

Man held for hiding drugs in ex-girlfriend's home in Guj

Ahmedabad: The Ahmedabad zonal unit of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) arrested a man on Friday for allegedly hiding 500g of 'charas' in his former girlfriend's house to implicate her in a false drugs case.

After he was arrested, Dinesh Prajapati admitted that he held a grudge against his ex-girlfriend, who recently lodged an FIR against him after their relationship turned sour, said Hari Om Gandhi, zonal director of Ahmedabad NCB.

According to Gandhi, Prajapati contacted NCB officials on January 22 and told them that a woman living in Ghatodia area is a drug trafficker and had hidden large cache of the contraband in her house.

"When we raided the house, we found 500 grams of charas, with street price of Rs 3.5 lakh, hidden inside a flower pot. When questioned, the woman said she did not know about the drugs," said Gandhi.

During questioning, the woman said had been in contact with Prajapati since a while and he used to live there earlier. She also said she lodged a complaint against Prajapati for harassing and threatening her, said Gandhi.

Officials checked with the local police and found that the Sola Police had filed an FIR against Prajapati. "Later, when we called him for questioning, Prajapati admitted that he did this because he wanted to take revenge on her," said Gandhi.

"After Prajapati's relation with the woman soured, he acquired charas and hid it in her house before informing us. We have arrested him for criminal conspiracy and under various sections of NDPS Act. We are investigating the source of the charas," said Gandhi.

K'taka HC issues bailable warrant against Mallya

Bengaluru: The Karnataka high court issued a bailable arrest warrant against liquor baron Vijay Mallya on Friday for allegedly violating an undertaking given by him and his companies not to transfer their equity shares in United Breweries Limited (UBL) to British spirits company Diageo Plc.

"We are issuing a bailable arrest warrant against the accused for violating an undertaking given by him in the case," said Justice Jayant Patel heading a division bench.

The warrant has been issued after Mallya failed to appear before the bench, also comprising Justice Aravind Kumar, on petitions filed by a consortium of banks led by State Bank of India.

The banks have accused Mallya of violating the undertaking given by him and his companies, including the now defunct Kingfisher Airlines, not to transfer their equity shares in UBL after the Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) had restrained Standard Chartered Bank, with which the shares had been pledged, from handing over the same to Diageo Plc.

On December 2 last, Justice Vineet Kothari of the high court had rejected Mallya's application for recalling its order summoning him for allegedly violating the undertaking.

The division bench posted the matter for next hearing on February 17.

Why no national policy for calamity-hit farmers, asks SC

Govt Cites PM's Insurance Policy; Court Seeks States' Response

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New Delhi: Having dealt with the issue of farmers' suicide raised in many PILs earlier, the Supreme Court on Friday found it strange that there was no national policy to compensate tillers for crop failure or indebtedness, two major reasons for them to take their lives.

A bench of Chief Justice J S Khehar and Justice N V Ramana was dealing with a three-year-old appeal filed by an NGO led by Mallika Sarabhai questioning the rationale behind Gujarat High Court's decision not to entertain its PIL seeking relief for farmers, nearly 600 of whom had committed suicide between 2004-2012.

The CJ said, "It is rather strange that there have been several incidents of farmers' suicide yet there is no national policy to protect them from crop failure leading to their indebtedness. There must be

Banning cow slaughter is states' prerogative, says apex court

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a PIL seeking a complete ban on cow slaughter in every state to prevent rampant inter-state illegal transportation of cattle.

A bench of Chief Justice J S Khehar and Justice N V Ramana told petitioner Vineet Sahai's counsel Sarvesh Bisaria, "A state may decide to ban it while another may decide not to. We cannot interfere in such decisions." Bisaria said many states had banned cow slaughter but some still allowed it. "This has resulted in rampant illegal transportation of cattle from states which have banned cow slaughter to those states which permit slaughter," he said.

a policy to compensate farmers for crop failure. This is a national issue and of larger public interest." Petitioner's counsel Colin Gonsalves and Gujarat counsel Pritesh Kapur agreed with the bench.

