

## Nirav Modi loses appeal against extradition to India

LONDON, Nov 9:

Fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi on Wednesday lost his appeal against extradition to India on mental health grounds as the High Court in London ruled that his risk of suicide is not such that it would be either unjust or oppressive to extradite him to face charges of fraud and money laundering.

Lord Justice Jeremy Stuart-Smith and Justice Robert Jay, who presided over the appeal hearing at the Royal Courts of Justice earlier this year, said in their verdict that District Judge Sam Goozee's Westminster Magistrates' Court order from last year in favour of extradition was "sound".

The leave to appeal in the High Court had been granted on two grounds related to mental health - under Article 3 of the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR) and Section 91 of the Extradition Act 2003.

The 51-year-old fugitive diamond merchant has the option of further appeals in the UK and European courts and the process to bring him back to stand trial in India is unlikely to be a speedy one.

"Pulling these various strands together and weighing them in the balance so as to reach an overall evaluative judgment on the question raised by Section 91, we are far from satisfied that Mr Modi's mental condition and the risk of suicide are such that it would be either unjust or oppressive to extradite him," states the ruling, handed down remotely.

"It may be that the main benefit of the appeal has been to obtain the extensive further [Indian Government] assurances that we have identified in the course of this judgment, which render the position clear to Mr Modi's advantage and the District Judge's decision supportable," the judges ruled.

Their verdict also finds every reason to accept that the Government of India (GOI) will treat its assurances with "appropriate seriousness", enhanced by the fact that this is a high-profile case so that the care of Nirav Modi, who remains behind bars at Wandsworth Prison in south-west London since his arrest in March 2019, is likely to be subject to "heightened scrutiny" at all times.

"The GOI will surely appreciate that a failure to honour its assurances would be liable to have a significant adverse effect on the mutual trust that forms the basis of the extradition regime to which India and the United Kingdom are parties," the judges said. The judgment notes three sets of criminal proceedings against the diamondaire in India - the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) case of fraud on the Punjab National Bank (PNB) which caused losses equivalent to over GBP 700 million, the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) case relating to the alleged laundering of the proceeds of that fraud and a third set of criminal proceedings involving alleged interference with evidence and witnesses in the CBI proceedings.

Then UK Home Secretary, Priti Patel, had ordered Nirav's extradition based on Judge Goozee's ruling in April last year and the case has been undergoing an appeals process since then.

The High Court ruling this week accepts that Nirav's risk of suicide in the event of extradition may be characterised as "high" or "substantial" but concludes that the risk of deterioration of the underlying depression and the risk of suicide cannot be considered in a vacuum.

"On the basis of the assurances that the GOI has given, we accept that there will be suitable medical provision and an appropriate plan in place for the management and medical care of Mr Modi, which will be provided in the knowledge that he is a suicide risk (i.e. a person who, in the absence of preventative measures, may or will attempt suicide and will or may succeed)," the ruling states.

"The evidence does not support a finding that the assured steps will eliminate the risk that Mr Modi will commit suicide altogether, still less the risk that he will attempt to do so," it notes.

Based on expert witness testimony, the verdict concludes that Nirav has so far displayed no features of psychotic illness and although he has exhibited "persistent suicidal ideation", he has neither attempted suicide or deliberate self-harm nor disclosed plans to do so, except in the "most vague and general way". (PTI)

## NEET-PG to be replaced with National Exit Test for MBBS students

NEW DELHI, Nov 9:

The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Postgraduate (NEET-PG) scheduled for April-May next year could be the last such examination as the admission to PG medical courses thereafter will be based on the results of the National Exit Test to be taken by final-year MBBS students, officials have said.

At a high-level held on Monday, the National Medical Commission (NMC) is learnt to have conveyed to the Union Health Ministry that it intends to conduct the National Exit Test (NEXT) in December 2023, official sources said on Wednesday.

If held in December 2023, MBBS students of the 2019-2020 batch will have to appear for the exam. The results of the exam will also be used for

admission to postgraduate medical courses from the 2024-2025 batch, they said.

According to the NMC Act, NEXT will serve as a common qualifying final-year MBBS exam, a licentiate exam to practise modern medicine and for merit-based admission to postgraduate courses and a screening exam for foreign medical graduates who want to practice in India.

The Government had invoked in September the relevant provisions of the NMC Act to extend the time limit for conducting NEXT till September 2024.

According to the law, the commission had to conduct a common final-year undergraduate medical examination, NEXT, as specified by regulations within three years of it coming into force. (PTI)

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### Symptoms of Dengue



- Abrupt onset of High Fever.
- Severe Frontal Headache .
- Pain behind the Eyes, which worsens with eye movement.
- Muscle, Bone and Joint pains.
- Nausea, Vomiting.
- Skin Rash.
- In severe forms of Dengue, Bleeding from nose, mouth & gums due to internal bleeding.

### How to Prevent

- Avoid water stagnation as mosquito responsible for Dengue breeds in stagnant water.
- Keep water containers tightly covered.
- Empty coolers and other small containers at least once a week.
- This mosquito is a Day biter, wear clothes that cover full body.
- Use mosquito repellent sprays, creams etc.
- Use mosquito nets (preferably medicated) while sleeping.

### Free Diagnostic facility for Dengue is available at :

- Govt. Medical College, Jammu.
- Govt. Medical College, Kathua.
- Govt. Medical College, Rajouri.
- Govt. Medical College, Doda.
- Govt. Hospital Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.
- Govt. Hospital Sarwal, Jammu.
- District Hospital, Samba.
- District Hospital, Udhampur.
- District Hospital, Poonch.
- Provincial Lab. IDSP Kashmir, Srinagar.

All patients suffering from Dengue do not require platelets  
There is no specific medicine for Dengue, Paracetamol can be taken for fever  
**ASPIRIN SHOULD BE AVOIDED**

Visit nearest Health Facility Immediately if you have symptoms suggestive of Dengue



State Programme Officer/State Malariaologist  
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