

Courts must test evidence meticulously when FIR is delayed: SC

NEW DELHI, Sept 7:

Courts must be on guard and test evidence meticulously to rule out possibility of embellishments in the prosecution's story when an FIR is delayed and there is absence of proper explanation, the Supreme Court has said.

The Apex Court acquitted two people whose conviction and life sentence for the offence of murder in a case lodged in 1989 was affirmed by the Chhatisgarh High Court.

A bench of justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra noted that the accused were tried for allegedly murdering a man on August 25, 1989, while the FIR in the case was lodged the next day in Bilaspur district.

"When an FIR is delayed, in absence of proper explanation, the courts must be on guard and test the evidence meticulously to rule out possibility of embellishments in the prosecution story, inasmuch as delay gives opportunity for deliberation and guess work," the bench said in its verdict delivered on September 5.

"More so, in a case where probability of no one witnessing the incident is high, such as in a case of night occurrence in an open place or a public street," it said.

The bench delivered its verdict on the appeals filed by appellants -- Harilal and Parasram -- challenging the

February 2010 judgment of the high court which had affirmed the July 1991 order of a trial court convicting and sentencing them to life imprisonment for murder. It noted that three people were tried for allegedly committing the murder and the trial court had convicted all of them. They had filed separate appeals before the high court challenging their conviction, the bench noted, adding that proceedings against one of them stood abated consequent to his death during pendency of the appeal.

"In this case, we notice from the record that the trial court as well as the high court while appreciating the evidence have not properly addressed various aspects, namely, (a) there is no clear cut motive proved against the accused except that there was some incident concerning a lady of the village..." the bench observed.

It said although there might not have been a specific question put to the informant, who was a prosecution witness in the case, as regards the delay in lodging of the FIR, but the fact that "it was a delayed FIR cannot be ignored".

The bench observed that the statement of one of the eyewitnesses of the incident was inconsistent with his previous statement. It would be unsafe to rely on his testimony to convict the accused for the offence of

murder, it noted.

"No doubt, different people react differently to a given situation. But if it had truly been an issue between few individuals fighting on the street, natural course of human conduct would be to collect people to solve out issues," the bench said. "However, where villagers in general, and none in specific, assault a person accused of his involvement with a lady, it is quite natural for bystanders not to intervene," it said.

The bench said the prosecution has not been able to convincingly prove the genesis of the crime and the manner in which the murder took place and by whom. (PTI)

The bench observed that evidence led by the prosecution gives rise to a strong probability of the killing being a consequence of mob action on the deceased for his alleged involvement with the woman. (PTI)

"The judgment and order of the high court as well as of the trial court are set-aside. The appellants are acquitted of the charge for which they have been tried," it said, while allowing the appeals.

The Apex Court noted the appellants are reported to have been released on bail during the pendency of appeal and they need not surrender.

"In case they are not on bail, they should be released forthwith unless wanted in any other case," it said. (PTI)

Yatra to continue till hatred is eradicated: Rahul

NEW DELHI, Sept 7:

On the first anniversary of the launch of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, Congress leader Rahul



Gandhi on Thursday said the yatra will continue till hatred is eradicated and India is united.

Gandhi also shared a video montage on X of his over 4,000 km Kanyakumari to Kashmir yatra that was launched on this day last year.

In a post in Hindi, Gandhi said, "The crores of steps of Bharat Jodo Yatra towards unity and love have become the foundation of a better tomorrow for the country."

"The journey continues - till hatred is eradicated, till India unites. This is my promise!" the former Congress chief said.

During the course of the yatra, Gandhi addressed 12 public meetings, more than 100 street corner meetings and 13 press conferences. He had over 275 planned walking interactions and more than 100 sitting interactions.

Several experts had said a big takeaway from the yatra for

the Congress had been Gandhi's image transformation -- from a reluctant and part-time politician to one who is mature and taken seriously by opponents.

With over 4,000 kilometres under his belt, Gandhi had managed to catch the attention of his supporters as well as detractors.

