

Twisha Sharma suicide case

Husband Samarth sent to 7-day police remand

TWISHA'S FAMILY WELCOMES CBI PROBE, DEMANDS FAST-TRACK TRIAL

BHOPAL

SAMARTH Singh, husband of model-turned-actor Twisha Sharma and the prime accused in her alleged suicide case, was sent to seven days of police remand by a Bhopal district court on Saturday. He was produced before the court amid tight security, a day after being taken into custody from Jabalpur.

Prior to his court appearance, Samarth was taken to Jai Prakash (J.P.) Hospital for a mandatory medical examination under police supervision. He was later brought to the district court in a heavily guarded convoy.

A large police deployment was made at the court premises to manage the crowd and prevent any untoward incident, given the public attention surrounding the case. Samarth was escorted into the courtroom of Judicial Magistrate Anudita Gupta under tight security. He was produced around 3:15 p.m., following which the court granted police custody remand for seven days.

Police had sought custodial remand to facilitate further interrogation in connection with Twisha Sharma's death.

Bhopal Police Commissioner Sanjay Singh said Samarth was brought to



Bhopal late on Friday night after being detained in Jabalpur.

He added that strict action would be taken against anyone found to have assisted Samarth while he remained untraceable for about 10 days after the incident.

"If it is found that someone provided him shelter or helped him evade arrest, action will be taken against them as well," he said.

Samarth Singh had been missing since May 12, the day Twisha Sharma was found hanging at her matrimonial home under the Katara Hills police station

area. The case sparked public outrage, with allegations of dowry harassment against her husband and in-laws.

Meanwhile, Twisha Sharma's family on Saturday welcomed the decision of a CBI probe and demanded a speedy investigation along with a fast-track trial to ensure quick justice to the young woman and her family.

Speaking to IANS, Twisha Sharma's cousin said that

action in the case had been delayed initially, but recent developments in the judiciary had raised hopes for a fair investigation. "Overall, we feel that the

Salon CCTV hrs before death raises fresh questions

BHOPAL: Fresh CCTV footage showing Twisha Sharma visiting a beauty salon in Bhopal hours before her death has surfaced, adding a new dimension to the probe into her alleged suicide. According to salon owner Kiran Parihar, Twisha visited the parlour on May 12 at around 3.12 pm and remained there for nearly three hours. During her visit, Twisha underwent a head massage and pedicure before leaving the salon around 6.15 pm.

The CCTV footage surfaced on social media shows Twisha appearing calm and relaxed during her stay at the parlour, with no visible signs of distress.

Parihar said Twisha was a regular customer at the salon and had visited several times in the past.

The salon owner also revealed that the next morning after Twisha's death, her mother-in-law, retired judge Giribala Singh, con-

tacted the salon seeking details about the visit.

Parihar said Twisha had not made any payment during the visit because she already had a prepaid package purchased earlier, around the time of her brother's wedding.

She further claimed that Giribala Singh later specifically requested the CCTV footage and informed her that Twisha had died by suicide.

Soon afterwards, a group of five to six unidentified people dressed in black-and-white clothes resembling lawyers allegedly arrived at the salon claiming they had come on behalf of the police to collect the footage. Parihar said the CCTV footage was extracted after a technician was called to the salon.

It is a fact that CCTV technician Rohit Vishwakarma had visited Giribala Singh's house late at night on May 12.

action taken in the case was quite delayed. However, the judiciary has recently taken several important decisions. Permission has now been granted, and the court has also observed that the bail

granted to Giribala Singh was taken in haste. I welcome this decision of CBI probe and hope that the CBI will investigate the matter properly and without delay," the cousin said.

Dual PAN card case

SP LEADER AZAM KHAN'S JAIL TERM RAISED TO 10 YRS

RAMPUR (UTTAR PRADESH)

IN fresh trouble for jailed Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Azam Khan and his son Abdullah Khan, an Uttar Pradesh court on Saturday enhanced the sentence of the former MP from seven years to 10 years and raised the penalty imposed on his son from Rs 50,000 to Rs 3.5 lakh in the latter's dual PAN card case.

