

BLUE WHALE CHALLENGE

Fearing harm to mom, girl jumps into lake

DEATH GAME Second victim of state rescued by police and divers

HT Correspondent
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JODHPUR: A 17-year-old girl was rescued in Rajasthan's Jodhpur late on Monday after she allegedly tried to jump into a lake as part of the Blue Whale Challenge, a lethal online game that has claimed hundreds of lives across the world.

Local police said that the incident took place around 11 pm when the teen, daughter of a Border Security Force (BSF) soldier, was seen jumping into the Kaylana Lake. The identities of the girl and her parents weren't revealed by the authorities.

"The parents of the girl had come to us to report that she was missing. We initiated a search for the teen and it was at this time that we learned that a girl had tried to jump into the Kailana Lake," said Mukta Pareek, station house officer of Mandore police station.

The police said that the girl was rescued by police and a group of divers who were near the lake at the time of the incident. "The girl told the police that she had downloaded the Blue Whale Challenge in her mobile a few days ago," said Pareek.

Police said that the girl was going to complete the final task of

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LEKHRAJ SIHAG, station house officer, Rajeev Gandhi Nagar police station

the challenge.

"She told us that in case she was unable to complete the challenge, an untoward incident could happen to her mother and the family. The girl told us that she was at the final stage of the task," said Lekhraj Sihag, station house officer, Rajeev Gandhi Nagar police station.

This was the latest in scores of cases reported from across India of deaths and suicide attempts linked to the online game, first developed in Russia.

Last month, a 19-year-old student was found hanging from the ceiling fan in Tamil Nadu's Madurai as part of the game, where players are asked to perform 50 increasingly difficult tasks of self-harm culminating in a suicide bid. Each task must be filmed and shared as "proof". The tasks

range from self-harming, watching scary movies to waking up at unusual hours.

The government has issued an advisory and police teams across states are working with schools to counsel teenagers and wean them away from the online game.

Players also carve a whale-like figure on their arms. In the Jodhpur case, for example, police said the girl cut a whale-like figure on her arm with a knife.

"I saw the girl park her two-wheeler and go towards the lake before jumping. I too dove in after her and brought her out. Following that she managed to escape and jumped again after going a little ahead," said Omprakash, a local diver who saved her.

He added that once again he rescued her before informing the police.

"She told me not to inform her family. She was circling the area for a while before jumping. Finally, the police came and handed her over to her family," he added.

This is the second instance of teenagers falling prey to the Blue Whale challenge in Rajasthan. A 16-year-old boy from Jaipur had gone to Mumbai on August 21 to finish a task but was rescued by a team of the Jaipur police before he could attempt suicide.

CREATIVE SPIRIT



Artists at work at the 'message of the Mahatma' art camp organised at Rajasthan Adult Education Association in Jaipur on Tuesday.

HIMANSHU VYAS/HT

AAP wins prez post in 12 colleges

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JAIPUR: The Aam Aadmi Party, a new entrant to Rajasthan politics, has sprung a surprise on its rivals with its student wing - Chhatra Yuva Sangharsh Samiti (CYSS) - putting up a better-than-expected show in the students' union elections, results of which were declared on September 4.

CYSS had fielded 83 candidates, of whom 12 won the president's post in colleges. Though none could win in university elections, 28 candidates won posts in colleges. "In two colleges in Bikaner, entire panels won unopposed. Our candidates won as president in two colleges in Ganganagar and one each in Sikar, Jaipur, Alwar and Ajmer," said Devendra Shastri, Rajasthan AAP spokesman.

The performance has given a boost to the image of AAP leader Kumar Vishwas who took over the reins of the state unit four months ago as a trade-off for not quitting the party. "This is a victory of our selfless volunteers and our strategy of going back to the basics. The students have won for their talent and not due to caste, money or muscle power," Kumar Vishwas told HT over the phone from Delhi. "We have CYSS units in many states where AAP has a

presence but never have we registered such a big victory. Our performance in the two universities of Ajmer and Jaipur is very impressive and the vice-president's win in the prestigious Maharani College is an icing on the cake," Vishwas said.

Party president Arvind Kejriwal and most senior leaders in Delhi are yet to acknowledge the win or tweet congratulatory messages. Student union elections in Rajasthan have also bared factionalism in the AAP with some party leaders, who had cut their teeth in university politics, refusing to campaign for CYSS candidates.

