

Gangster stabbed inside Tihar Jail

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The war between Tillu Tajpuriya and Gogi gangs took another victim, when a prisoner was stabbed in a fight that broke out inside the Tihar Jail Number 3, according to police.

The injured, Hitesh, a murder case undertrial, was rushed to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, where he is under treatment, they said on Thursday.

The fight had allegedly broken out Wednesday around 11.15 am between Hitesh, a member of Gogi gang, and two others from Tillu Tajpuriya gang, an officer said.

A police source said that Hitesh was stabbed with a weapon similar to an ice-pick.

"On Wednesday, a matter was reported in Hari Nagar Police Station from DDU that an injured man from Tihar jail has been brought to the hospital. Based on that, the local police reached the hospital and inquired about the matter," Deputy Commissioner of Police (west) Vichitra Veer said.



"The names of the persons who attacked Hitesh have come as Gaurav Lohra and Gurinder. As of now, the confirmation about the identity of the attackers is a matter of investigation. Hitesh sustained injuries and was shifted to the DDU hospital," he said.

The officer said Hitesh has been in jail since 2019, while Gaurav and Gurinder are undergoing trial in cases of murder and attempted murder.

"Based on the nature of injuries, a case under Section 307 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been registered and the investigation is being conducted," the DCP added.

A sources from inside the prison said that Hitesh was talking with other inmates, when the two approached him and started an argument with him.

"Soon the verbal spat turned into a scuffle and one of the accused stabbed him with ice-pick. Hitesh was immediately rushed to a hospital and jail authorities informed the matter to the police," the source said.

There are no VIP leaders lodged in jail number 3, the person said.

Gangster Tajpuriya was stabbed to death by several members of a rival gang in the same jail in May last year.

SC directs HP to release 137 cusecs surplus water for Delhi, asks Haryana to facilitate flow

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The acute shortage of drinking water has become an "existential problem" in Delhi, the Supreme Court observed on Thursday and directed the Himachal Pradesh government to release 137 cusecs of surplus water to the national capital on Friday and Haryana to facilitate its flow.

The apex court also said there should be no politics over water.

A vacation bench of Justices P K Mishra and K V Viswanathan noted that the Himachal Pradesh government is willing to release 137 cusecs of surplus water available with it for Delhi.

One cusec (cubic foot per second) is equal to 28.317 litres of liquid flow every second.

"Since Himachal Pradesh has no objection and is ready and willing to release the surplus water available with it, we direct that Himachal Pradesh shall release 137 cusecs of surplus water available with it from the



upstream so that the water reaches Hathnikund barrage and reaches Delhi through Wazirabad," the bench said.

Considering the urgency in the matter, the bench directed Himachal Pradesh to release the water on June 7 with prior intimation to Haryana.

It said the Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB) shall measure the excess water which comes to Hathnikund for its onward supply to Wazirabad and Delhi.

"As and when the surplus water is released with prior information to Haryana by the state of Himachal Pradesh, the state of

Haryana shall facilitate the flow of surplus water so released by Himachal Pradesh to Hathnikund and to Wazirabad so that it reaches Delhi uninterruptedly and is made available for the citizens of Delhi for drinking water," the bench ordered.

"A status report be submitted before this court on Monday (June 10)," it said.

It also asked the Delhi government to ensure water received for the parched national capital is not wasted.

The apex court said the Delhi government and the respondents, including Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, shall file their compliance affidavits by Monday.

The bench, which was hearing a plea filed by the Delhi government seeking a direction to Haryana to release the surplus water provided by Himachal Pradesh to the national capital to mitigate its ongoing water crisis, posted the matter for further hearing on June 10.

While hearing the matter on June 3, the apex court had asked for an emergent meeting of the UYRB on June 5 to address the issue.

The UYRB was set up in 1995 with one of its main functions being to regulate the allocation of available flows amongst the beneficiary states and also monitor and review the progress of all projects up to and including Okhla barrage in Delhi. The

beneficiary states include Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.