The march saw participation from a cross-section of society, including film and TV celebrities such as Kamal Haasan, Pooja Bhatt, Riya Sen, Swara Bhasker, Rashmi Desai, Akanksha Puri and Amol Palekar.

Besides, writers and military veterans, including former Army chief Gen (Retd) Deepak Kapoor and ex-Navy chief Admiral (Retd) L Ramdas, and noted people such as former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan and ex-finance secretary Arvind Mayaram had also participated in the yatra.

Opposition leaders such as National Conference's Feroq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, PDP's Mehbooba Mufti, Shiv Sena's Aaditya Thackeray, Priyanka Chaturvedi and Sanjay Raut and NCP's Supriya Sule had also walked alongside Gandhi at various points in time during the march. (PTI)

25 Govt bills pending in RS

NEW DELHI, Sept 7:

As many as 25 Government bills, including the one dating back to 1992 pertaining to adopting a two-child norm for panchayat polls, are pending in the Rajya Sabha.

Among the pending bills are the Delhi Rent (Amendment) Bill, 1997 that seeks to regulate rent, repairs of rented premises and eviction of tenants in the national capital, and one on amending the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act to relax certain conditions for appointment of regulators, according to a bulletin by Rajya Sabha.

Normally, bills introduced in the Lok Sabha lapse with the dissolution of the House. However, Rajya Sabha being a continuing chamber is not subject to dissolution, and bills introduced and pending in this House remain on the live register, unless withdrawn by the Government.

The Constitution (79th Amendment) Bill 1992 dealing with the adoption of two-child norm for panchayat polls is the oldest draft legislation pending in the Upper House of Parliament.

"The Constitution (79th Amendment Bill, 1992) has

been pending in the Parliament due to lack of consensus among political parties in favour of the Bill," the Government told the Lok Sabha in 2005 in reply to a written question by Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav.

Among other bills pending are provisions of the Municipalities (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Bill, 2001; The Seeds Bill, 2004; The Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy Pharmacy Bill, 2005; The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2008; The Mines (Amendment) Bill, 2011; and The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2011.

The pending bills also include the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council (Repeal) Bill, 2012; The Building and Other Construction Workers Related Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2013; The Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Amendment Bill, 2013; The Rajasthan Legislative Council Bill, 2013; The Registration (Amendment) Bill, 2013; and The Delhi Rent (Repeal) Bill,

2013. Also among the pending draft legislations are The Assam Legislative Council Bill, 2013, The Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies (Third) Bill, 2013, The Waqf Properties (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Bill, 2014, The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2019 related to Assam; and The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Amendment) Bill, 2019.

Among the pending bills are The Registration of Marriage of Non Resident Indian Bill, 2019; The Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019; and The Pesticide Management Bill, 2020.

The Repealing and Amending Bill, 2023, The Post Office Bill, 2023 and the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023 were introduced by the Government in the recently concluded monsoon session of Parliament. (PTI)

Rana re-elected as SD Sabha president

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, Sept 7: A meeting of Jatota Gandoh residents was held at Jatota here today under the chairmanship of retired Head Master, Manmohan Singh to conduct election for the president of Sanatan Dharma (SD) Sabha Jatota Gandoh.

People from different areas were present in the meeting wherein they unanimously decided that Harnad Singh Rana will continue as SD Sabha president.

Blood donation camp on Sheikh's death anniversary organised

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 7: In connection with the 41st death anniversary of Late Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, a blood donation camp was organized at J&K National Conference office in Jammu today.

The camp, organized by Bimbla Luthra, a former (MLA), was inaugurated by Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial president of National Conference for Jammu in presence of senior party leaders Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Abdul Gani Malik former Minister, Vijay Lochan, Rakesh Singh Raka, Dilshad Malik, Pinky Khalsa, Rashpal Singh and Dr Sheikh Amina.

The blood donation camp aimed to pay tribute to the late Sheikh Mohd Abdullah, a visionary leader and a prominent figure in the history of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Rattan Lal Gupta emphasized the importance of serving humanity and carrying forward Sheikh Abdullah's legacy. He stated, "Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah was not only a political leader but also a humanitarian who always prioritized the welfare of the people."

