

2020 NORTHEAST DELHI RIOTS CASE

Court acquits 6, orders police to take action over 'tampered' probe

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• The case was built on manipulated statements and unreliable testimony, and directed Delhi Police Commissioner for initiating action against those responsible

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court acquitted six accused in a 2020 Northeast Delhi riots case saying that the prosecution had "mis-



against Prem Prakash alias Kake, Ishu Gupta, Rajkumar alias Siwainya, Amit alias

erably failed" to prove the charges and criticised police for tampering with records and filing a "fabricated" chargesheet. Additional Sessions Judge Parveen Singh, who was hearing the case

Annu, Rahul alias Golu and Hariom Sharma accused of being part of a violent mob

during the 2020 Delhi riots, ordered their acquittal.

In an order dated January 31, the court said, "I find that the prosecution has miserably failed to prove its case against the accused and all the accused are acquitted of all the charges framed against them." All six were accused in a case related to the incidents of arson, vandalism and looting near Azizia Masjid in Sudamapuri during the Delhi riots on February 25, 2020. The accused were charged under multiple sections of the

IPC, including rioting, arson, attempt to murder, theft and conspiracy.

The court said the case was built on manipulated statements and unreliable testimony, and directed that a copy of the order be placed before the Delhi Police Commissioner for initiating action against those responsible. "I must observe that the audacity and impunity with which the record was tampered with reflects a complete breakdown of the supervisory mechanism be-

cause the fabricated charge sheet was forwarded by the supervisory officers," the judge said.

The court also said that the video evidence relied upon by the prosecution was not proved in accordance with the law, lacking the mandatory certification under the Evidence Act. "Had that mechanism worked as it is expected to work, the rights of the accused and the expectation of the society at large that criminal cases are investigated fairly would not have been bulldozed and pulverised," the court said.

Maha chef arrested for Rs 17 lakh cyber fraud

The accused, identified as Pathan Uzef Khalil Khan, a resident of Maharashtra's Jalna district, was apprehended and brought to Delhi on transit remand. According to the police, the case came to light after Rahul Saini, a resident of Keshav Puram, lodged an online complaint alleging that he had been cheated of Rs 17,16,777 by cyber criminals who promised lucrative earnings through work-from-home assignments

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NEW DELHI

A 25-year-old chef has been arrested for allegedly helping cyber fraudsters in siphoning off more than Rs 17 lakh from a Delhi resident. The victim was lured with fake work-from-home opportunities involving paid online tasks, police said on Tuesday.

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According to the police, the case came to light after Rahul Saini, a resident of Keshav Puram, lodged an online complaint alleging that he had been cheated of Rs 17,16,777 by cyber criminals who promised lucrative



earnings through work-from-home assignments.

A case was registered on January 1 under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Investigators tracked the money trail by analysing digital footprints, social media links and banking transactions.

Police said the cheated amount was received in a bank account allegedly used by the accused and later withdrawn through self-cheques.

Technical surveillance and location analysis of the mobile number linked to the account helped the team zero in on the suspect's location at Ambad in Jalna district.

"Khan was one of the operatives involved in liquidating the crime proceeds," a senior police officer said, adding that a mobile phone used in the

offence has been seized. During interrogation, the accused told police he joined the fraud network to meet financial needs and sustain an extravagant lifestyle.

He allegedly facilitated the withdrawal and rotation of cheated funds through mule accounts to create layers and to identify his associates.

avoid detection. He frequently changed mobile numbers to evade law enforcement, police said. Khan, who studied up to Class 12 and works as a chef in a private hotel, is being further questioned to ascertain his involvement in other similar cases and to identify his associates.

Turkman Gate violence

Court hears bail pleas of 3 accused in stone-pelting case

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NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday heard bail arguments of three accused in the stone-pelting incident during a demolition exercise near Faiz-e-Elahi mosque in Turkman Gate in early January. Additional Sessions Judge Bhupinder Singh was hearing the arguments pertaining to the bail applications filed by three accused -- Mohammed Areeb, Mohammad Naved and Mohammad Athar. Appearing for the Delhi Police, Additional Public Prosecutor (APP) Atul Shrivastava argued that Section 163 (prohibiting unlawful assemblies) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNS) was imposed at the site of the incident on



the intervening night of January 6 and 7, yet the accused joined the unlawful gathering of more than 100 people at the site having full knowledge of the restrictions and the demolition being carried out.

