

2020 NORTHEAST DELHI RIOTS CASE

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

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

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NEW DELHI

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

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



against Prem Prakash alias Kake, Ishu Gupta, Rajkumar alias Siwainya, Amit alias 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 noted that several witnesses initially said they had not seen any rioters but later claimed to have identified specific accused by name. “The case of the prosecution is found to be a built-up case on the basis of the witnesses who according to their initial statements had not seen any of the rioters but who as per their subsequent tampered,

manipulated and fabricated statements,” 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 Uze 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.

The accused, identified as Pathan Uze 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.

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

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.

DG Prisons post vacant after SBK Singh’s retirement

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NEW DELHI

THE post of Director General (DG) of Prisons in Delhi has fallen vacant following the retirement of SBK Singh. The DG (Prisons) post is considered one of the most sensitive assignments in the national capital, given the scale and complexity of Delhi’s prison system, which includes Tihar Jail, Rohini Jail and Mandoli Jail.

The prisons house over 19,000 undertrial and convicted inmates, including high-profile prisoners, making leadership continuity critical for security and administrative efficiency. Senior IPS officer Shashi Bhushan Kumar Singh of the 1988 batch, who was heading Tihar Prisons, retired from service on January 31. He had briefly served as



SBK Singh

the Delhi Police Commissioner on additional charge for 21 days since July 31, following which he had been appointed Director General (Prisons), Delhi, overseeing Tihar Jail.

No official notification announcing his successor has been issued so far. The sources maintained that the delay

HC refuses bail to gig worker accused of stealing cable

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NEW DELHI

THE Delhi High Court has refused to grant bail to a gig worker accused of stealing a 32 metre copper cable from a metro line, observing that he played with the lives of the public and caused immense loss to the exchequer.

Justice Saurabh Banerjee said the accused did not merely indulge in “some foolhardy antics” but his actions put the life and limb of the public in utter danger. Dismissing the bail plea, the judge noted that the accused was a habitual offender. “While granting bail this court must take into cognisance the public good versus the private good involved herein. The applicant herein has been guilty of playing with the lives of the general public,” the court said in the order passed on January 31.

Online investment scam

2 held from Raj for duping Delhi man of Rs 5 lakh



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NEW DELHI

TWO cyber fraudsters have been apprehended from Rajasthan for allegedly cheating a Delhi resident 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 complainant, Jitender (32), a resident of Gokalpuri, reported that he was duped of Rs 5.63 lakh by fraudsters who lured him into investing money on the pretext of earning substantial profits in a short duration.

During the investigation, the police analysed digital evidence, transaction details and other technical inputs

to trace the money trail and identify the suspects. Acting on specific leads, the team conducted raids in Rajasthan and apprehended Dhanpal Meena (28) from the Bundi area.

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.

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.

RCF KAPURTALA GM MEETS UP GUV

P. K. Mishra, General Manager, Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala, paid a courtesy call on the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Anandiben Patel, at Raj Bhavan, on Tuesday. During the meeting, Mishra apprised the Governor in detail about the railway production units. Mishra presented a copy of his acclaimed book “Rails Through Raj”, based on the history of Indian Railways, to the Governor

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 (BNSS) 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 a 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.

Delivery agent stabbed to death in east Delhi

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NEW DELHI

A 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.

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 Kashmir 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 Kashmir 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

- ‘I am grateful to the chief minister of Uttarakhand for taking timely action, with cases registered and arrests made’
- Himachal is our neighboring state, and despite the fact that the Cong is in power, Kashmiris are stopped, and beaten

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 Kashmir-natives was being reported from neighbouring Himachal Pradesh despite the Congress being in power there. “Himachal is our neigh-



boring state, and despite the fact that the Congress is in power there, people (Kash-

miris) 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.

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”. “It is the privilege of Parliament and the speaker to

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.

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