



A man reacts after catching a trout with his hands during an event promoting the Ice Festival in Hwacheon, south of the demilitarized zone (DMZ) separating the two Koreas, South Korea — REUTERS

ECHO WORLD

THE ECHO OF INDIA

PORT BLAIR • SUNDAY • JANUARY 7, 2018 • PAGE 7

Lalu jailed for 3 and half years in fodder scam case

Fine of Rs 10 lakh imposed on ex-Bihar CM ■ CBI verdict to be challenged: Tejashwi

RANCHI, JAN 6 /- A special CBI court today sentenced RJD chief Lalu Prasad to three-and-a-half years in jail and imposed a fine of Rs 10 lakh on him in a fodder scam case relating to fraudulent withdrawal of Rs 89.27 lakh from the Deogarh Treasury 21 years ago.

The punishment was handed down to 68-year-old Prasad by CBI court judge Shiv Pal Singh. This is the second time that he has been jailed in the fodder scam. The judge also imposed a fine totalling Rs 10 lakhs on him. He was sentenced to three-and-a-half years in jail in a fodder scam case for offences of cheating, along with criminal conspiracy and other sections under the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Prasad was also given a jail term of three years and six months in the case under the Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA).

The RJD chief was fined Rs 5 lakh each under the IPC and the PCA. CBI counsel Rakesh Prasad said, adding that failure to pay the fine would entail another six months in jail. The sentences will run concurrently, he said.

Prasad, who was convicted in the second case on December 23, is at present lodged in the Birsua Munda Central Jail. The



judge conveyed the punishment to Prasad through videoconferencing. The court had on Friday concluded arguments on the quantum of sentence against Prasad in connection with the withdrawal of Rs 89.27 lakh from the Deogarh Treasury between 1990 and 1994 when he was the chief minister of Bihar. It had also heard arguments on the issue of punishment for 10 others convicted in the case. Earlier

today, the court concluded arguments on the quantum of sentence against five other convicts. Prasad was given a prison term of five years on September 2012, in another fodder scam case. He was released on bail by the Supreme Court after having remained in jail for over two-and-a-half months. The CBI special judge had on December 23 acquitted former Bihar chief minister Jagannath Mishra and five

others in the case. In 1996, the Patna High Court had ordered an inquiry into the fodder scam cases and a charge sheet in the Deogarh Treasury case was filed against 38 people on October 27, 1997. Eleven of them died and three turned approvers, while two other accused confessed and were convicted in 2006-07, a CBI official said. On September 30, 2013, Yadav, Jagannath Mishra and several others were



Leader of opposition Tejshwi Yadav with former Bihar Chief Minister and party leader Rabri Devi addressing a press conference after the party meeting, in Patna on Saturday

convicted in another case pertaining to illegal withdrawal of Rs 37.7 crore from the Chaibasa Treasury in the early 1990s. Prasad faces another three fodder scam cases for illegal withdrawal of Rs 3.97 crore from the Dumka Treasury, Rs 36 crore from the Chaibasa Treasury and Rs 194 crore from the Doranda Treasury. Meanwhile, Prasad's son Tejashwi Yadav said in Patna that they will move High Court

against his father's conviction. "We will move High Court against Lalu Prasad's conviction and appeal for bail after studying the court verdict," Tejashwi said. Prasad was granted bail by the Supreme Court after having spent over two-and-a-half months in jail. "Lalu is not the name of a person but of an ideology. We, his followers, will not be cowed down," said the 28-year-old

Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly, Tejashwi, against whom a contempt notice has been issued by the CBI court for criticizing its December 23 judgement whereby Lalu was convicted, said. "The lower court has pronounced its judgement which we respect. We have full faith in judiciary." "We will study the judgement and then decide on what legal options to exercise," he added.

If the quantum of sentence was less than three years, the bail plea would have been moved before the trial court itself, he said.

"Since that does not appear to be the case, we will have to do so before the high court where we will also appeal against the conviction," Tejashwi also charged chief minister Nitish Kumar and the BJP with "conspiring against Lalu, whose immense mass appeal and willingness to courageously take on communal forces have always left his detractors insecure".

