

DELHI RIOTS 2020

HC refuses bail to Umar, Sharjeel in UAPA case

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NEW DELHI

THE Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to grant bail to activists Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam in a case under the anti-terror law UAPA on the “larger conspiracy” behind the February 2020 riots in north-east Delhi.

A bench of Justices Prathiba M Singh and Dinesh Bhatt dismissed the third plea for bail by Khalid and Imam in the case. Asserting that it is bound

by “judicial discipline,” the bench said it cannot modify the Supreme Court’s January 5 order asking the two accused to seek bail either on completion of protected witnesses’ examination or expiry of one year, whichever is earlier.

“We would be modifying this (Supreme Court) order if we allow bail, which we cannot do,” the bench remarked. Khalid and Imam challenged the trial court’s July 4 decision rejecting their bail pleas for the third time since their arrest.

The trial court rejected the bail applications, saying it had “no option but to follow” the Supreme Court’s January 5 order and, therefore, could neither entertain the plea nor grant any relief.

The bench noted that while denying bail to the two accused in January, the top court had said that their roles were distinct from the other co-accused and they were the “ideological drivers” of the alleged conspiracy.

“In view of the above

discussion and the overall facts of the case, specifically the conditions imposed upon the appellants, this court cannot find fault with the decision of the trial court. Accordingly, the appeals are dismissed,” the court concluded.

The senior counsel appearing for Khalid argued that he has spent six years in custody and was entitled to be released on bail in view of a subsequent top court order giving relief to other co-accused.

He added that around

Asserting that it is bound by judicial discipline, the bench said it cannot modify the Supreme Court’s January 5 order asking the two accused to seek bail either on completion of protected witnesses’ examination or expiry of one year, whichever is earlier

ten months have passed since the January 5 order and charges were yet to be framed in the trial court. Imam’s counsel also said

that he has been in custody for six years and he was entitled to bail considering the delay in conclusion of trial. Additional Solicitor



General S V Raju opposed the pleas on behalf of the Delhi Police, asserting that the two are the “master-minds” of the riots and the Supreme Court has already set a timeline for

consideration of any fresh bail pleas by them.

During the hearing, the court also suggested listing the cases for consideration after the second week of January.

Will move court if FIR not lodged against Parvesh: AAP

For the last three days we have been demanding that an FIR be registered against Verma, but Delhi Police is doing the opposite and registering cases against us to intimidate us. We will ultimately go to the courts to get the FIR registered if police fail to do their duty: Saurabh Bharadwaj

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NEW DELHI

THE Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday said that it would approach the court if an FIR is not registered against PWD Minister Parvesh Verma for slapping a civilian three days ago. AAP Delhi unit President Saurabh Bharadwaj also said he and party workers would visit the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) office today demanding the FIR.

“For the last three days we have been demanding that an FIR be registered against Verma, but Delhi Police is doing the opposite and registering cases against



us to intimidate us. We will ultimately go to the courts to get the FIR registered if police fail to do their duty,” Bharadwaj said in a press conference.

The party leader also demanded an independent audit by a road engineering expert agency, like the Central Road Research Institute

(CRRRI), of the road under repair by the PWD in the Tilak Nagar area.

“It is ultimately corruption inside Verma’s department, which our MLA raised. An independent audit should be done of this; we will take up these demands at the ACB office,” Bharadwaj said.

The AAP leader also

alleged that the police misbehaved with the party’s women councillors who were protesting against their inaction. An FIR has been registered against Bharadwaj and AAP’s Tilak Nagar MLA Jarnail Singh, and several party workers, for allegedly assaulting a head constable and obstructing him from discharging his duties, police said on Tuesday.

The police have also filed a non-cognisable report (NCR) against Verma, a BJP leader, for slapping 22-year-old Sahib Singh during a road inspection last week when the latter was recording him visiting the area for road inspection.