The bench suo motu decided to convert the appeal into a PIL and issued notices to the Centre, states and Union Territories. It asked them to file their responses within four weeks. It said participation of all governments in formulating a national framework for payment of compensation to farmers distressed by natural calamities was imperative.

The Centre informed the court that the NDA government had launched a comprehensive crop insurance scheme under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), which assured a certain sum of money for crop failure because of localised incidents and post-harvest losses.

The CJ-headed bench said, "If there is a natural calamity, there should be a policy to give compensation to farmers." In February last year, the SC had refused to entertain a petition seeking a direction to the government to fix minimum support price (MSP) of agricultural products. A bench headed by then CJ T S Thakur had said, "We are not supposed to go into policy matters. It is for the government to see and take decision. These are matters which are between people and the government... It is a problem of governance and the government has to take measures. We are not sitting in judgment over policies."

The petition before the bench of Justices Khehar and Ramana was an appeal filed by NGO 'Citizens Resource and Action Initiative' against the Gujarat HC's July 10, 2013 decision declining to entertain its writ petition seeking relief for farmers.

Bhansali 'slapped', film shooting stalled in Jaipur

Jaipur: Filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali was allegedly assaulted here on Friday after activists of Rajput community group stopped the shooting of his movie by vandalising the set claiming that the director was "distorting facts".

Police said they detained five persons for disturbing peace, though no complaint was received from Bhansali's side. Witnesses said the incident took place at Jaigarh Fort where Bhansali's film 'Padmavati' was being shot.

Activists of Karni Sena gathered at the site and demanded that shooting of the film be stopped.

They vandalised the set and damaged some chairs and other objects. After the incident, the director has decided not to go ahead with the filming in the state.



Members of Karni Sena vandalised the film set and damaged some chairs and other objects. Bhansali has said he will not continue filming in the state

ing. Someone from the mob slapped him and pulled his hair," said Narayan Singh, district president of Karni Sena.

"There was a protest and the issue was settled after both parties held talks," said DPC north (Jaipur) Anshuman Bhomia. He said no FIR was lodged by anyone but police have detained five persons for disturbing peace. The filmmaker has said he will not go ahead with plans for shooting here and will

pack up, Bhomia said. Singh claimed that Bhansali wants to present a "distorted fact" about Rani Padmavati which will not tolerate of the Rajput community.

"We have demanded that no distorted fact is shown in the film and have asked the filmmaker to take care of this. The Rajput community will oppose any move to present wrong facts about Rani Padmavati," he said. Bhansali has not yet commented on the incident.

Never left hotel, have been framed, Salman tells court

Jodhpur: Actor Salman Khan pleaded innocence in the 18-year-old blackbuck poaching case on Friday and told a court there that he has been "framed".

Salman, 51, pleaded not guilty when his statement was recorded by chief judicial magistrate Dalpat Singh Rajpurohit. Salman told the court he never went for poaching due to security reasons during the shooting of his film.

The actor said he would provide evidence to back his innocence on the next date of hearing. The court listed February 15 as the next date. Salman appeared in the court along with Saif Ali Khan, Sonali Bendre, Neelam and Tabu, the other accused co-stars in the case at 11.30am.

"Salman was asked 65 questions by the magistrate pertaining to the allegations of poaching against him but he denied all and pleaded innocence," said his counsel H M Sarswat.

"Salman has not committed any crime. After the film shooting, he used to remain in the hotel. He has been framed in the case and we will produce evidence in favour of this on the next date," the counsel added.

Note ban, GST to fetch govt more revenue: FM

Visakhapatnam: Finance minister Arun Jaitley put up a spirited defence of demonetisation, saying the drive 'shook' the financial system for a short while, but will integrate the shadow economy with the formal in the long run and ensure better tax compliance.