During the hearing on Thursday, the bench observed that a meeting was convened on June 5 and issues concerning water crisis faced by Delhi were discussed.

"The above discussions recorded by the board would clearly reveal that the members/stake holders participating in the meeting have not contradicted or disputed that there are extraordinary heat wave conditions in Delhi which is facing acute shortage of drinking water," the bench noted.

It said though the board recorded that Haryana was also facing similar heat wave conditions, there was no material before the court that there was acute drinking water crisis in Haryana.

It noted the board eventually recommended that to meet the drinking water requirements during the present summer season or before the onset of monsoon on June 30, the Delhi government may send a formal request to Haryana to consider releasing 150 cusecs of additional water on humanitarian grounds.

The bench said it can be concluded that the board was of the view that Delhi tentatively needed 150 cusecs of additional water to meet the demand for drinking water.

It said the counsel appearing for Himachal Pradesh has produced before it a chart which includes data of surplus water available there.

"The break-up of the surplus water available with Himachal Pradesh is provided in the document, according to which, between the period from March to June, 137 cusecs surplus water is

available with Himachal Pradesh," the bench noted.

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the Delhi government, said

"We requested with folded hands. Himachal Pradesh has no objection. Haryana objects. The board at the end says since Haryana objects, you (Delhi) write to Haryana. We wrote to Haryana, we have received no reply. That is the summary of whole thing."

"It is an existential problem," the bench told Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Vikramjit Banerjee, who was appearing for the Centre.

The ASG referred to the minutes of the meeting and said it has been noted that Haryana has indicated that similar extraordinary heat wave conditions are also prevailing there leading to excessive demand of water, both in rural and urban areas.

The bench told the counsel appearing for Haryana that the Himachal Pradesh government has acknowledged surplus water is available with them.

"Water is to come from Himachal, not from Haryana," the bench said, adding, "There is only (the question of) passage. Please do not stand on this. It is a serious problem. If we don't take cognisance, it will not be proper at all".

Singhvi said Himachal Pradesh has shown grace and magnanimity but Haryana was saying no.

"Tomorrow, there should be no politics that water is released by Himachal Pradesh and it is not supplied by Haryana," the bench said, adding, "there should be no politics on water".

While INDIA bloc partners AAP and Congress rule Delhi and Himachal Pradesh, respectively, Haryana has a BJP government.

Rajkot fire tragedy: HC asks why civic chief was not suspended for 'inaction'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AHMEDABAD: The Gujarat High Court on Thursday came down heavily on the state government over the Rajkot game zone fire that killed 27 persons last month, and sought to know why the then chief of the local civic body was not suspended for not taking action against the facility that was being run without permission.

The high court expressed anger after learning that though a demolition notice was served to the TRP Game Zone, where the devastating fire took place on May 25, by the Rajkot Municipal Corporation (RMC) in June last year, no action was taken for one year against the facility by the civic body, whose commissioner was Anand Patel at that time.

A special bench of Justices Biren Vaishnav and Devan Desai of the high court was hearing a suo motu PIL it had taken up on May 26, a day after the fire accident at TRP Game Zone in Rajkot.

During a hearing held on Thursday, RMC's lawyer G H Virk, through an affidavit, informed the court that no periodic checks were carried out by the RMC's fire department at the TRP Game Zone and there was no compliance of the safety measures in accordance with the Fire Safety Act.

It was also revealed during



the hearing that the game zone owners never applied for any fire NOC and the facility was running without any police permission, which is mandatory under section 33(w) of the Gujarat Police Act.

The court was also apprised of the RMC's Town Planning Department knew about the illegal structure and a notice for demolition was given in June 2023. Prior to that, a notice was also given in April 2023 to remove the unauthorized construction under the provisions of the Municipal Corporation Act.

