

## Delhi man sentenced to death for 2009 murder of 11-year-old boy



New Delhi, Oct 6 (IANS) A Delhi court on Tuesday sentenced a convict to death for kidnapping and brutally murdering an 11-year-old boy in 2009, saying the crime fell under the 'rarest of the rare' category. The parents of the minor broke down after the order was pronounced in the open court in Rohini.

Additional Sessions Judge Shivaji Anand said: "I am of the considered opinion that the act of the convict was cruel and gruesome while committing the murder of an innocent child, who was hardly 12 years of age. For

such an act, the convict does not deserve any leniency and the life imprisonment is highly inadequate. So, there is no alternative but to impose the death sentence."

"Considering the totality of the aggravating and mitigating circumstances, I am of the considered opinion that this case falls in the category of rarest of rare cases, which warrants death sentence," the court added.

The court also ordered life imprisonment for kidnapping, seven years for disappearance of evidence and another seven years for

criminal intimidation.

Jeevek Nagpal was earlier held guilty under Sections 364 (kidnapping for ransom), 302 (murder), 201 (disappearance of evidence), 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code. On March 18, 2009, the minor was kidnapped by his neighbour Jeevek Nagpal, who later sent messages to the boy's father for ransom. Nagpal also threatened that in case the ransom demand was not met, the child would be killed.

Nagpal later murdered the boy by hitting him with a car jack lever and smothering him. He later threw the body into a drain. The counsel for the complainant, Prashant Diwan, told the court that there was no remorse in the convict as even after murdering the child, he was sending SMSes to the boy's father.

## Oppositions outrage based on 'vote bank': BJP Gen Secy



New Delhi, Oct 6 (IANS) The BJP on Tuesday criticised the atrocities on Dalits "anywhere in India, regardless of whoever is in power".

Answering to a question put forward by a reporter, the party's newly appointed General secretary Dushyant Gautam also slammed the opposition for their selective outrage based on "vote banks".

"If Dalits, poor, workers or

a daughter is raped or murdered in the country, it's a pathetic crime, regardless of whoever is in power," said Gautam.

He added that there have been four "incidents" after the horrific killing and alleged gang-rape of a Dalit girl in Hathras -- in Kerala, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

Gautam said he was "hurt" at the "pick and

choose" policy over the outrage based on the party in power. "When people go there thinking whether they will get the vote of one community, it is to create a divide in the country and to weave a conspiracy," Gautam alleged. He also hit out at RJD leader Tejaswi Yadav for an alleged conversation in hushed voice caught by the microphone where Yadav could be heard talking about keeping a moment's silence seemingly aimed at garnering Dalit votes.

Gautam claimed that the NDA will do well in Bihar, saying 85 per cent Indians, including opposition leaders, favoured Narendra Modi. He also termed the recent killing of a BJP worker in West Bengal as "murder of democracy".

The bench also asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, that the

## Night traffic at Ashram Chowk to be affected due to repair work



New Delhi, Oct 6 (IANS) The Delhi traffic police has cautioned commuters to avoid Ashram Chowk towards Bhogal on Mathura Road during night hours between 10 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. from Tuesday to Thursday.

"Construction of underpass is going on at Ashram Chowk.

Due to leakage of water on Mathura Road, a portion of the road is slowly sinking causing uneven potholes which hinder the smooth flow of traffic.

This problem is endemic

be carrying out emergency repairs from Tuesday to Thursday.

"Due to ongoing work of Delhi Jal Board, from 10.00 p.m. to 6.30 a.m. traffic will not be allowed from Ashram Chowk towards Bhogal on Mathura Road. Besides, commercial vehicles and buses would be diverted from CRRI onto Modi Mill flyover."

They will take a u-turn from below Kalkaji flyover, take Capt Gaur Marg, Ring Road to cross Ashram flyover," the officer added.

According to Delhi traffic police, in order to prevent further deterioration of the road, Delhi Jal Board will

be carrying out emergency

repairs from Tuesday to

Thursday.

The top court also asked Singh why the court was moved when the stubble burning issue is around the corner, instead he should have moved the apex court much earlier.

Singh submitted that his clients have come across NASA images, which show stubble burning fires at many places.

The PIL said it is on record

that stubble burning contributes almost 40 per cent of air pollution in Delhi and cited the Harvard University study that air pollution may now be an important factor that aggravates a mild Covid infection into an acute one.

The petitioners also cited another study at Louisiana State University, which found that increased air pollution can of

## Anti-stubble liquid spray for Delhi farms from October 11



New Delhi, Oct 6 (IANS) The Delhi government on Tuesday started preparing a liquid solution for spraying over the 700-hectare farm fields in the national capital to curb stubble burning. The spraying of this solution will start from October 11.