He said most contentious issues regarding the Goods and Services Tax (GST) have been sorted out between the Centre and states and the new indirect tax regime is at the final stages of implementation.

"This, coupled with GST, in the days to come will ensure much larger revenues as far as states and the central government are concerned and expand the size as far as the formal economy is concerned," Jaitley said at the CII Partnership Summit being here.

Stating that India is largely a tax non-compliant society, he said states and the central government struggled with their revenues to run the system which created an unfair en-

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"It also becomes very unfair on the normal taxpayer because what the evader manages to evade is what the compliant has to pay more," Jaitley said. The government, therefore, decided to demonetise the high denomination currency, "which shook the system for some time". Jaitley said demonetisation has gradually increased the process of integrating the shadow, parallel and informal economies in far greater number with the formal economy.

"The size of the formal economy is expanding, so are the transactions in the banking system and through the digital mode," he said. As for the implementation of GST, Jaitley said new indirect tax regime will make India one single market, eliminate multiple assessments, check evasion and bring more revenues into the system.

Isro tests cryogenic engine ahead of rocket launch

Bengaluru: Isro has successfully tested its indigenously developed cryogenic engine, in a major step forward for its landmark 'GSLV Mk III' rocket, scheduled for launch within the first quarter this year.

Cryogenic engines are used in the upper stage of a rocket launch as they provide the maximum thrust to a launcher vehicle. The cryogenic upper stage, designated as C25, was tested on January 25 for 50 seconds at the Isro Propulsion Complex (IPRC) at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu, demonstrating all the stage operations, the space agency said.

The performance of the stage during the test was as predicted, it said, adding that this was the first test in a series of two tests. The next one was planned for a flight duration of 640 seconds.

The 50 second test is a significant milestone in the development of indigenous cryogenic propulsion technology, Isro said. The development of C25 cryogenic stage began with the approval of GSLV MkIII, the next generation launch ve-

hicle of Isro, capable of launching a four-tonne ton class spacecraft in Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).

The vehicle consists of two solid strap-on motors, one earth storable liquid core stage and the cryogenic upper stage. The C25 stage is the most powerful upper stage developed by Isro and uses liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen propellant combination.

The stage carries 27.8 tonnes of propellants loaded in two independent tanks. The first flight stage for 'GSLV MkIII-D1' mission is in an advanced stage of realisation. It is scheduled to launch GSAT-19 during first quarter of 2017.

The flight engine has been successfully tested in the high altitude test facility and integrated with the flight stage, ISRO said. ISRO said the C25 stage was conceptualised, designed and realised by Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), ISRO's lead Centre for Propulsion, with support from various System Development Agencies from other three Centres of Isro.

CLOUD OF DEATH



A view of the site where a major avalanche took place in Gurez sector of Jammu & Kashmir on Wednesday

3 Maha soldiers among those killed in J&K avalanches

Continued from Page 1

In Srinagar, police officials said that the bodies of four missing soldiers were recovered from avalanche-hit Gurez sector, taking the death toll in the incident to 14. Two avalanches hit army personnel in Gurez sector on Wednesday evening trapping several soldiers under the debris.

More than 20 persons, including 15 army personnel, have died in avalanches since Wednesday caused by fresh snowfall across Jammu and Kashmir over the past four days. Authorities have issued a high danger avalanche warning in hilly parts of snow-bound Kashmir Valley in view of fresh snowfall.

Several avalanches have also hit the highway at Shatani Nallah area in Banihal belt of Ramban district on Friday, police officials said.

Most parts of Kashmir received intermittent snowfall on Thursday night. Srinagar got 2cm of snow and the mercury there settled at a low of minus 0.8 degree celsius. Gulmarg gauged 41 cm of precipitation and recorded minimum temperature of minus 4 degrees celsius.