The Special MP-MLA Court in Rampur also enhanced the penalty imposed on Azam Khan from Rs 50,000 to Rs 5 lakh, a lawyer said. The court decision came in connection with the prosecution's appeal seeking sentence enhancement for the father-son duo serving seven years' imprisonment for the offence of Abdullah Khan possessing two PAN cards with different dates of birth (DOB), the lawyer added.

The former MP and his son were sentenced to seven years' jail each on November 17, 2025, after holding Abdullah Khan guilty of getting a second PAN card made with a wrong date of birth to increase his age on record, making him eligible to contest election.

Earlier, Azam Khan's appeal against his sentencing was dismissed by a court on April 20 this year while the decision on the prosecution's appeal seeking sentence en-



hancement was delivered on Saturday, the lawyer said.

The case was registered in Civil Lines police station in Rampur on a fraud, forgery and criminal conspiracy complaint filed by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Akash Kumar Saxena on December 6, 2019.

He alleged that one of Abdullah's PAN cards recorded his DOB as January 1, 1993, and the other mentioned September 30, 1990.

After the court decision on Saturday, Saxena said, "This is a historic verdict, enhancing the sentence on an appeal. This is a rare case in which an appeal to increase a convict's sentence has been accepted by court."

Earlier, during the trial, the prosecution succeeded in proving in court that

Abdullah Khan, a former MLA, indulged in forgery to qualify for contesting an election and Azam Khan was part of the larger conspiracy.

The prosecution said that Abdullah was underage and did not meet the requirement for a minimum age to contest an election. To increase his age in records, he used a fake DOB and got a second PAN card made.

At the time of the court judgment on November 17 last year, Azam Khan had barely stepped out of jail in another matter.

Complainant Saxena alleged that forged documents were used to prepare the PAN cards that were used for electoral purposes and filing income tax documents.

Three siblings killed in house fire in Sidhi

SIDHI (MP)

IN a devastating tragedy that has shocked an entire village, three young siblings were burnt alive after a sudden fire engulfed their tiled-roof house in Kasihwa village of Madhya Pradesh's Sidhi district on Saturday.

The victims included two sisters and their younger brother, who were trapped inside the house while their parents were away. The incident has left the local community in deep mourning and raised serious concerns over fire safety in rural households.

The deceased children have been identified as three-year-old Riddhi Saket, eight-year-old Ragini Saket and their five-year-old brother. Their father, Ramratan Saket, had left early in the morning for daily wage work in the city, while their mother had gone out to buy groceries. The three children were alone at home when the



fire suddenly broke out.

Another sister of the victims narrowly escaped the tragedy as she was staying at her maternal grandparents' house at the time.

According to villagers, the children screamed for help as the flames rapidly spread through the house.

Local residents rushed to the spot and made desperate attempts to douse the flames and rescue the children. However, due to the intensity of the blaze and the lack of adequate

water and resources, their efforts failed.

The fire brigade reached the village nearly two hours after the incident was reported. By then, the entire house had been reduced to ashes, with thick smoke still rising from the debris.

Upon receiving information about the incident, Jamodi police station in-charge Divya Prakash Tripathi arrived at the spot along with a police team. With the help of villagers, the bodies of the three

children were recovered from the ruins. After completing the necessary panchnama and legal formalities, the bodies were sent for post-mortem examination.

A large number of villagers gathered at the site, expressing grief and shock over the heart-rending loss.

Sidhi Collector Vikas Mishra visited Kasihwa village to assess the situation and console the bereaved family. Expressing profound sorrow, the Collector described the incident as extremely tragic and unfortunate. He said the exact cause of the fire was being thoroughly investigated.