Pakistani flags attached with balloons found

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Sept 7: In two separate incidents, Pakistani flags attached with balloons were found in Majalta and Ramnagar area, here this morning.



Pak flag attached with balloons, which was found in Ramnagar at Thursday morning.

According to the police report, a Pakistani flag attached with balloons was found hanging from a tree in village Satriari of Majalta tehsil, about 10 AM today. The flag was attached with posters and red green balloons.

SHO Majalta Rakesh Kumar said that acting on an information that few locals had spotted a Pakistani flag with balloons in village Satriari, all the material was taken into custody for further investigation.

Meanwhile, Police Station Ramnagar also received an informed that few locals had spot-

ted at Jatota and Gandoh while Kher Singh was nominated as general secretary of the Sabha.

Speakers in the meeting lauded the works done by Rana for the welfare of Hindu community in the area.

A handout stated that Rana is being unanimously elected as SD Sabha president for the last 17 years.

Sabha members present in the meeting were Kuldeep Singh Kotwal, Pardeep Kotwal, Bagha Mal and others.



CEO Dr Ashok Dalwai during his visit to MRCFC Khudwani at Subhanpora on Thursday.

CEO NRAA visits MRCFC Khudwani, interacts with progressive farmers

Excelsior Correspondent

ANANTNAG, Sept 7: CEO, National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA), Dr Ashok Dalwai, today visited Mountain Research Centre for Field Crops (MRCFC), Khudwani and Paddy SR-IV Seed village Subhanpora and took stock of the agriculture activities in the areas.

The CEO was accompanied by VC SKUAST Professor Nazir Ahmad Ganie; Director Agriculture Kashmir, Director Extension SKUAST Kashmir, Director Research SKUAST Kashmir, ADC Kulgam, Dean Faculty of Agriculture Wadara SKUAST Kashmir and scientists from Mountain Research Centre for Field Crops, Khudwani.

During the visit to MRCFC-Khudwani, he reviewed the progress of on-going research programmes at the center.

Associate Director Research (MRCFC), Prof. N.R. Sofi, briefed the Secretary about the progress and distinguished achievements of the center.

During the field visit, Dr Ashok Dalwai was impressed by the incredible local germplasm conservation programme and its commercial utilization.

He was highly impressed

with the lot of genetic variability created at the centre through indigenous breeding programme. He laid special emphasis on high value rice varieties like Mushk Budji, Kamad, red rice as well as recently released fine grain varieties like Shalimar Sugandhi and much improved advanced breeding lines to improve socio-economic development and livelihood security. He advised the scientists to coordinate with KVKS and development departments for their large-scale popularization.

CEO NRAA during the visit also held interaction with the progressive farmers and also took stock of the agriculture activities in the areas. He also reviewed the progress on various projects under holistic agriculture development programme.

Interacting with the farmers, CEO NRAA reiterated department's commitment to the development of agriculture and allied sectors in the region.

He impressed upon the young educated farmers to go for diverse agriculture activities like mushroom cultivation, bee keeping as a main source to earn income and livelihood.

The CEO also visited Paddy SR-IV Seed village Subhanpora and interacted with farmers.

Unidentified male body found

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 7: The dead body of an unidentified young man of age about 22 years was recovered today from Bus Stand area of Jammu.

"The body was found lying near old JDA Building at Bus Stand," a Police sources said, adding, the body of

the deceased was shifted to mortuary room of Government Medical College and Hospital, Jammu for identification or post-mortem.

Sources said inquest proceeding under Section 174 CrPc was initiated in this connection at Police Station Bus Stand.



Five vehicles seized for illegal mining

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 7: Jammu Police has seized five vehicle involved in illegal mining from different parts of the district in last 24 hours.

"While two tippers bearing registration numbers JK02BD-6131 and JK02BU-9630 were seized by Police Post Talab Tillo, 1 tractor trolley bearing chassis num-

ber MBNBUS3AAPTF64778 was seized by Police Post Phallin Mandal," a Police spokesman said.

He said one tractor trolley each without registration number was also seized by Police Post Jourian and Border Police Post Jogwan. The DMO Jammu was also intimidated about the same, the spokesman added.