He was speaking after a RJD meeting, at Rabri Devi's bungalow, which was attended by senior party leaders including state chief Ramchandra Purty, Jagdandan Singh and others on the future course of action of the party

AT A GLANCE

Saeed slaps 'defamation' notice on Pak minister

LAHORE: JUD chief Hafiz Saeed has served a Rs 10 million legal notice to Pakistan's defence minister for "defamation", days after the government banned the Jamaat-ud-Dawah from collecting donations following US President Donald Trump's outburst against Islamabad's sheltering of terrorists. "Call upon you (minister Khurram Dastgir) to send a written apology to my client (Saeed) within 14 days and seek his forgiveness and promise to be careful in future, failing which criminal proceedings under section 500 of Pakistan Penal Code punishable for two years will be initiated against you," said the notice by lawyer A K Dogar who served it on behalf of Mumbai attack mastermind Saeed.

Four cops killed in Kashmir IED blast

SRINAGAR: Four policemen on patrol were killed when an improvised explosive device (IED) planted by militants went off in Sopore town in north Kashmir today, an official said. Militants had planted the IED near a shop in a lane between the 'Chotta Bazaar' and 'Bada Bazaar' in Barammulla district, the official said. The policemen were patrolling the area in view of a separatist-sponsored strike there. (Details on Page 3)

OC, 2 other cops hurt in mob attack

HOWRAH: Two policemen including the Officers-in-Charge (OC) of Shyampur police station were injured when a mob attacked them in Howrah district, police said today. The OC of Shyampur police station Suman Das with a police team had gone to Bargachomukh village on Friday night after hearing reports of the clash between two groups over property dispute, they said. When the police were trying to disperse the two groups, the OC and another policeman were attacked by a mob, the police said.

Mevani not responsible for Maharashtra violence, says Union minister Athawale

MUMBAI, JAN 6 /- While the Pune Police registered a case against Jignesh Mevani for a "provocative speech", Union minister Ramdas Athawale today said the Gujarat MLA was not responsible for the violence at Bhima-Koregaon in Pune district on January 1.

Speaking to newsmen here after meeting Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnis, Athawale, a prominent Dalit leader, said there was tension in the area even prior to the 200th anniversary of the Bhima-Koregaon battle on January 1. Dalits visiting the war memorial at Bhima-Koregaon had reportedly come under attack on January 1. Dalit leaders had blamed certain pro-Hindutva leaders, who were opposed to the anniversary celebrations, for the attacks, while the latter sought to blame Mevani's "provocative speech", which was delivered a day earlier.

"Jignesh is not responsible for the violence at Bhima-Koregaon. There was tension in the area prior to January 1. I had visited the place and the tension had eased. So, I had returned to Delhi on December 31. On the same day, Jignesh had delivered his speech at the Shanwar Wadia in Pune. He had not gone to Bhima-Koregaon. Some groups had held a meeting at night and the violence took place on January 1," the Union minister of state for social justice said.



Naga Sadhus puffing a chillum at Babughat transit camp on way to Ganga Sagar mela, in Kolkata on Saturday

State gov't begins pisciculture training for destitute women

KOLKATA, JAN 6 /- The West Bengal government has started imparting pisciculture training to destitute women, minister Sashi Panja has said. The women and child development department along with the fisheries department, is imparting the training to women in state-run homes, the women and child development minister said at the inaugural function of the 'Bengal Fish Fest' at Nalban Food Park here. "The first such training has already begun at our Lillibah Home. The inmates will also be

RS Chairman sends privilege notice against Rahul to LS speaker

BJP guilty on many such counts, says Cong

NEW DELHI, JAN 6 /- Rajya Sabha chairman M Venkaiah Naidu today sent a privilege notice against Rahul Gandhi to Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan for further action, holding that "prima facie there is an issue of privilege", sources said.

Naidu sent the notice to the Lok Sabha Speaker for further action as the Congress president is a member of the Lower House. A complaint against him is already pending before the Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha, chaired by BJP veteran L K Advani, after the Speaker forwarded the same to it. BJP leader and Rajya Sabha member Bhupinder Yadav had given the privilege notice against Rahul put out by him in which he questioned the authority of the Rajya Sabha and questioned its decision. "On examination, prima facie there is an issue of privilege," Naidu said while referring the privilege notice to the Lok Sabha Speaker, the sources told PTI.

