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Show us proof WB govt blocked probe and we'll come down hard: SC to CBI

Substantial Material To Arrest Kol Top Cop: Agency; Hearing Today

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New Delhi: If the CBI produced evidence of Kolkata police commissioner Rajeev Kumar or any authority in West Bengal destroying evidence or thwarting investigation into chit fund scam cases, it would "come down on them so heavily that they will regret it", the Supreme Court told the agency on Monday.

CBI officer called in Kol cheating case

Kolkata Police on Monday served a notice on CBI joint director Pankaj Srivastava, asking him to appear for questioning in a five-month-old cheating case involving a businessman. **P12**

Once a Didi aide, ex-cop joins BJP

Former IPS officer Bharti Ghosh, an ex-aide of Mamata, on Monday joined BJP. After joining the party, she slammed Didi, calling her dharna a "political move" and an "asatyagraha to block fair investigation". **P13**

The court, which will hear the CBI's contempt plea against the West Bengal government on Tuesday, made its observations after solicitor general Tushar Mehta referred

to the "siege" of the agency's office in Kolkata. Mehta was responding to the court's remarks that the CBI petition did not cite material on destruction of evidence.

Appearing for West Bengal, senior advocate A M Singhvi, also a Rajya Sabha MP from the state, said, "CBI is engaged in a political witch-hunt and is hounding the police commissioner, forgetting that he is only a witness and not an accused in the chit fund scam cases." However, the court suggested that he keep his arguments ready for Tuesday's hearing.

The CBI rushed to the SC claiming to possess "substantial material to exercise power of arrest without warrant" against a non-cooperative Kumar

FULL COVERAGE: P 12 & 13

in the chit fund cases and narrated the action against its officers on Sunday by Kolkata police. It pointed to the siege of its office and residence of a joint director stationed in the city.

The CBI made two pleas — SC direct Kumar to "surrender/make himself available" for questioning and initiation of contempt of court proceedings against chief secretary Malay Kumar De, DGP Virendra Kumar and Rajeev Kumar for disobeying SC orders directing every state authority to cooperate in the probe.

► CBI can give addl info, P 9

COUNTDOWN TO A CONFRONTATION

April 2013: Bengal govt forms SIT to probe Saradha scam. Rajeev Kumar, then Bidhannagar police commissioner, named SIT chief. Saradha owner-directors Sudipto Sen and Debjani Mukherjee arrested

Nov 2013-Jan 2017: Trinamool Lok Sabha MPs Kunal Ghosh, Tapas Pal and Sudip Bandopadhyay, and state transport minister Madan Mitra arrested

Aug 2017: CBI summons Rajeev Kumar, now Kolkata commissioner; he asks for a detailed questionnaire

Oct 2017: Rajeev Kumar writes to CBI director Alok Verma alleging political victimisation after receiving second summons

Mar 2018: Third summons sent to Rajeev Kumar

July 2018: CBI moves SC against Kumar; Kumar responds to the charges. SC asks CBI to go to HC

Dec 2018: Three senior officers summoned by CBI move HC; court to hear matter on Feb 5 (today)

Feb 3, 2019: Kolkata cops detain CBI team that had gone to question Kumar



BJP slams Didi stir & Rahul's 'U-turns'

BJP said Mamata Banerjee's dharna seemed to stem from concern that Kolkata police commissioner Rajeev Kumar knew too much and may spill the beans on the chit fund scam. The party also dug out several old tweets in which Rahul Gandhi had criticised Banerjee. Accusing him of taking "U-turns" on the Bengal chit fund scam, it said the Congress president was suffering from "multiple personality disorder". **P13**

BJD, CPM join oppn in slamming Centre

Opposition parties on Monday joined hands with Trinamool to paralyse Parliament, accusing the Modi government of political vendetta. Importantly, BJD, which is seen as politically neutral, also lashed out at the Centre. Trinamool arch-rival CPM said both TMC and the Centre were at fault, with Badaruddoza Khan slamming the Centre for "CBI not taking any action in the chit fund scam for last four years". **P13**

West Bengal cabinet meets at dharna site

Bengal witnessed its first roadside cabinet meeting on Monday, with Mamata Banerjee trying to balance the administrative responsibilities of a CM with the role of a national opposition leader from a dais in Kolkata. She also distributed gallantry medals to cops and addressed a farmers' rally over video call. Though she called it "satyagraha", the dharna turned out to be a political show, with 22 parties pledging support to her. **P12**

UK home secy gives nod for Mallya's extradition

Fugitive Now Has 14 Days To Appeal

Naomi Canton

London: British home secretary Sajid Javid has signed the order for fugitive Indian tycoon Vijay Mallya's extradition back to India. Javid, who took up his position in April 2018, signed the order for the extradition of the indebted liquor baron on Sunday, eight weeks after

FULL COVERAGE: P 9
chief magistrate Emma Arbuthnot sent the case to him for a decision to be taken on his extradition.