They attacked the police personnel on duty with stones targeting their heads and vital parts of their body, which consequently attracted the offence of Section 109 (attempt to murder) under

the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Shrivastava said. The defence counsel for one of the accused, Areeb, said he was at his workplace around 1.15 am, according to the CCTV footage.

The next captured footage showed him outside his house at 3 am. Due to the proximity of both these sites to the scene of crime, they said it was natural for him to be present in the area.

22-year-old delivery executive was stabbed to death by three minors in east Delhi's Pandav Nagar on Monday following an altercation, police said. The juveniles have been apprehended. The incident took place around 8.15 pm, when the accused minors arrived on a motorcycle and, after a brief altercation, attacked the victim with a sharp-edged weapon before fleeing the spot, police said.

The victim has been identified as Arun Raj, a resident of Patparganj. When police reached the spot after a PCR call, they found Raj lying injured at the spot and took him to Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. Preliminary examination revealed that the victim had sustained multiple stab injuries on the neck and chest, the officer said.

The complainant, Jitender (32), a resident of Gokulpuri, reported that he was duped of Rs 5.63 lakh in an online investment scam, police said on Tuesday. The arrests were made in connection with an e-FIR registered on January 25, they said.

The police said that the accused used to create fake online investment profiles showcasing inflated returns to gain the trust of victims. After convincing them to invest, they allegedly extracted more money in the name of GST, processing fees and other charges before cutting off contact. Further investigation is underway to ascertain the involvement of the accused in other similar cases and to identify additional members of the network, they said.

During interrogation, Meena allegedly confessed to his role in the fraud and disclosed the involvement of his associate, Sita Ram (23), a resident of Tonk.

Following his disclosure, Ram was also apprehended, the police said. Four mobile phones and other electronic devices allegedly used in the commission of the crime have been recovered from their possession, they added.

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ment official said the plan is still at a preliminary stage and is under discussion. "The proposal is at an initial stage. The government is considering it to improve connectivity in the Trans-Yamuna area and enhance links between North East, North and Central Delhi," an official said. According to officials, with RRTS stations and the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway getting ready, traffic congestion on the Ring Road, especially near Sarai Kale Khan, is expected to increase.

THE Delhi government is considering a proposal to construct a new bridge over the Yamuna River near the Signature Bridge or replace the old iron bridge to ease traffic congestion and improve connectivity in the city's eastern parts, officials said. The proposal was put forth by the Trans-Yamuna Board during a recent meeting with officials of the Public Works Department. A senior govern-

Stop victimisation of Kashmir students, traders outside J&K: Omar

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JAMMU

CHIEF Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday called for an immediate halt to alleged harassment of Kashmiri natives, whether students or traders, reported from across the country, asserting that continued victimisation of people from the Valley was unacceptable.

The issue of the alleged harassment of Kashmiri-natives in different parts of the country was also raised in

the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly ahead of the Question Hour during the Budget Session, with Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather rejecting an adjournment motion moved by PDP MLA Waheed-ur-Rehman Para seeking a discussion on the matter. "This is not a good thing. I spoke on this issue at the North Zone Chief Ministers' Conference.

At that time, I requested all the chief ministers and the Union home minister to ensure the ongoing

harassment of Kashmiris -- whether students or traders -- stops. I am grateful to the chief minister of Uttarakhand for taking timely action, with cases registered and arrests made," Abdullah told reporters after the

first sitting. He expressed concern that harassment of Kashmiri-natives was being reported from neighbouring Himachal Pradesh despite the Congress being in power there.

"Himachal is our neighbour-

ing state, and despite the fact that the Congress is in power there, people (Kashmiris) are being stopped, harassed, and beaten. I request the Himachal Pradesh chief minister to take immediate action on this and put a stop to this victimisation and harassment of Kashmiris," Abdullah said.

It would not be appropriate for our assembly to be discussed in Parliament, and likewise, I should not comment on what happened in Parliament," he said. On Jammu and Kashmir Congress's suggestion to set up a coordination committee to strengthen the coalition, Abdullah said the question should be put to National Conference president Farooq Abdullah.

Responding to a query on the row in the Lok Sabha on Monday over Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's attempt to quote from what he claimed was the memoir of former Army chief M M Naravane, the Abdullah said "what happens in Parliament is Parliament's matter".

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decide. Similarly, whatever we do in our assembly is our own matter.

It would not be appropriate for our assembly to be discussed in Parliament, and likewise, I should not comment on what happened in Parliament," he said. On Jammu and Kashmir Congress's suggestion to set up a coordination committee to strengthen the coalition, Abdullah said the question should be put to National Conference president Farooq Abdullah.