Pahalgam recorded 23 cm of snowfall and a low of minus 2.2 degrees celsius. The minimum temperature in Leh, in Ladakh region, was minus 5.1 degrees celsius and it was the coldest recorded place in the state.

SC to hear pleas on jallikattu on Jan 31

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Supreme Court said on Friday that it would hear all petitions relating to jallikattu on January 31 with the Centre formally filing an application withdrawing the January 7, 2016 notification in view of the Tamil Nadu government passing law to allow the bull-taming sport in the state.

Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi mentioned the case before Justice Dipak Misra and placed one-page application before the court for its consideration.

A bench of Justices Dipak Misra and R F Nariman had heard the case and reserved its verdict in December last year on the Constitutional validity of Centre's notification allowing jallikattu. A group of animal rights organisations have challenged the Constitutional validity of the newly en-

'Reject AWBI application on jallikattu'

New Delhi: A petition has been in the Supreme Court saying that a plea challenging the new Tamil Nadu legislation allowing jallikattu has been filed on behalf of Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) by "playing fraud on the court".

Pro-Jallikattu advocates, in their plea, claimed that a "total fraud" has been played on the court by an advocate who filed the AWBI plea on January 25 "as there is no permission by the Animal Welfare Board to file such application", which amounted to contempt of court.

"The application filed by the member of AWBI is not maintainable but also amounts to contempt of court for playing fraud on court. Thus, the application may be rejected and the person who played fraud on court may be punished for contempt," reads the plea.

acted Tamil Nadu law. Amid protests across the state for lifting the ban on jallikattu, the TN assembly had on Monday unanimously passed an amendment bill allowing jallikattu on the ground that it was vital for the preservation of the state's cultural heritage.

Challenging the new law, animal rights organisation contended that the apex court had ruled that a custom or usage could not be allowed if it was found to be violative of law. They said animals' right to dignity and freedom from unnecessary pain and suffering was protected under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and it could not be frustrated by the state with a new law.

Protests in Karnataka over bullock racing ban

Mangaluru: Students, artists and politicians staged a massive protest here on Friday demanding removal of the ban on Kambala, a traditional buffalo race held in the coastal region annually.

The All-College Students' Association along with Tulu film artists, Yakshagana artists, politicians and members of Tulumada Rakshana Vedike staged protest at Hampankatta here, lending momentum to the growing demand on the issue.

Noted personalities from Tulu film industry including actors Devdas Kapikad, Naveen D Padil, Bhojaraj Vamanjori or director-producer Vijay Kumar Kodailbaal, BJP MP Nalin Kumar Kateel, Congress MLA Mohiuddin Bava and others

called for immediate government action to ensure continuation of Kambala.

Kateel said Kambala had history of 800 years and it was a tradition of Tulu Nadu, a Dravidian language, is spoken in a small region, mainly in coastal Karnataka and Kerala's Kasaragod district, collectively known as Tulu Nadu. In Bengaluru, AIADMK Karnataka unit workers staged a protest, demanding lifting of the ban on Kambala and demanded a ban on Peta, which has filed a petition in the Karnataka HC to restrain the sport.

In November 2016, the Karnataka HC had passed an interim order restraining holding of Kambala. The next hearing is on for January 30.

NC walks out over holiday on Maharaja's b'day

Jammu: Opposition National Conference walked out from J&K legislative council on Friday to protest against the passage of a resolution to declare a holiday on September 23, the birthday of Maharaja Hari Singh, and demanded its withdrawal.

When the House assembled on Friday, NC member BA Veeri and other party members protested against the passage of the resolution, saying it was passed in "undemocratic, unconstitutional and in violation of the rules and business procedures" of the House. The state legislative council had passed the resolution on January 24.

Appearing to reporters, he said, 22 people were killed in central jail by the Maharaja's forces on July 13. "We celebrate it as Martyr's day. How can you declare a holiday in the name of those, who are instrumental in massacre?" Veeri said.

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Place: Nashik
Date: 27.01.2017

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