"So you fired the Town Planning Officer. But why was the then municipal commissioner not suspended? The responsibility lies at the top. A demolition order was passed in June 2023. Then what happened after that? You rested in peace till 27 lives were lost. You did nothing for one year," said

Justice Vaishnav.

He even asked why Indian Penal Code (IPC) section 302 (murder) should not be invoked against IAS officer Patel, who was the commissioner at the time of the incident and then transferred without a posting by the state government.

In the RMC's defence, Virk told the bench that Patel was unaware of the unauthorised structure because fire officers of the RMC never marked any communication regarding the game zone to Patel ever since it came up on a piece of land in 2021.

Advocate General Kamal Trivedi assured the bench that action will be taken once the state government-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) submits its final report.

Trivedi said the SIT has been given a deadline to submit its report by June 20.

When Justice Vaishnav

asked if the state government intends to fix the responsibility of senior officers in such situations, Trivedi said the government was waiting for the final SIT report for further action.

"RMC officers neither took action against the management nor did they bring the game zone issue to Patel's notice. SIT has named these officials. They cannot get away from the clutches of law. I assure you," Trivedi said, adding that the state government has refused to grant any extension to the SIT and the probe panel has been asked to submit a

report by June 20.

When Trivedi said since India is a democratic country and officials cannot be sent to the gallows without any probe, Justice Vaishnav said, "They have to go to the gallows if they are guilty."

"This time, we want to see that no municipal commissioner, incumbent or present, of all municipal corporations, must be held personally liable for such incidents. They can not just sit in officers and pass on the buck," said Vaishnav.

The bench has scheduled the further hearing on June 13.

Extensive campaigns indicate Kejriwal not suffering from life-threatening ailment: Delhi court

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The extensive campaigning tours and related events undertaken by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal indicate that he does not appear to be suffering from any serious or "life threatening" ailment, a Delhi court has held while denying him interim bail.

In yet another setback to Kejriwal, the court on Wednesday dismissed his application for interim bail on medical grounds in the money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam, as reported by the PTI.

The extensive campaigning tours and related meetings/events undertaken by Arvind Kejriwal as highlighted during the course of arguments indicate that he does not appear to be suffering from any serious or 'life threatening' ailment so as to entitle him to the benefit," Special Judge Kaveri Baweja said.

The judge also extended Kejriwal's judicial custody till June 19.

The court is scheduled to take up on June 7 his application seeking default bail in the case.

In the order, the judge further held that grant of interim bail for conducting tests in order to determine if high



ketone levels or the stated weight loss could have caused Diabetic Ketoacidosis "stands on an even weaker footing than a medical ground".

"Apparently, as per the Applicant himself, he seeks interim bail for 'diagnosis' of an anticipated ailment which, cannot be said to be a valid ground for the relief prayed for, particularly when this concern can be addressed while the Applicant is in custody... There appears to be no reason as to why such diagnostic tests of the Applicant cannot be got conducted while he is in custody," the judge said.

The judge, however, directed the Tihar jail authorities to take care of his medical needs in judicial custody.

"Since the health concerns of the accused must be addressed immediately, the Medical Board of AIIMS, which was directed to be con-

stituted vide order dated April 22, 2024 of this court, is hereby directed to be revived and/or re-constituted, if deemed fit by the Director, AIIMS, New Delhi, having regard to the nature of ailments the Applicant is stated to be suffering from," the judge said.

The Medical Board shall, besides complying with the earlier order dated April 22, also examine the applicant and prescribe such diagnostic tests as deemed appropriate within three days, the judge said.

"The jail authorities shall ensure that the prescribed recommended tests/evaluations of the applicant are conducted without any delay. Upon receipt of the Test Reports, the Medical Board shall prescribe the further necessary treatment as may be required and the Jail Authorities shall ensure that the treatment so prescribed

by the Medical Board is provided to the Applicant forthwith, under intimation to this court," the judge said.

During the hearing on Saturday, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had opposed the application, saying he campaigned throughout the Lok Sabha elections but "now when he has to surrender, he suddenly claims to be ill".