While some villagers suspect a short circuit to be the possible cause, authorities have assured that strict action will be taken if any negligence is found.

The Collector also assured prompt financial assistance to the family under the government's Sambal Yojana and other applicable welfare schemes.

Land fraud linked to Suntec City project

ED arrests cooperative society secretary in Punjab

JALANDHAR

THE Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Jalandhar, has arrested Ajay Sehgal, Secretary of the Indian Cooperative House Building Society, in a money laundering case linked to the submission of forged consent letters used to fraudulently obtain Change of Land Use (CLU) permissions for the Suntec City real estate project from the Government of Punjab, officials said on Saturday.

The arrest was made on Friday following an investigation initiated on the basis of an FIR registered by the Punjab Police. The complaint originated from farmers who alleged that their consent signatures had been forged to facilitate the CLU approvals.

According to the ED, investigation has revealed that Ajay Sehgal, acting through the cooperative housing society, prepared fake consent letters relating to 30.5 acres of land belonging to 15 landowners. These allegedly forged documents were then used to secure CLU permission for developing a large-scale real estate project named 'Suntec City'.

Officials said the consent letters carried forged signatures and thumb impressions of landowners, which were used to obtain regulatory approvals for the project.



The ED further stated that earlier search operations were conducted on May 7 at eight locations linked to the Indian Cooperative House Building Society and ABS Township Private Limited. During these searches, cash amounting to Rs 21 lakh was allegedly thrown from the balcony of a liaison businessman, identified as Nitin Gohel, which scattered on the road below before being recovered by ED officials.

The agency also found that apart from residential plots, Ajay Sehgal was involved in the development of La Canela residential multi-storey complex and District 7 commercial complex, both of which were built on the basis of CLU permissions allegedly obtained through forged consent documents.

According to the investigation, units in these projects were being sold even before obtaining proper registration and approval from the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA), with total sales exceeding Rs 200 crore from allegedly

unauthorised transactions. It was also revealed that the accused had not transferred plots earmarked for the Economically Weaker Sections to the Estate Officer of GMADA to date.

The ED further stated that, contrary to earlier proceedings before the High Court, only partial revocation of CLU for 30 acres was carried out under Section 85 of the Punjab Regional and Town Planning and Development Act, instead of stricter action under Section 90 of the same Act. Officials said the role of senior officials and authorities in the Department of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) and Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA) is also under investigation.

The ED has indicated that further arrests are likely in the case, and the probe may reach higher-level officials who allegedly facilitated or supported the accused in exchange for illegal benefits.

The agency added that its investigation has uncovered large-scale irregularities in approvals granted by GMADA and the Department of Town and Country Planning for Suntec City and other similar projects, alleging that illegal gratifications were used to benefit developers at the cost of farmers and landowners in Punjab.

Rahul reaches out to family of NEET aspirant who died by suicide

JAIPUR :Amid the ongoing nationwide protests over the NEET paper leak controversy, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi spoke with the family of NEET aspirant Pradeep Meghwal, who allegedly died by suicide after reportedly suffering severe distress following the cancellation of the examination.

NSUI National President Vinod Jakhar visited Pradeep Meghwal's family at Kanika Dhani in Guda Ponkh village, nearly 60 kilometres from Sikar in Rajasthan, late on Friday night. During the visit, Jakhar facilitated a phone conversation between Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and the bereaved family. Gandhi expressed deep condolences to the family and assured them that a strong nationwide fight would be launched against examination paper leaks and the "paper mafia" responsible for compromising students' futures.

Pradeep Meghwal, a resident of Jhunjhunu district, had been living in Sikar for the past three years while preparing for the NEET examination. According to



family members, he had performed well in the examination but had been under severe mental stress following the controversy and uncertainty surrounding the exam. He died by suicide on May 15 at his residence in Jaldhari Nagar on Piprali Road in Sikar.

During the interaction, the family demanded strict action against those involved in examination paper leaks and called for stronger laws to prevent such incidents in the future.

