

SC asks Goa court to go ahead with trial of Tarun Tejpal

NEW DELHI, DEC 6 /-/- The Supreme Court today asked a Goa court to start examining witnesses in an alleged rape case of 2013 against Tarun Tejpal, the founder of Tehelka magazine, saying there would be no stay of trial in the matter.

The apex court asked the Bombay High Court, which had earlier directed the trial court not to examine the witnesses, to decide within three months the plea filed by Tejpal challenging framing of charges against him. Tejpal is alleged to have sexually assaulted a former colleague inside the elevator of a five-star hotel in Goa in 2013. Tejpal has denied all

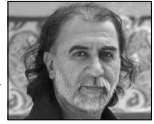
allegations levelled against him. The matter today came up for hearing before a bench comprising Justices S A Bobde and L Nageswara Rao and Tejpal's counsel argued that the high court has asked the trial court not to proceed with the examination of witnesses in the case.

Senior advocate Aman Lekhi and advocate Pramod Kumar Dubey representing Tejpal, told the bench that they have not delayed the case in any manner and there were 151 prosecution witnesses in the matter

Lekhi also claimed that the police had withheld the footage of CCTV camera which was installed in the corridor outside the lift of the hotel. The counsel, representing the state, told the court that no witnesses have been examined yet and Tejpal has moved the high court challenging the framing of charges in the case. He argued that though there were 151 prosecution witnesses in the case, several might be dropped during trial. The apex court, however, observed it had

earlier said that trial in the case should be completed within a year but nothing has been done yet.

"It is a common experience that whenever bail is granted, the accused is not in a hurry to complete the trial," the bench observed, while making it clear that it was not saying that Tejpal was delaying the case. "We consider it appropriate that the high court may dispose of the criminal revision petition... pending before it as early as possible and in any case not later than three months from today," it said. "We make it clear that in the meanwhile, there shall be no stay of trial and witnesses may be examined in accordance with the law," the top court said.



Aman Lekhi, senior advocate representing Tarun Tejpal, told the bench that they have not delayed the case in any manner and there were 151 prosecution witnesses in the matter

Gujarat polls

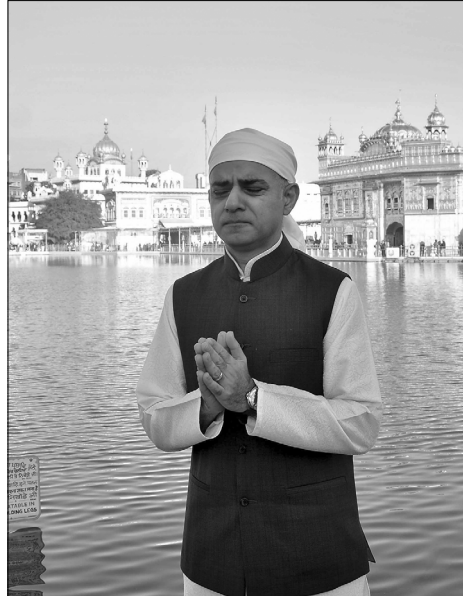
Dhoraji seat a prestige issue for Hardik

DHORAJI, DEC 6 /-/- The contest on Dhoraji seat of Gujarat will be a prestige issue for Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti (PAAS) leader Hardik Patel as one of his key aides, Nitin Vasoya, is contesting from there on Congress ticket.

Vasoya will be taking on veteran BJP leader and former Lok Sabha MP Harilal Patel on this Patel community-dominated Assembly constituency in Rajkot district. Dhoraji has traditionally been a stronghold of Congress. Veteran Patel community leader Virthal Radadiya was elected from the seat for five times on Congress ticket before he quit the party and joined the BJP. Radadiya is presently the BJP's Lok Sabha member from Porbandar. Dhoraji is the only Assembly constituency on which Congress has fielded a leader from Hardik Patel led PAAS. The Patidars form a sizeable chunk of the population in the constituency, but Muslims

and Dalits are also present in significant numbers and can together decide the fate of candidates in the fray.

But more than the issues of Patidars and Dalits, it is the issue of development at the local level that has taken the centre-stage, because of an incomplete underground sewage system and poor road infrastructure in Dhoraji town. The problems faced by farmers, cutting across caste lines, in getting the right minimum support price (MSP) for their produce like cotton and groundnut is also a key issue. "The local issues are more prominent here than the issues of caste and Patidars. The BJP-ruled nagarpalika could not complete the underground sewage system in time and it is still incomplete," says Vasoya. The PAAS leader is campaigning aggressively and also focusing on the issue of alleged corruption in the local body and low MSP for farmers in the villages.