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener surrendered on Sunday at the Tihar jail as the tenure of his interim bail granted by the Supreme Court expired on June 1.

The case relates to alleged corruption and money laundering in the formulation and execution of the Delhi government's now-scrapped excise policy for 2021-22.

The judge had observed that the application was for the grant of interim bail on medical grounds and not for the extension of the interim bail granted by the Supreme Court.

The top court had on May 10 granted 21-day interim bail to the chief minister to enable him to campaign during the Lok Sabha polls. It had directed him to surrender on June 2, a day after the last phase of the seven-phase poll got over.

Kejriwal campaigned in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab,

Delhi and Maharashtra after being released on interim bail.

During the hearing of his application, Kejriwal's counsel told the court that he was ill and needed treatment.

The ED's counsel opposed the application, citing his campaign during the Lok Sabha polls and his "sudden" claim about being ill.

Seeking the relief, Kejriwal's counsel told the court that despite his ill health, the AAP leader campaigned because that was the purpose for which the interim bail was granted by the Supreme Court.

"Stress due to the campaign increased his sugar level. Today, when I (Kejriwal) go back to jail without tests being done, I am subjecting myself to risks. This is only to ensure the fact that the treatment given to me is in conformity to the ailment I have."

"I am not asking for interim bail for two months or three months. What is the prejudice that it will cause to them?" the counsel said.

The court has, meanwhile, sought the ED's response by June 7 on Kejriwal's another application seeking regular bail in the case.

Drugs worth Rs 8 crore seized in Assam, 2 arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GUWAHATI: Police have seized 'Yaba' tablets worth Rs 8 crore and arrested two persons from Karbi Anglong district of Assam, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

"In an anti-narcotics drive carried out by @karbianglong-pol... a vehicle was intercepted at Dillai Point and 40,000 YABA tablets worth Rs 8 cr were seized," Sarma said in a post on X.

In the operation, two persons have been apprehended in connection with transportation of the drugs, he said.

'Yaba' contains addictive stimulant methamphetamine and caffeine.

The CM also lauded the efforts of the Assam Police towards making the state drug-free.

Govt asks states, UTs to review availability of heat stroke rooms at health facilities



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: With many parts of the country in the grip of a heatwave, the Centre has asked states and Union territories to conduct follow-up reviews to ensure dedicated heat stroke rooms at all health facilities besides implementing critical fire and electrical safety measures.

Dr Atul Goel, Director General of Health Services (DGHS), Union Health Ministry conducted a virtual review meeting with states and UTs to assess the preparedness for heat-wave conditions and fire safety measures adopted by various healthcare facilities across the country.

State Health departments have been issued advisories and asked to

implement guidelines on strengthening health systems preparedness for Heat-Related Illnesses (HRI) besides issuing a public health advisory with do's and don'ts.

They have been urged to follow the guidelines on emergency cooling for severe heat-related illnesses and autopsy findings in heat related deaths.

State health departments have been asked to adhere to the joint communication from Secretary (Health), MoHFW and NDMA and a communication from Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) on health facility fire safety measures and checklist for assessment of health facility and ambulance preparedness to prevent

and manage impact of heat.

Earlier on March 23, states and UTs were asked to take proactive measures to prevent devastating incidents caused by extreme heat. This was followed by another letter on May 29 for taking all preventive measures in respect to fire safety.

Measures to be undertaken by states and UTs, include implementation of Heat Health Action Plan, dissemination of early warning of heat waves issued by IMD, sensitisation and capacity building of health care staff on HRI symptoms, case identification, clinical management and surveillance.

The ministry also stressed on conducting regular preventive fire risk assessment drills to identify potentially vulnerable areas and implementing appropriate fire prevention measures, such as proper storage of flammable materials and regular and optimal preventive maintenance of electrical circuits and systems and establishing an emergency response plan with SOPs for evacuating patients, staff, and visitors in the event of a fire.