City court convicts man for outraging woman’s modesty

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A Delhi court has convicted a man for outraging the modesty of a woman, sexually harassing her and insulting her modesty during a neighbourhood quarrel, while acquitting him of attempting to disrobe her and causing hurt to her mother. Additional Sessions Judge Sachin Jain was hearing a case against Vikas Kumar alias Vicky and convicted him of charges under BNS Sections 74 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 75(3) (sexual harassment via sexually colored remarks) and 79 (word, gesture, or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman). In an order dated September 24, the court said, “The testimony is not confined to a general allegation that the accused ‘abused’ her but attributed



specific sexually coloured expressions to him which are not reproduced herein for the sake of brevity. The court therefore finds that the evidence goes beyond a mere allegation of ordinary abuse arising from a neighbourhood quarrel.”

The court, however, acquitted him under BNS Sections 76 (assault or use of criminal force on a woman with intent to disrobe) and 115(2) (punishment for voluntarily caus-

ing hurt), giving him the benefit of doubt on the charges of attempting to disrobe the woman and voluntarily causing hurt to her mother respectively. According to the prosecution, on August 3, 2024, the woman and her mother were going to throw garbage when Kumar, their neighbour, objected to it. A quarrel followed, during which he allegedly abused the woman, held her hand and dragged her towards his house.



AAP not part of INDIA bloc, won’t attend meeting: Sanjay

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AAM Aadmi Party MP Sanjay Singh on Wednesday said his party is not part of the INDIA bloc and is therefore not attending the meeting called to discuss issues concerning the Election Commission.

The AAP leader also said his party supported the impeachment motion against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and was fighting against what he described as shortcomings of the Election Commission “from the streets to Parliament”. The AAP announced its exit from the opposition INDIA bloc on July 18, 2025, with Singh saying the alliance was formed specifically for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. “There is no question of joining the meeting. Aam Aadmi Party is not part of the INDIA bloc,” Singh said in response to a question. Top leaders of the INDIA bloc are meeting here to finalise an action plan for a joint agitation over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision.

Among those at the meeting are Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, former party chiefs Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, AICC general secretaries Jairam Ramesh and K C Venugopal, the TMC’s Mamata Banerjee, and leaders from parties such as the SP, CPI, CPI(M), NCP(SP) and Shiv Sena (UBT).

According to Singh, 27 lakh voters in West Bengal had been deprived of their voting rights. He also questioned the time being taken to complete hearings before the tribunals. He claimed that 93 per cent of people among the 1.26 lakh cases heard so far were found eligible, and alleged that completing the entire process could take 12 years. Singh also questioned the deletion of names from electoral rolls and alleged that 13.37 crore names had been removed across the country.

Attempt to murder charge for ‘defacing’ CEC’s house

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A case of attempt to murder and causing grievous hurt and rioting has been registered against around 20 Congress workers, including six of them who have been arrested, for the alleged defacement of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar’s residence here during a party protest, sources said on Wednesday. The action followed Monday’s protest outside Kumar’s residence in the Vijay Nagar area, where Congress workers allegedly wrote slogans with black paint on the gate and wall of the house before leaving the spot.

The six arrested accused -- Congress leaders Anil Yadav, Mukesh Dhangar, Manoj Gaur, Rajesh Kumar, Raja Gautam and Pankaj Chaudhary -- were sent to jail on Tuesday, police said.

The case was registered at the Hariparvat police station on the basis of a written complaint by Sub-Inspector Gaurav Gupta against eight



named persons and 15-20 unidentified Congress workers. The accused have been booked under Sections 109 (attempt to murder), 121 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt to deter a public servant from performing his duty), 126 (wrongful restraint), 132 (assault or criminal force against a public servant), 191 (rioting by an unlawful assembly using force or violence), 333 (house-trespass after preparation to cause hurt, assault or wrongful restraint), 351(2) (criminal intimidation) and 352 (intentional insult intended to provoke breach of peace) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL CALL CENTRE BUSTED, 5 HELD



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FIVE people were arrested for allegedly running an illegal international call centre in southwest Delhi’s Uttam Nagar and targeting foreign nationals by impersonating Amazon and Apple technical support executives, police said on Wednesday.