London Mayor Sadiq Khan visits the holy Sikh shrine of Golden temple in Amritsar - REUTERS

Karnataka HC gives relief to scribes facing jail for breach of privilege

BENGALURU, DEC 6 /-/- The Karnataka High Court today directed the state Legislative Assembly not to proceed with the privilege proceedings against the editors of two Kannada tabloids, who had been sentenced to a one-year jail term by the House, until further orders.

"Since it is a Constitutional matter, and also for the court to hear both the parties before arriving at a decision or passing a judgement," Justice A S Bobanna said. Passing interim orders on the petitions filed by the two journalists, challenging the House resolution sentencing them to the prison term, the judge directed the Assembly not to pursue with the proceedings until further orders. He directed the respondents to file their objections, if any, and posted the matter for the next hearing in four weeks' time. On June 21, the Assembly had passed a resolution to punish the journalists, based on the recommendations of the Privileges Committee of the House.

It had sentenced Ravi Belagere and Anil Raju, the editors of 'Hi Bangalore' and 'Yelahanka Voice' magazines respectively, to one year in jail for breach of privilege for their alleged defamatory articles against state legislators. The Assembly during its Winter Session held at Bengaluru on November 21, had rejected by a voice-vote a motion seeking a reconsideration of the punishment and a fine of Rs 10,000 each on the two editors. The Editors' Guild of India had termed the punishment by the legislature a "gross misuse" of power and maintained that it had violated the fundamental right of freedom of speech.

State Notes

Sisshot at in Kamrup

LUCKNOW, DEC 6 /-/- A sub-inspector (SI) was shot at by an unidentified person today when he tried to stop him for frisking in Kamrup district's Panki town, the police said here. Panki outpost in-chARGE and SI Anurag Singh, and constable Girish were on patrol duty when they noticed a man doing some suspicious activity near a Rramleela ground, PRO Rahul Srivastava said. The officer said that the accused opened fire when the policemen stopped him for frisking. The person managed to escape. The SI was rushed to a hospital from where he was discharged after being given first-aid. The bullet grazed him, he said.

Two minor tribal girls raped in Rajasthan

KOTA, DEC 6 /-/- Two minor tribal girls in Rajasthan were allegedly raped by two youths at an industrial area on the outskirts of Jhalawar district's Jhalrapatan town on Sunday, the police said today. The matter came to light after one of the girls' mother lodged a complaint at the Mahila police station in Jhalawar last evening, they said. "The girls, aged 17 and 14 years, belong to the Bheel tribe. The youths, who used to work with the minors at a construction site, raped them at an industrial area in the district area and later dropped them at a local fair," SHO Kamal Chand Meena said. (PTI)

BSP fared badly where paper ballots were used in UP civic polls: State EC

LUCKNOW, DEC 6 /-/- Even as BSP supreme Mayawati advocated the use of ballot paper in future elections instead of EVMs, data released by the State Election Commission based on the recently concluded Uttar Pradesh civic polls showed that the BSP fared poorly where paper ballots were used.

According to the civic poll results, BSP candidates contested on all 16 mayoral seats and won two - Aligarh and Meerut. Its candidates forfeited deposits in 11 seats. In the mayoral polls, the voting was done through EVMs and 66.7 per cent of BSP candidates lost their deposits. This can be termed better compared to the BSP's performance in Nagar Palika Parishad and Nagar Panchayat polls, where ballots were used, the data showed. The BSP fielded contested in 186 seats of the Nagar Palika Parishad, in which 131 (70.43 per cent) of its candidates had to forfeit their deposits. Similarly, in the Nagar Panchayat chairman polls, the BSP contested in 357 seats in which 268 (75 per cent) of its candidates lost their deposits.

A day after the civic polls results were released, Mayawati had challenged the BJP that the saffron party would lose the general elections due in 2019 if ballot papers were used

instead of EVMs. "If the BJP claims that they enjoy the mandate of the people and the entire country is with them, then they should set aside the EVMs and hold the elections through ballot paper. And I can say with full confidence that if the 2019 Lok Sabha polls are held by ballot paper, (the BJP) will not come to power," the BSP chief said. She alleged that the government machinery was "misused" in the urban local body polls. "Otherwise, more of our candidates would have become mayors in the state... and we would have won more seats," she said.