Rahul Gandhi assured the family that he stood with them during this difficult time and that the issue of paper leaks affecting students across the country would be strongly raised.

Earlier in the day, the National Students' Union of

India (NSUI) organised a peaceful protest march in Sikar against the alleged NEET paper leak scam and corruption in the education system, jeopardising students' futures.

Led by NSUI National President Vinod Jakhar, the march proceeded from Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Circle to CLC Chowk, where students held a candlelight tribute in memory of Pradeep Meghwal. Protesters demanded transparency in the examination system, an impartial investigation into paper leak cases, and strict punishment for those found responsible.

Addressing the gathering, Vinod Jakhar said recurring paper leaks and corruption in the education system were pushing millions of students into despair and uncertainty.

4 killed as truck runs over family in UP

BARABANKI (UTTAR PRADESH)

A speeding dumper truck crushed four members of a family, including three children, sleeping by the roadside in Uttar Pradesh's Barabanki district on Saturday, officials said.

The accident occurred on the Fatehpur-Bhanoli road near the village of Jhansa, located within the Fatehpur Kotwali police station area of Barabanki.

The accident claimed the lives of a man and his three children, while his wife and the children's mother sustained critical injuries. She is currently undergoing treatment at a hospital in Lucknow, officials said.

Due to scorching heat and a lack of electricity, the family had set up their beds outside their home, right by the roadside, to sleep. At that moment, a speeding dumper truck approaching from the direction of Mahmudabad lost control and ploughed into the sleeping family, according to the officials.

Amit Singh, the Station House Officer (SHO) of Fatehpur, confirmed that



four people lost their lives, while one is in critical condition.

The injured were initially taken to a Community Health Centre; however, after receiving first aid, the mother was referred to the District Hospital due to her critical condition. The injured children had already succumbed to their injuries by that time.

According to the officials, upon hearing the cries, locals had immediately rushed to the site and initiated rescue operations.

Officials said that the locals informed the police following the incident. Upon receiving the information, the police also arrived at the spot; they facilitated the injured woman's transport to the hospital and sent the bodies for a post-mortem examination.

The police have taken the dumper truck and its driver into custody.

2 killed after tractor-trolley with labourers overturns

VIDISHA, May 23 (IANS) At least two persons lost their lives and around 20 others, including several children, were injured after a tractor-trolley overloaded with migrant labourers overturned in the Kurwai police station area of Madhya Pradesh's Vidisha district on Saturday.

The tractor-trolley was carrying around 22 people, mostly migrant labourers from Umariya district along with their young children. The accident occurred on Bina Road between Layra and Maliyakheda villages while the group was on its way to agricultural fields to harvest the moong crop.

According to police officials, the vehicle suddenly lost balance and overturned, throwing the passengers heavily onto the road. Panic and chaos gripped the spot as labourers and children cried for help following the mishap.

Local villagers and passers-by rushed to the accident site and assisted in rescue operations. Kurwai Station In-charge RK Mishra reached the spot with his



team soon after receiving information and coordinated the rescue efforts.

All the injured were immediately shifted to the Kurwai Community Health Center for treatment.

Doctors declared 55-year-old local farmer Rishabh Sahu, also known as Rishi, and 65-year-old labourer Darbri Kaul from Umariya dead on arrival.

Police completed the preliminary inquest proceedings and sent both bodies for post-mortem examination.

Among the injured, 20-year-old Divya Kol and 35-year-old Rajni Kol sustained serious injuries and were referred to the District

Hospital after primary treatment. The remaining 18 injured people, including several young children, are undergoing treatment at the Kurwai Community Health Center, where doctors are closely monitoring their condition.

Police and health department officials remained on high alert for several hours after the accident.

Preliminary investigation by the police suggested that overloading of the tractor-trolley and excessive speed were the primary causes behind the mishap. The vehicle has been seized and evidence collected from the accident site.