Councillors during a press conference in Sopore.

6-Councillors resign

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 7: In a dramatic turn of events, six councillors have submitted their resignations to the Director of Urban Local Bodies, citing alleged mistreatment during a visit by Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha to Sopore.

The councillors allege that despite being elected representatives, they were not allowed to attend the event, sparking a wave of indignation among them. During a press conference held in Sopore, the aggrieved councillors expressed their dismay at being barred from the function, which they deemed disrespectful and humiliating.

They recounted how their efforts to access the event were thwarted by security personnel due to their lack of passes from the district administration. "You cannot equate us with the general public. We have been elected through a democratic process, and if our treatment as elected representatives continues like this, it calls into question the entire concept of a three-tier democratic system, the Panchayati Raj Act, and grassroots democracy," said Irfan Ali, one of the councillors.

Ali highlighted that such mistreatment has been an ongoing issue since the council's

inception. "The six of us councillors are resigning because we will not tolerate humiliation and disrespect. If the administration wishes to run a one-man show, they do not need us," he said. Ali also disclosed his attempts to communicate with the Additional Deputy Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner but claimed that his calls were ignored.

Abdul Ahad, another councillor, pointed out the sacrifices made by elected representatives during the elections, which took place in challenging circumstances when militancy was at its peak. "We appreciate the LG's presence here, but we were unjustly denied the opportunity to interact with him. Whether the Deputy Commissioner or any other official was responsible, we had the right to speak with him. Unfortunately, the gates were closed to us, citing a lack of permission from the Deputy Commissioner," he said.

The councillors raised questions about the motivation behind this exclusion, echoing LG Manoj Sinha's recent statement that those who speak the truth will be encouraged. "We have tirelessly worked for the welfare of the people, and yet we have been disrespected. Was our exclusion an attempt to stifle the truth?" questioned one councillor.

Chemist shop gutted in fire

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 7: A chemist shop completely gutted in a fire incident in Talab Tillo area of city outskirts.

According to Police sources, a



A chemist shop which gutted in a fire incident at Talab Tillo, Jammu.

mysterious fire broke out in a chemist shop 'R K Traders' situated in Talab Tillo area opposite to Vermani Showroom around 1 PM

The nearby shopkeepers immediately informed the owner of the shop as well as fire tenders. However, before the fire tenders reached the spot and controlled the fire, everything in the shop turned into ashes.

A team from Police Post Talab Tillo also reached the spot and called an FSL team, which collected samples of wiring and other electrical things inside the shop to know the exact reason of the fire. However, prima facie, it is believed that the fire occurred due to some short circuit inside the shop.

One held with illicit liquor

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 7: Arnia Police today arrested a bootlegger along with 80 bottles of illicit liquor.

"Acting on information that one person is selling illicit liquor in the area under the jurisdiction of Police Station Arnia, a police team led by SHO Arnia Inspector Deepak Katoch raided the suspected location and rounded up one suspected person namely

Dr Heer awarded prestigious UICC Fellowship in Gynae Oncology

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 7: Dr Vikas Heer, a practicing Surgical Oncologist from Jammu, has been awarded prestigious UICC Fellowship in Gynae Oncology from National Cancer Center

Cancer management and Dr Heer is the only surgical oncologist from J&K to have received this prestigious fellowship.

During his Gynae Oncology fellowship at National Cancer Center, Korea, Dr Vikas Heer was especially trained in advanced minimally invasive Gynae-Oncology Surgery including Robotic Surgery. He has also been trained in Cyto-reductive surgery and HIPEC.

As alumnus of Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Srinagar, Dr Heer has also been awarded Post doctoral fellowship Surgical Oncology by Tata Medical Center, Kolkata. He has also done Fellowship in Surgical Oncology from SMVDNSH, Jammu.

He is an experienced Onco-Surgeon with more than 7 years of experience in the field of Surgical Oncology. Dr Heer has published several papers and has delivered professional talks in various scientific forums.