Chief minister Yogi Adityanath, making light of Mayawati's charges, said she should ask her mayors to resign and contest those two seats again in ballot-based elections. The Samajwadi Party too has blamed EVMs for its poor performance. As per election results, SP candidates forfeited deposits in 10 out of 16 seats. The SP however, fared better than the BSP in the seats where ballot papers were used. In the Nagar Palika Parishad, of the 190 candidates fielded by the SP 83 (43.68 per cent) lost deposits and in Nagar Panchayat chairman polls, 207 SP candidates (54.47 per cent) lost their deposits in the 380 seats the party contested in.

Seven Naxalites killed in Gadchiroli encounter

DRG jawan injured in attack by rebels on police camp in Chhattisgarh

GADCHIROLI/RAIPUR, DEC 6 /-/- Seven Maoists, including five women, were gunned down in an encounter with the police in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district this morning, an official said.

The skirmish took place around 7 am at a forest in Kalled village, about 15 kms north of Zinganoor outpost in Sironcha tehsil of Gadchiroli, when a squad of C-50 commandos (Maharashtra police's special anti-Maoist unit) was out on anti-Naxal operation, a senior police official told news agency PTI.

The patrolling team was cordoning-off the forest patch near Kalled, which borders neighbouring Chhattisgarh, when the exchange of fire took place between the two sides, he said.

Seven Maoists, including five women, were killed in the encounter while some weapons were also recovered from the spot," the official said. The bodies of Naxals were being retrieved from the forest, he said adding the rebels were yet to be identified. A search operation was underway in the area, police said. Meanwhile, a jawan of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) was today injured when Naxals fired at a newly set up police camp at a forest in Chhattisgarh's Kondagaon district, an official said.

A small action team of the ultras fired at the police camp in Hadeli village where some finishing work was underway, following which the security personnel retaliated, he said. After a brief exchange of fire, the rebels escaped into the dense forest, the official added. "Head constable Komal Khaikho, belonging to DRG, sustained bullet injuries," he said.

The injured jawan was rushed to a local hospital from where he was being airlifted to Raipur for further medication, the official said, adding that his condition was stable out of danger.

A search operation was underway in the region, he added. The police camp was recently set up in Hadeli, located 50 kms deep inside forest from Kondagaon town, which is around 200 kms away from here, he said. The Naxals are upset over the establishment of the camp, which is aimed at stepping up area-dominating operation in the region and checking the activities of the rebels, he added. (PTI)

Three Pakistanis among eight LeT operatives awarded life term

JAIPUR, DEC 6 /-/- Eight members of Pakistan based terror organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), including three Pakistanis, were awarded life imprisonment by a local court here today.

The LeT members were arrested in 2010 and 2011 by the Rajasthan Anti Terrorist Squad. An additional district and sessions court in Jaipur pronounced the sentence today.

The accused were awarded life imprisonment under sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act along with a cash penalty of 3 lakh each, Mahaveer Jindal, special public prosecutor told reporters. They were convicted under sections 13 (abetting unlawful activity), section 19 (conspiracy), section 18 (B) (recruiting for terror act) and section 20 (punishment for being member of terrorist gang or organisation) of the UAPA last week, he added.

The Pakistani LeT members Asgar Ali, Shakkar Ulla and Ibrahim, who were accused of recruiting persons for various anti-national activities. The other five accused are Babu alias Nishachand Ali, Hafiz Abud, Pawan Puri, Arun Jain and Kabil, Jindal said. Babu and Pawan Puri came into contact with Asgar Ali in Bikaner Jail, he said adding that Kabil came into touch with Shahid Iqbal in a Punjab jail.

All of them were in touch with a LeT commander based in Pakistan through mobile, Jindal said. The Rajasthan ATS had swung into action on receiving an alert from the intelligence agencies intercepting the telephonic conversation between the LeT men lodged in jails and Lashkar commander in Pakistan in 2010.

MP Cong lodges complaint over morphed image of Mahatma

BHOPAL, DEC 6 /-/- The Madhya Pradesh unit of the Congress today lodged a police complaint over a morphed picture of Mahatma Gandhi in a photograph showing Rahul Gandhi filling nomination papers for the Congress president's post.