A home office spokesperson said: "On 3 February, the Secretary of State, having carefully considered all relevant matters, signed the order for Vijay Mallya's extra-

HOME COMING?

March 2016: Vijay Mallya flees India

Dec 11, 2018: UK judge says he can be sent back, case sent to British home secy to decide whether to order his extradition

Feb 3, 2019: Home secy signs order for Mallya's extradition. He now has 14 days to apply for leave to appeal

dition to India. Vijay Mallya is accused in India of conspiracy to defraud, making false representations and money laundering offences.

The decision comes exactly two years after the Indian government first handed over the extradition request to the British high commission in New Delhi in February 2017. The trial took place in December in that year.

Mallya now has 14 days to

'Choksi is still an Indian citizen'

Mehul Choksi, accused in the Rs 14,000-crore PNB fraud, is still an Indian citizen despite holding an Antigua and Barbuda passport, Venkatachalam Mahalingam, Indian high commissioner to Guyana and non-resident high commissioner to Antigua and Barbuda as well as St. Kitts and Nevis, said. He said India is pushing for Choksi's extradition.

apply for leave to appeal in the high court. If there is no appeal, he must be extradited within 28 days of the home secretary's order. If the high court grants permission, it will go on to consider the appeal. Appeal is only possible with the permission of the high court.

Mallya told TOI straight after the home office announcement on Monday that he would appeal.

MP govt makes it mandatory for industries to hire 70% locals

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Bhopal: The Kamal Nath-led Madhya Pradesh government on Monday made it mandatory for all industries in the state to provide 70% employment to local youth.

"To fulfil the manifesto promise, we have made 70% jobs mandatory for local yo-

uth of MP across industries facilitated by state government," Nath tweeted.

"The new industrial policy has been made effective and all industries who seek incentive from the state must provide 70% jobs to local youth. We have not received any proposal turning down incentives provided by govern-

ment, hence all industries co-

vered under this policy will have to mandatorily follow the rule," said principal secretary of department of industry Mohammed Suleman.

Sources said firms given land and other facilities by the former BJP government have also been asked to follow the new policy.

► Industry thumbs-up, P 9

TOI EXCLUSIVE

The comparison with China is misplaced. Our data is done by a team of professionals in CSO. These changes (back series data) were deliberated upon by a committee.

A Rs 6,000 support works out to around 13% (of average income). The scheme is focused on small & marginal farmers

Read CEA Krishnamurthy Subramanian's interview on P 19

AG's contempt plea against Bhushan in SC

AG K K Venugopal moved the Supreme Court on Monday seeking to punish advocate Prashant Bhushan for committing contempt of court by insinuating that the government had fabricated the key committee's decision to authenticate M Nageswara Rao's appointment as interim CBI director. Referring to a tweet by Bhushan claiming he "confirmed personally from Mallikarjun Kharge" that the January 10 meet of the panel had neither discussed nor decided on Rao's appointment, the AG said Bhushan "deliberately intended to cast aspersions on the integrity of the AG, who had placed the minutes of the meeting before the SC". **P 8**

EU deal to cut credit card fees for tourists

Fees on credit card expenses by Indian tourists in Europe will fall sharply from around 1.9% to 0.3% following a deal between card companies and the European Commission. The new charges, which will come into effect from the year-end, are an outcome of a long-standing anti-trust probe. One aspect of the case was that card companies were charging merchants in Europe much higher fees when cards issued outside the EU were used. **P20**

Passenger couple kill Ola cabbie, chop body into 3 pieces

Sidharth Bhardwaj
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New Delhi: Many Delhiites may feel it's unsafe to take a cab late at night. The danger, however, can be equally real for cabbies ferrying passengers in the late hours. Ola cab driver Ram Govind became the latest victim of crime by passengers, when a couple allegedly murdered him, dismembered the body into three pieces and dumped it in a drain in Greater Noida.

The motive for the crime: Govind's Hyundai Xcent cab, which the couple wanted to sell off in western UP, police officials said.

Almost a week after the cab driver went missing while on duty, the couple from Loni, Ghaziabad, was arrested for murdering him and taking the cab away to Moradabad.