The Delhi government will provide the mixture and the entire spraying system to the farmers free of cost.

The process of preparing the solution goes on for nearly seven days. The Delhi government said it has started the work and nearly 1,200 farmers who want to adopt this technique have registered. It will start spraying solutions on the farm lands of the registered farmers soon, the Delhi government added.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal earlier on Tuesday visited Kharkhari Nahar village to review the bio-decomposer process, under which capsules

produced by Pusa Agricultural Institute are mixed with readily available inputs to create a fermented liquid solution for spraying on the farm fields.

Kejriwal said the entire cost of creating the liquid solution for spraying on 700-hectare farm fields in Delhi is just Rs 20 lakh.

"I hope this will prove to be an effective alternative for the neighbouring states as well," added the Delhi Chief Minister.

"Today (Tuesday) onwards, the Delhi government has started the process of preparing this solution under the guidance of Pusa Research Institute and will be starting the process of spraying it on the fields across Delhi from October 11."

Kejriwal also met farmers and scientists to discuss the working and efficacy of the process. Addressing the media, Kejriwal said, "The harvesting

of paddy leaves behind hard stubble on the farm fields. One of the main issues faced by farmers was to get rid of the stubble on the farm fields owing to the less time between the harvesting and sowing season of the crops."

The farmers would resort to stubble burning due to which the healthy bacteria on the farm fields would be damaged. The smoke came as a health hazard for the farmers and their families and people living in those villages and would cover entire north India with haze.

"As per the statement by Delhi government, the stubble burning in the city is significantly less than in the neighbouring states. The stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and other states, however, contributes nearly 45 per cent to air pollution in Delhi," it said.

## Police at times doesn't enforce laws under lawmakers' pressure: SC

New Delhi, Oct 6 (IANS) Pointing out that a large number of cases were pending against sitting and former MPs and MLAs, the Supreme Court on Tuesday said one of the reasons for the situation was that police did not at times enforce laws under pressure from the lawmakers.

The observation was made by a bench comprising Justices NV Ramana, Surya Kant and Aniruddha Bose, while hearing a PIL filed by BJP leader Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay to seek speedy disposal of criminal cases pending against members of Parliament and members of the Legislative Assembly.

The bench also asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, that the

Union government should take a call on the speedy disposal of these cases.

The bench noted that the High Courts have also asked for videoconferencing facilities for the speedy disposal of pending cases. The bench asked Mehta to take instructions from authorities concerned on the issue of financing in the matter.

In response, Mehta said that the funding for videoconference facility would not be an issue and suggested that the top court issue directions to the Director General of Police in each state to ensure timely summonses.

The bench, after a brief hearing in the matter, adjourned it for next week and noted that in the meanwhile, the High Courts could send their recom-

mendations and action plans to the officials concerned.

A report filed by Senior Advocate Vijay Hansaria in the apex court said that 4,859 cases were pending against sitting and former lawmakers, denoting a jump of over 400 cases since March when it was 4,442.

"Some High Courts have sought directions for the conduct of trials through videoconferences, where the accused/witnesses are in another district/state, without the re-

quirement of physical presence of the accused/witnesses," said the report.

The report also gave a detailed break-up of cases pending against sitting and former lawmakers in all the states. As many as 1,374 cases are pending in Uttar Pradesh, followed by 557 in Bihar.

The report said that all High Courts have favoured the establishment of safe and secure 'Witness Examination Rooms' with videoconference facility.

## IPL betting module busted in Delhi, 6 nabbed



New Delhi, Oct 6 (IANS) An IPL cricket betting module has been busted by Delhi Police and six persons have been arrested from Maidan Garhi in south Delhi.

Laptops, mobile phones and over Rs 1 lakh used as stake money have been recovered after a police team raided Rajpur Khurd village near Shiv Gorakh Mandir in south Delhi in an enclosed premises in which a property dealer's office was also situated.

On October 5, information was received by Delhi Police Special Staff that some people were running a betting module on an Indian Premier League match between Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bangalore, in the area of Rajpur

were being maintained. In one mobile phone, a live cricket match was being telecast and on other phone, rates of bets were being announced," said Atul Thakur, DCP South Delhi.

A case under section 4/5 Public Gambling Act at Maidan

Garhi police station has been registered.

The accused have been identified as Gaurav Sejwal, Sahil Luthra, Mohit Dagar, Hemant Dalal and Sanjay Rathi.

"Interrogation of accused persons is on," the officer added. Earlier in September, the Delhi Police had arrested two gamblers involved in a betting on an IPL match and a case of gambling was registered at Punjabi Bagh police station of west Delhi.