The picture, circulated on social media by unidentified persons, resulted the father of nation and also showed senior Congress leaders in poor light, it said. "We have petitioned the cyber cell of police against the people who morphed the picture," state Congress spokesperson Pankaj Chaturvedi said. As pictures of Rahul Gandhi filling nomination papers for the party president's post with a Mahatma background appeared in media, some unidentified persons doctored it to make Mahatma Gandhi look like a Mughal emperor, Chaturvedi said.

"This is an insult to Mahatma Gandhi. It was also aimed at showing the Congress leaders in poor light," he said.

Superintendent of police Shaileendra Singh Chauhan of the cyber cell said police had received the complaint and would take appropriate action.

Woman, daughter beaten, stabbed to death in Noida

GREATER NOIDA, DEC 6 /-/- A 42-year-old woman and her 12-year-old daughter were beaten and stabbed to death at their apartment in a residential complex here, the police said today.

The 15-year-old son of the woman, who is missing after the last night incident, is a suspect in the case. The police are searching for him, station house officer (SHO), Bisrakh, Ajay Sharma said. The officer said that the bodies were found wrapped in a blanket by the police team that entered the apartment by breaking its lock. The woman and the girl were beaten with a bat and stabbed with a screw driver, he said, adding that the police have deployed a dog squad and a forensic team at the spot.

"The door was locked when the police reached the apartment. They broke the lock and the bodies were recovered," Senior Superintendent of Police

(SSP) Love Kumar said. It seems, there were only three persons present in the apartment during the incident, the deceased and the boy, the SHO said. The woman's husband has gone out of the city on a business tour and the elderly members of the family are in Uttarakhand," Sharma said.

The police said that CCTV camera footage showed that the woman and her daughter had gone out at 7:15 pm on Monday and came back at 8 pm, but after that they were not seen outside.

The husband had called last night after he could not contact his wife. When he tried to call the family through the intercom, the calls went unanswered. It then called the police. The police came and broke the lock of the apartment, "a residence close to the family said."

Appendix A to GE (P) (Navy & CG) Kolkata letter No. 8619/01/ES dated Dec-2017

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICE

GE (P) (Navy & CG) Kolkata, Military Engineer Services, P-7, Damodar Complex, Naval Transit Accommodation, 3, Garden Reach Road, Kidderpore, Kolkata-700 023 on behalf of President of India, invites application for e-tender (online) under 2 cover system for the following work. For details refer website www.defproc.gov.in. Please note that subletting of work will not be permitted.

SL No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost at per market (Rs)	Period of completion (days)	Tender ID
1	REPAIR & REPLACEMENT OF MISCELLANEOUS EXTERNAL E/M SERVICES AT CGRA MANIKTALA UNDER GE(P) (N&CG) KOLKATA	Rs. 12,00,00,000 Lakhs	180 days	2017 MES 162705.1

(Ashis Thakdar)
AE (OS&O)
AGE (Contracts)
For Garrison Engineer

Woman symbolically 'marries' UP CM to highlight plight of Anganwadi workers

LUCKNOW, DEC 6 /-/- Their demands stonewalled for a long time by the state government, Anganwadi workers in Uttar Pradesh have devised a new way to put pressure on the powers that be. Amid chanting of hymns and drum beating, an Anganwadi worker from Sitapur symbolically "married" a picture of chief minister Yogi Adityanath. The mock wedding, solemnised in the presence of fellow Anganwadi workers in Sitapur late on Tuesday, saw a picture of the

monk-turned-chief minister being garlanded by the coy bride, Mahila Anganwadi Karmachari Sangh's district president, Neetu Singh, who got "married" said that for them this was a novel way of attracting the attention of the state government. "Through this marriage we thought around a lakh sisters will be benefited," she said, while informing that the chief minister was coming to Sitapur on Friday and that she plans to go to Lucknow with him. If our demands are still not met, I will go to meet Yogi on a horse, she said. The

woman who put a picture of Adityanath on her face and acted as the groom said she was happy to be part of the "noble nuptial". The Anganwadi workers had given a four-month ultimatum to the new BJP government to address the issues raised by them but that even after the passage of eight months, the state government has done nothing for them. In fact, an Anganwadi leader said that they were charge-sheeted brutally in the state capital once when then went to protest.