Police said Govind had completed a trip from Madangir to Kapashera and was waiting idle in his car when he got a booking at 1am (on January 29) from the accused — Farhat Ali and Seema Sharma alias Aseeman — from MG Road in Gurgaon. The duo wanted to go to their home in Ghaziabad.

MOTIVE: ROBBERY

- Couple take ride in Ola cab from Gurgaon to their home in Ghaziabad
- Invite cabbie Govind home for tea to "beat the chill". Brew laced with sedatives knocks him out
- The unconscious cabbie is strangled and his car taken to Moradabad
- Couple return home to dispose of the body
- They get cutters to saw the body into 3 pieces. Dump it in G Noida drain

On reaching there, they offered Govind some tea at their residence to "beat the chill". He agreed. The brew was laced with sedatives and it soon knocked him out. As he lay unconscious, Ali strangled him with a rope, police said.

Cops said the couple left Govind's body in their room and drove his white Xcent cab to Moradabad. They hid the vehicle in bushes near a temple and returned the next day to dispose of the body, still lying in their room.

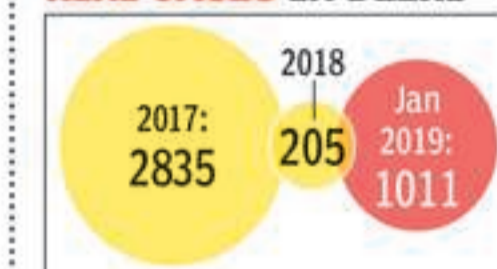
► Cab info traced killers, P 2

City battles swine flu surge; over 1,000 cases in Jan

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New Delhi: Delhi has seen a sharp surge in swine flu, with 1,011 cases reported since January 1 this year, making the capital second to only Rajasthan in the number of cases reported, data from National Centre for Disease Control reveals.

HINI CASES IN DELHI



At least 895 of these cases are figure in Delhi government data that only includes patients with local addresses, officials said. Just 205 swine flu cases were reported in the capital last year; Rajasthan, which had 2,375 cases and swine flu 221 deaths last year, has seen 2,263 cases and 85 deaths since January 1.

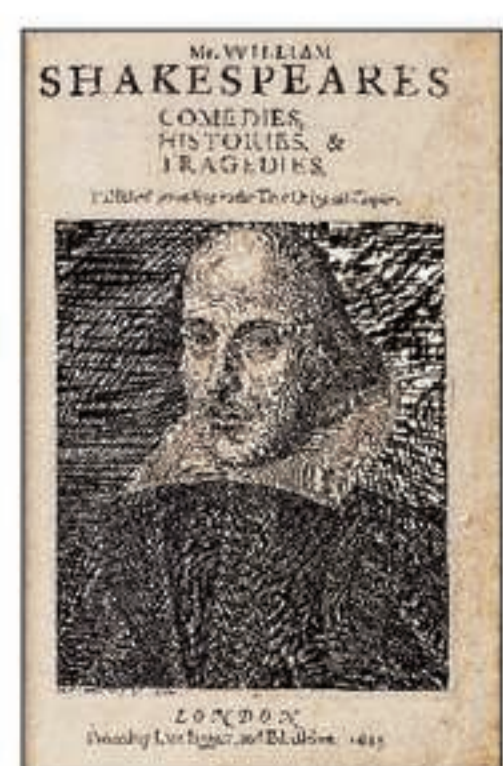
Officially, Delhi has had no swine flu death but hospitals have reported several deaths so far in 2019.

► Doctors baffled, P 6

IIT Roorkee claims 1623 edition of Bard's First Folio in its library

Roorkee: A priceless 1623 edition of William Shakespeare's "First Folio" has been found among thousands of historic manuscripts and unseeen photographs at IIT Roorkee's Mahatma Gandhi Central Library. The collected edition of the Bard's dramatic works, published seven years after his death, includes all but two of his plays.

IIT Roorkee's dilapidated copy of "Mr William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies" is stacked inside a cardboard box in the librarian's office, its pages individually separated with tracing paper. A handwritten "1623" on



A copy of the 1623 First Folio

the half-torn cover page indicates the date of publication.

It is believed that around 750 copies of the "First Folio" were printed. In 2001, a copy was sold at Christie's in New York for \$6.16 million.

The librarian at MGCL, Dr C Jayakumar, says they have many other rare works. One of them is a document bearing Nehru's signature in Hindi, English and Urdu, along with the date "November 25, 1949".

However, the treasures may soon be lost as Jayakumar's proposal to IIT to build a small museum within the library to protect the works is still pending. **P71**

LIMITED PERIOD OFFER

From 1st to 8th Feb 2019

8.25%*

INTEREST RATE

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