"We were expecting senior leaders to acknowledge the win and congratulate the victorious students, but their silence is disappointing," said an AAP leader requesting anonymity. Asked whether AAP would contest by-elections to Ajmer Lok Sabha and Mandalgah assembly constituencies, Vishwas said a decision was yet to be taken. CYSS has decided not to contest student union elections in Delhi University this year. Launched by AAP in 2014, CYSS contested the DU students' union (DUSU) polls in 2015; of the four central panel posts, the AAP wing could manage to come second in one, third in two and fourth in one.

One dead and one injured as SUV hits motorcycle

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JAIPUR: A 29-year-old medical representative was killed in a road accident late on Monday night when a speeding SUV hit a motorcycle on which he was travelling along with a friend.

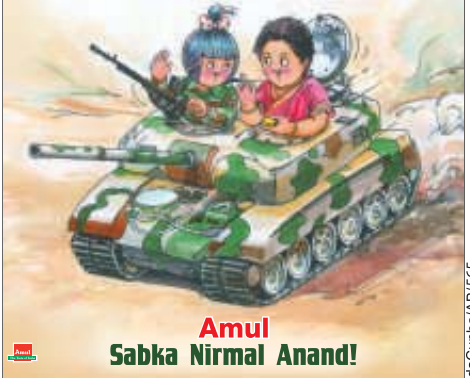
According to the police, the incident took place at 11:30 pm near Govind Marg in Adarsh Nagar area.

"We received information that a motorcycle was hit by an SUV leaving two men injured. We rushed to the spot and admitted them to the hospital where one of them later died," said sub-inspector Sajjan Singh from the accident police station, east.

The police said that the deceased has been identified as Deepak Jat who hailed from Bharatpur but was living in Jaipur and working as a medical representative.

"His friend, Man Singh who was also injured is undergoing treatment in the hospital. Preliminary investigation suggests that the motorcycle was hit from behind by an SUV which speeded away after the accident," said Singh. The police said that a search has been initiated for the car. "A case has been registered under relevant sections of the IPC and we are searching for the driver," said the sub-inspector.

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Domestic help death: Cops to analyse call list

JAIPUR: A day after a 45-year-old domestic help from Cooch Behar was found murdered in the house of an elderly doctor at Shipra Path in Jaipur on Monday, the police are yet to find any substantial clue.

The police investigated the footage of CCTV cameras installed at the entrance of the doctor's house, but found no evidence, which further complicates the case. The postmortem report

has revealed that the murder took place on Monday morning," said Deshraj Yadav, assistant commissioner of police, Mansarovar. The body of Kalpana Rai, who worked for GS Gehlot, the doctor, was found at the fourth floor of the house. Following Rai's death, her relatives had accused the doctor's family of harassing her. The police said they will try to get more clues about the case by analysing call details. **HTC**

Residents say 'drunk' cop damaged Ganesh idol, misbehaved with women

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UDAIPUR: Residents of an Udaipur neighbourhood late on Monday lodged a complaint against police personnel for allegedly misbehaving with them and damaging the idol of Lord Ganesha while they were offering prayers at a pandal.

Honey Kumawat, chief of the city Vishwa Hindu Parishad, said the incidence took place around 10 pm when residents of D-block of sector-14, were offering prayers in front of the idol and devotional songs were played on

AN ALLEGEDLY DRUNK HEAD CONSTABLE STORMED INSIDE THE PANDAL AND SMASHED A LAPTOP AND THE LOUDSPEAKERS

loud speakers on the occasion of Ganesh chaturti festival.

An allegedly drunk head constable Shiv Dutt Singh from the Goverdhan Vilas police station stormed inside the pandal and smashed a laptop and loudspeakers, she said. When residents

tried to stop him, Singh allegedly assaulted them and misbehaved with women present at the pandal, Kumawat said.

"Sentiments of hundreds of people were hurt by the act of the police personnel as he allegedly damaged the idol." Questioned about the incident, station house officer Ravindra Singh Charan said Singh went to the spot along with two other colleagues after receiving a complaint about loud music being played at the pandal.

"We have initiated an investigation into the matter and will take strict action against Singh if he is found guilty."

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Inder Sharma left for his heavenly abode late evening on 4th September, 2017.

A Prayer Meeting will be held at Hotel Ashok, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi

on 7th September, 2017; Thursday
from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

— IN LOVING MEMORY —

Dr. Aruna Sharma
Usha Lakhnupal
Neeraj, Kavi & Shreya Ghei
Arjun, Jyotsana & Amaraah Sharma