Following specific inputs, a team raided the call centre in Vipin Garden on the intervening night of September 28 and 29, arrested the accused, and recovered 10

laptops, four mobile phones and multiple calling accessories.

Police said the accused used multiple voice modulation applications to contact foreign nationals while posing as technical support agents. After gaining the victims’ confidence, they allegedly induced them to install remote-access software such as AnyDesk and then deceived them into making payments or sharing sensitive financial information.

“The arrested accused have been identified as Sim-

ranjeet, 33, a resident of Luthiana, Mark Martin, 47, a resident of Gurugram, Elton John Salters, 43, a resident of Kolkata, and Abhishek S Abraham, 30, a resident of Delhi. Anita, 34, a resident of Odisha, was also apprehended and served a notice,” a senior police officer said.

The officer further said that Simranjeet allegedly handled the operational infrastructure of the call centre, including assigning user IDs, passwords and other login credentials to callers.

‘Delhi govt promoting mechanical sweeping’

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NEW DELHI

THE Delhi government is promoting mechanical sweeping and garbage collection by giving funds to the MCD for procuring 1,000 litter-picking machines, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said on Wednesday. Addressing a gathering of sanitation workers at ‘Safai Mitra Suraksha Evam Samman Shivir’, the chief minister said after the 1,000 litter-picker machines are suitably deployed, the government will increase their numbers.

She further said the government has provided funds to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) for procuring mechanical sweeping machines, including 70 large ones.

The Delhi government on Tuesday decided to provide funds to the MCD for procuring 30 small-sized mechanical sweepers

to ensure cleaning and dust removal in narrow lanes and streets of the city, the chief minister said.

Lauding the sanitation workers for their hard work to keep the city clean, Gupta said her government is providing them with machines and tools and also ensuring their welfare through schemes related to health and education.

Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Virendra Kumar and Union Minister of State BL Verma also attended the programme held at the MCD headquarters.

The camp brought care and welfare closer to our ‘safai mitras’, ‘swachhagrahis’ (sanitation workers) and their families through preventive health check-ups, access to welfare schemes of the Centre and Delhi government, and distribution of PPE (personal protective equipment) and safety kits, Delhi CMO said in a post on X.

Delhi bus gang-rape: DNA of accused found on girl’s clothes

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NEW DELHI

DELHI Police have filed a chargesheet against two men accused of allegedly gang-raping a minor inside a moving sleeper bus that travelled from Greater Noida to Delhi in August. Forensic evidence, including DNA samples, forms a key part of the prosecution case.

The accused have been identified as a bus driver and conductor. The chargesheet has been filed before the Tis Hazari Court under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya

Police have invoked provisions of the BNS relating to gang rape of a woman below 18 years of age, kidnapping, wrongful confinement and common intention, along with provisions of the POCSO Act relating to penetrative sexual assault and aggravated penetrative sexual assault

Sanhita (BNS) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

According to the chargesheet, DNA profiles of the two accused matched biological samples recov-

ered from the survivor’s clothes and from the bus. Police said the forensic evidence, including semen and hair strands, was sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for examination and the report



has been annexed with the chargesheet.

The chargesheet, filed on September 18, runs into 398 pages and contains statements of 51 prosecution witnesses, according to reports. The court took cognisance of the chargesheet on September 24. The matter has been listed for arguments on charges on October 7.

Police have invoked provisions of the BNS relating to gang rape of a woman below 18 years of age, kidnapping, wrongful confinement and common intention, along with provisions of the POCSO

Act relating to penetrative sexual assault and aggravated penetrative sexual assault.

According to the police investigation, the incident took place on the night of August 4 after the minor, who had travelled from Mainpuri in Uttar Pradesh, boarded the sleeper bus near Pari Chowk in Greater Noida.

Police said the girl was attempting to reach a relative’s residence in Noida’s Sector 63 and was unfamiliar with the area. The bus allegedly stopped near her while she was waiting at Pari Chowk.

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