctors do not suspect scrub typhus or any of the other rickettsial diseases (diseases caused by a group of microorganisms called rickettsiae) in fever patients," said Dr Rama Chaudhary, professor of microbiology at AIIMS.

Chikungunya, a mosquito

borne viral illness, has affected more than 2,600 in Delhi, according to official figures.

The symptoms of scrub typhus begin with high fever, skin rashes, respiratory problems, red eyes and unconsciousness. Some of the patients also develop joint pains, which is characteristic of chikungunya.

These symptoms may progress on to respiratory distress, pneumonitis (inflammation of lung tissue), encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), kidney failure and then multi-organ failure. If untreated, it can kill.

Two of the people, who came to AIIMS for treatment—a 16-year-old girl from Uttarakhand and 21-year-old man from Delhi—died due to the infection, accord-

Swachh Bharat celebrations start

NEW DELHI: As the Swachh Bharat campaign is yet to make its full impact, Union ministers have geared up to commemorate its 2nd anniversary with a week-long activity from Monday.

From new awareness campaign videos featuring filmstar Amitabh Bachchan and former cricketer Sachin Tendulkar to involving 19,000 volunteers or "swachhagrahis" to clean up railway tracks—a long list of programmes have been planned.

Bachchan and Tendulkar are ambassadors to PM Narendra Modi's programme on cleanliness. On Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate a seminar on cleanliness and sanitation—adding more glamour and importance to the celebration.

6 months after marriage, man kills self

HT Correspondent

NEW DELHI: A 25-year-old man allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from the window grille inside his room in southwest Delhi's Nangloi area on Saturday night.

Subhash, who worked as a safai karamchari with the municipal corporation, got married six months ago. His family told the police that he was not upset over anything and there was no reason for him to end his life.

Two years ago, Subhash's brother was also found hanging

TWO YEARS AGO, SUBHASH'S BROTHER WAS ALSO FOUND HANGING FROM THE SAME WIDOW GRILLE

hash hanging from the same window," he added.

Subhash, reportedly went to his room after dinner and locked it from inside. The next morning when he did not come out for breakfast till 9 am, his parents went and checked to find him hanging. No suicide note was recovered from the spot.

"His wife had gone to her parents house when he committed suicide. His family said that he was not upset or depressed about anything and was in fact happy in his married life and was also planning a child. His family said that Subhash had even spoken to

her mother for over an hour, discussing his future, before he retired to his room to sleep," an investigator said.

Police said that they will be questioning his wife in the case. "We have accessed the call detail records of Subhash along with his chats to ascertain why he took the extreme step. We have initiated an inquiry into the matter and the investigation is on. A detailed statement of Subhash's family and his wife has also been recorded. His body has been sent for a postmortem examination to identify the cause of death," a senior police officer said.

In the time of climate change, a few smart lessons for the Capital



SHIVANI SINGH

Last week, the C40, a global network of 86 cities, including six from India, released the list of 35 urban programmes to compete in its annual award on fighting climate change to be held in December.

One would have expected the more radical ideas from Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai or Bengaluru to impress the world. But the only Indian city to make it to the shortlist of global finalists was Kolkata, the forgotten metro often mocked as an urban nightmare. Its solid waste management improvement project that aims to reduce the city trash sent to the landfills now competes with Milan's food waste reduction and Auckland's waste to resources programmes for the top slot.

Last year, the C40 found that at least 70% of its member cities were already affected by climate change. The rising pollution, growing congestion and mounting waste are throttling local environments and contributing to global warming. If not suffering already, these cities are likely to face climate hazards such as storms, surge, floods, rain drought, heat,

smog, groundwater depletion and outbreak of vector- or water-borne diseases.

In the middle of a dengue-chikungunya outbreak, this threat can't get more real for Indian cities. The recent global ranking of 2,100 urban centres on a list of Fragile Cities put together by The Igarapé Institute in Brazil, United Nations University and the World Economic Forum placed Delhi in the high-risk category, prone to both floods and drought.

Delhi, where the air is fouled by nine million vehicles, energy is sourced from coal-fired plants, dumpsites are over-filled, and every third resident lives illegally on a river that resembles an open sewer, may not have much to showcase yet in this global competition. But we could take cue or two from some urban experiments the C40 is talking about:

MEXICO CITY'S MOBILITY PROGRAMME

Like Delhi, the Mexican capital has to deal with population pressure, car-jammed streets, high air pollution levels and earthquake vulnerability. In 2014, the city passed a law recognising mobility as a fundamental right of its residents, prioritising non-motorised transport and creating a legal framework to streamline and scale up mass transit.

Till recently, services for bus, metro and Bus Rapid Tran-

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sit were fragmented, preventing users from efficiently transferring from one system to another, the Sustainable Cities Collective reported in 2014. So Mexico City integrated all modes of public transport and also placed pedestrians and cyclists on top of the mobility hierarchy, allocating more funds and road space to them.

NON-POTABLE WATER REGULATION

California's four-year drought taught San Francisco to reuse every drop of water. In 2012, San Francisco made it mandatory for larger residential units to install systems to treat water from sinks, bathtubs, sewage and use it for non-potable purpose. Potable water has to be used for drinking and cooking only. In 2013, it allowed two or more buildings to share or sell water between them.

Parts of San Francisco already have dual-pipe system since 1991 that receives recycled water. By 2018, the city will have a recycling facility to meet irrigation needs on the west side of the city by treating a mil-

lion gallons of water a day that would otherwise have been piped into the ocean, Huffington Post reported in October, 2015.

TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

When most Indian cities are aping the US-style suburbanisation, Cape Town is aiming to become compact. For the next 16 years, transit-oriented development will be this South African city's key urban planning strategy. It wants to build residential areas and renew the existing ones by giving them efficient and affordable public transport connectivity and reducing dependency on cars.

Cape Town is using the project to overcome the apartheid spatial inequality by building homes for all income groups, bringing work space closer to home and thus reducing travel time and commuting costs for lower-income households who were earlier dispersed to the city's periphery.

While climate change mitigation is the larger aim of these projects, they are also about improving the way the cities run. An efficient public transport, unclogged streets, cleaner air, greener parks, a reliable water system and housing for all are the fundamentals of urban living. Delhi could do with some inspiration.

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DA case: Ex-CPWD assistant engineer gets 3 years jail

NEW DELHI: A special court here has awarded three-year jail term to a former CPWD assistant engineer and confiscation of his properties in an 11-year-old disproportionate assets case.

Special CBI judge Gurdeep Singh awarded the punishment to Central Public Works Department official Chandra Pal Singh, who had amassed assets worth ₹55.81,010 which were disproportionate to his income and he could not provide a satisfactory explanation for their source.

"The prosecution has succeeded in proving that the accused was having in his possession, during period of his office... the pecuniary resources and property disproportionate to the extent of 47.6% (approx) to his known sources of income," the court said.