Yadav had alleged that there is a "breach of privilege" by Gandhi as he used derogatory words against Union finance minister and Leader of the House Arun Jaitley, by twisting his name. "Dear Mr Jaitley - thank you for reminding India that our PM never means what he says or says what he means. #BJP.Lies," the Congress president said, while putting out a video of the prime minister's speech against his predecessor and Jaitley's remarks made in Rajya Sabha. The BJP member said the Congress President had "deliberately twisted" the spelling of

Jaitley's surname to 'Jaitlee', which was "highly derogatory". The Congress president, Yadav said, has deliberately misinterpreted the proceedings of Rajya Sabha in order to "malign the government, which constitutes an affront to the dignity of the House". He also alleged that it is a deliberate attempt at vitiating the political atmosphere of the country.

Yadav had earlier sought to know what action was being initiated against Gandhi on his privilege notice, over which Naidu told the members in the House that the same was under his examination and he would take a view on it at the earliest. Defending Rahul over his tweet against the finance minister, the Congress today said if it attracted a privilege notice, the BJP should be held guilty on many such counts. Hitting back at the ruling party, senior Congress leader Anand Sharma cited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks against his predecessor Manmohan Singh and Vice President Hamid Ansari during the recent Gujarat polls.

"If it comes to privilege, ministers in the government have made many such comments which will attract privilege notices. The Prime Minister made inappropriate remarks against people who held constitutional posts. Later finance minister said the prime minister did not mean what he said. If political comments and tweets have to become privilege matters then the ruling party stands exposed and shall invite many breach of privilege notices," Sharma told newsmen. (PTI)



Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu (left) and Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan (right) during a meeting in New Delhi on Saturday

Pak inciting J&K youths against India: Rajnath

TEKANPUR, JAN 6 /- Union home minister Rajnath Singh today said terror infrastructure in Pakistan continue to exist and the neighbouring country has not returned to instigate the youths of Jammu and Kashmir against India.

Singh also asked the country's top police brass to take strong action in cases of riots and desecration of religious places. Addressing the annual conference of the DGPs and IGP's here, Singh said terror infrastructure in the form of training camps, launch pads and communication stations continue to exist in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK). He said the neighbouring country is leaving no stone unturned to provide all help, including finance, to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and that youths of the state are being instigated against India, sources privy to the home minister's speech said.

The home minister said Pakistan's encouragement to the separatist anti-India sentiment in Jammu and Kashmir often lead to law and order problems. Highlighting the appointment of a representative for initiating dialogue in Jammu and Kashmir, he said it was a matter of satisfaction that security forces have been successful in tackling the situation in the state to a great extent. He said the violence perpetrated by Naxals have come down to a great extent and assured that the government would encourage the surrender policy for Naxals in the coming days.

Referring to the North-East, Singh said insurgency has come down in the region but camps and hideouts of underground outfits in Myanmar was a matter of concern. The home minister said there has been a slight increase in communal violence in the country and asked the top police officers to take strong action wherever such incidents and desecration of religious sites take place. He also talked about growing incidents of cyber crime, use of internet and the social media by anti-social elements to create tension in the society and asked police officers to be vigilant. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the three-day conference on Sunday. The conference of the DGPs and IGP's is an annual affair, where senior police officers of the states and Centre meet and discuss issues.

The Narendra Modi-led Union government has been organising the conference outside the national capital since it came to power in 2014. The last three conferences were held in Guwahati, Ram of Kutch and Hyderabad.

PM to address top-level police conference in Gwalior today

BHOPAL, JAN 6 /- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend a top-level police conference on January 7-8 at the Border Security Force (BSF) Academy at Tekanpur in Gwalior. An official release said that the "Annual Conference of Director General of Police (DGPs) and Inspector General of Police (IGPs) states" is an event where top police officers share and discuss security related issues. The Prime Minister has earlier addressed the conference in Guwahati in 2014, in Dhordo in Gujarat's Ram of Kutch in 2015 and at the National Police Academy in Hyderabad in 2016. "During the last meeting, issues such as cross-border terrorism and radicalization were discussed in detail. The Prime Minister emphasized the importance of leadership skills and collective training. He specifically mentioned the importance of technology and human interface for the police force," the release stated. (PTI)



Minister Sashi Panja