In another case, at least three persons were arrested from Indirapuram in Ghaziabad for IPL betting after the police raided their premises in September and seized laptops, mobile phones and a car from their possession.

## CJI: Will smoke from stubble burning kill Coronavirus?

New Delhi, Oct 6 (IANS) The Supreme Court on Tuesday wanted to know whether the smoke produced from stubble burning could kill the novel Coronavirus as cases in India inched closer to 67 lakh while 1,03,569 lost the battle against the pandemic.

Chief Justice S.A. Bobde asked the question during a hearing of a PIL against the seasonal stubble burning exercise in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. "Will the smoke kill the Coronavirus?" Chief Justice Bobde said.

The smoke would not kill the coronavirus, but it would certainly worsen the situation and contribute towards its spread, said senior advocate Vikas Singh, representing the petitioners citing scientific study.

The PIL has been moved in the Supreme Court seeking directions to the Punjab and Haryana governments to ban stubble burning, which usually takes place between September and December every year, in the backdrop of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Singh, represented a law student Aman Banka and a Class 12 student Aditya Dubey.

Amicus Curiae senior advocate Aparajita Singh submitted before the court that states have failed to act as per their assurances to take measures to contain stubble burning.

The Chief Justice asked Singh to give the court the name of the experts on the stubble burning matter. "Need some impartial people," noted the bench.

The top court also asked Singh why the court was moved when the stubble burning issue is around the corner, instead he should have moved the apex court much earlier.

Singh submitted that his clients have come across NASA images, which show stubble burning fires at many places.

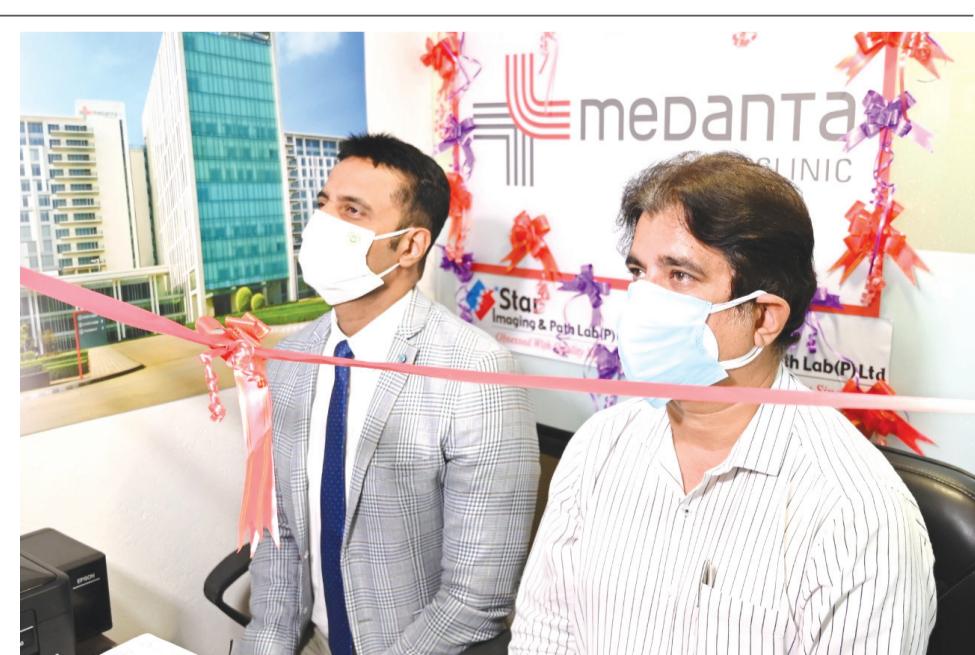
The PIL said it is on record that stubble burning contributes almost 40 per cent of air pollution in Delhi and cited the Harvard University study that air pollution may now be an important factor that aggravates a mild Covid infection into an acute one.

The petitioners also cited another study at Louisiana State University, which found that increased air pollution can of

fer a direct pathway for airborne transmission of Covid-19.

"Thus, any increase in the air pollution levels of Delhi-NCR this year while the Covid-19 pandemic is spiralling out of control, will exponentially increase the mortality rates due to Covid-19, comprising the respiratory system of the citizens, more so in case of senior citizens and children," said the plea. The petitioners argued that the consequences of allowing any stubble burning to take place amid the ongoing pandemic may be catastrophic.

The plea contended that the top court has already seized the matter and issued many directions earlier for taking long term measures for controlling air pollution in Delhi.



**Medanta E-clinic inauguration at Star Imaging & Path Lab to help the patients for timely consultation from the Expert Physician timely in New Delhi.**