He is a skilled Onco-Surgeon with areas of interests involving the Gynae Oncology, HIPEC, Peritoneal Surface Malignancy, breast cancer, breast oncoplasty and reconstructive surgery including implants, skin cancers and sarcomas, head and neck cancers including reconstruction, GI cancers. His skillfulness, precision and fineness make him a brilliant Onco-Surgeon with great knowledge and excellent patient management.



Dr Vikas Heer receiving the fellowship certificate from his mentor at NCC, South Korea.

(NCC), South Korea.

This fellowship is being governed by the Union for International Cancer Control. Established in 1962, the Fellowship is one of UICC's oldest and most established portfolio of programmes. It is considered as one of the most coveted fellowships in the field of

Peddler held with 15 kg Poppy straw

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 7: Bus Stand Police today arrested a drug peddler along with 15 kg of Poppy straw.

"A team of Police Station Bus Stand led by SHO Inspector Vishal Dogra rounded up a suspected person namely Shinder Kaur wife of Gurdeep Singh, resident of Punjab during patrolling duty in the area under its jurisdiction," a Police spokesman said.

He said during search of belongings of the suspect, 15 kg of Poppy straw was recovered, which was seized on the spot. "In this regard, a case FIR Number 51/2023 U/S 8/15/NDPS Act was registered at Police Station Bus Stand and the accused arrested," the spokesman said, adding, further investigation of the case was going on.

Young boy dies in roof collapse

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 7: A 20-year-old boy died due to roof collapse in Nai Basti area of Jammu.

"Amit son of Tar Singh, resident of Udhampur, along with his younger sister was sitting in a room at their rented accommodation in Nai Basti area of Jammu when a part of the roof of the house collapsed and fell on them, late last night," Police sources said.

Sources said both brother and sister sustained grievous injuries in the mishap and they were immediately shifted to Government Medical College and Hospital, Jammu, where Amit succumbed to his injuries at about 10:30 PM.

"After conducting all medico-legal formalities, the body of the deceased was handed over to his family while the concerned police had taken cognizance of the incident," sources added.

Three held under POCSO Act

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Sept 7: Ramgarh Police today arrested three persons under POCSO Act.

The nabbed accused were identified as Karandeep Singh alias Buntay son of Swaran Singh, Pankaj Kumar son of Ajeet Paul and Suresh Kumar alias Babbu son of Ashok Kumar, all residents of Khour (Salarian, Ramgarh) in Samba district.

They were arrested in a case FIR Number 53/2023 U/s 457/363/376-D IPC, 3/4 POCSO Act Stands registered at Police Station Ramgarh.

Labourer's body found hanging

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 7: The dead body of a labourer was found hanging this morning at his 'jhuggi' in Bharat Nagar area falling under the jurisdiction of Police Post Chinore.

"The deceased has been identified as Santosh Kumar (28) Vishwanath, resident of Gram Paithan Pati Bihar (at present Bharat Nagar, Bantallab, Jammu)," Police sources said.

They said after getting conducted postmortem at Government Medical College and Hospital, Jammu, the body of the deceased was handed over to his legal heirs for last rites while inquest proceeding in this connection was initiated by Police Post Chinore.

Sher - e - Kashmir
University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Jammu
Estates Division, Main Campus Chatha, Jammu (J&K)-180009
e-NIT No. AU/Estates/23-24/07 Dated: 01-09-2023
Notice Inviting e-Tender

For and on behalf of the SKUAST-Jammu, tenders are invited by e-tendering mode from the Govt. approved PWD/CPWD registered contractors (All Classes) for Stage contract of 3 No. different zones by way of Repair/Maintenance works of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu for the financial year 2023-24.

Note:-1. Further details can be seen from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Tenders will be uploaded only on <http://jktenders.gov.in> and contractors registered on this website will be able to submit their bid online. The department reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason(s). The tenderer should read terms and conditions instruction carefully before filling the price bids (BOQ). E-tendering without Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) will not be accepted by electronics tendering system. DIPA-2756-P Sd/- No: AU/Estates/2023-24/F-14/1283-86 Dated: 01-09-2023 Date: 06-09-2023 Estates Officer, SKUAST-Jammu