



CBI seeks more time in Asthana case

NEW DELHI
The CBI on Monday told the Delhi HC that it needed more time to complete the probe in a bribery case allegedly involving the agency's then Special Director Rakesh Asthana and others, as four more stages of scrutiny are left before the report can be filed. Counsel representing Mr. Mr. Asthana and the other accused — the agency's then DSP Devender Kumar and businessman Manoj Prasad — opposed the plea, saying the court had on October 9 given it two months and had said no more time would be given. PTI

Nitish writes to PM Modi seeking ban on porn sites

PATNA
In the wake of rising incidents of rape of women and minor girls in the country, Bihar CM Nitish Kumar on Monday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to immediately ban pornographic sites. "A large number of children and youth are watching pornographic, violent and inappropriate content. In many cases, videos of rape incidents are being circulated on social media, which severely affects the brains of children and youngsters, and such material has also been seen as a factor leading to crimes of rape," he said in his one-page letter to Mr. Modi.

Crime sheet

A look at the events leading up to the conviction of former BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar

- June 4, 2017:** Minor girl allegedly raped by then BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar
- April 3, 2018:** Her father is beaten up and allegedly

- framed in an Arms Act case
- April 8:** Rape survivor tries to immolate herself outside U.P. CM Yogi Adityanath's residence, alleging police inaction
- April 9:** Father dies in judicial custody
- April 10:** Allahabad HC transfers the rape case

- to the CBI
- April 13:** CBI arrests the MLA
- July 11:** CBI files chargesheet
- July 12, 2019:** Victim and her family write to then Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, alleging threat to their lives

- July 28:** Truck rams a car in which the rape survivor, her family and their lawyer were travelling, killing her two aunts and the advocate critically injured
- Aug. 1:** SC transfers five cases related to the rape to Delhi



A file photo of students staging a protest against Kuldeep Singh Sengar in Delhi

- Court; the victim is airlifted to AIIMS from a Lucknow hospital
- Aug.9:** Court frames charges against Sengar and co-accused Shashi Singh in the rape case
- Sept. 25:** The girl is discharged from hospital
- Dec. 10:** Court reserves judgment in rape case
- Dec. 16:** Court finds Sengar guilty, acquits the co-accused

Court raps CBI for delay in Unnao case

Probe not done by woman officer, as mandated under POCSO Act: judge

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

A Delhi court, which on Monday found former BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar guilty of raping a minor in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao in June 2017, pulled up the CBI for the delay of almost a year in filing the chargesheet in a separate case of gang-rape of the victim.
District and sessions judge Dharmesh Sharma said: "In my considered opinion, this investigation has suffered from an patriarchal approach or an inherent outlook to brush the issues of sexual violence against the children under the carpet, apart from exhibiting lack of sensitivity and a humane approach. It appears that somewhere, investigation in the instant case has not been fair to the victim of crime and her family members."
The probe, the court said,



Crime and punishment: Kuldeep Singh Sengar being taken to Tihar jail after being presented in court, in this file photo. •PTI

was not conducted by a woman officer, as mandated under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, and the successive statements of the victim were recorded at the CBI office, "without bothering about the kind of harassment, anguish and re-victimisation that occurs to a victim of sexual assault in such case".
'Fear ingrained'
On the delay of more than two months in reporting the incident, the court said the

victim and her mother explained that she had been threatened by Sengar to keep quiet or else she and her family members would not be spared. Soon after the incident was reported, a vicious tirade against her father and uncle began.
"It [the case] epitomises the fear ingrained in the mind of [a] young girl in the countryside or elsewhere against reporting the issues of sexual assault by powerful adults," the court said.
The minor girl was raped on June 4, 2017.

SC panel to monitor trial of rape cases

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has set up a committee of two of its judges to coordinate with High Courts to monitor the trial of rape cases across the country and to ensure they are completed in a time-bound manner.

Sources said Justices R. Subhash Reddy and M.R. Shah form the two-judge committee.
The decision to set up the committee came after extensive consultations among CJI S.A. Bobde and other senior Supreme Court judges.

ED files chargesheet in PMC Bank scam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUMBAI

The Enforcement Directorate on Monday filed a chargesheet against Housing Development Infrastructure Ltd promoters Rakesh Wadhawan and Sarang Wadhawan in connection with the multi-crore Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC)

Bank scam. The ED submitted its chargesheet, running into around 7,000 pages, before a special court set up under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.
The two were initially arrested by Mumbai Police's Economic Offences Wing, and later taken into custody by the ED in October.

SC orders status quo in Aarey case

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Petitioners, who have challenged the felling of trees in the Aarey forest in Mumbai to construct a metro car shed, told the Supreme Court on Monday that the "new government" in the State had set up a committee to identify alternative land for the project.
A Bench of Justices Arun Mishra and Deepak Gupta ordered the status quo, that is, there would be no felling of trees. The Bench scheduled the case for hearing in January next. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for the State, said the question in the case is whether the area allotted for the metro car shed is forest land or not.

Lt. Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane next Army chief

He will replace Gen. Bipin Rawat who retires on December 31

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Vice-Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Manoj Mukund Naravane, has been appointed the next Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), Army officials confirmed late on Monday.

He will take over as the 28th COAS from incumbent General Bipin Rawat, whose term ends on December 31.
Lt. Gen. Naravane took over as vice-chief in early September. He is the senior most officer in the Army after Gen. Rawat and the government has gone with the seniority principle in the appointment. He will have a tenure till April 2022 till his



Lieutenant General Manoj Mukund Naravane

superannuation.
Lt. Gen. Naravane has served as the Eastern Army Commander and Commander Army Training Command. He is from the Sikh Light Infantry and has commanded a Rashtriya Rifles battalion in Kashmir, served in the Assam Rifles and has

been posted as defence attache to Myanmar.
He will be the third Army chief from the Sikh Light regiment after Gen. V.P. Malik and Gen. Bikram Singh.
With the appointment of the next COAS, the next awaited appointment is that of the country's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), expected in the next few days. Gen. Rawat is the front runner for the post. An Implementation Committee headed by the National Security Adviser was constituted to finalise the roles and modalities of the post of CDS and the committee has submitted its report to the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS).

Increase LS seats to 1,000, says Pranab

'Present strength based on 1971 census'



Pranab Mukherjee

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Former President Pranab Mukherjee on Monday drew attention to the late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee as a consensus builder, noting that the Indian electorate may have given strong majorities to different parties since 1952 but over 50% of them have never voted for one party.
He was delivering the second annual Atal Bihari Vajpayee memorial lecture in New Delhi organised by the India Foundation.

"A numerical majority in elections gives you the right to make a stable government. The lack of popular majority forbids you from a majoritarian government. That is the message and essence of our parliamentary democracy," he said.
"The Indian electorate has time and again conveyed to the ruling party that goes on to form the government, that yes, they

may be entitled to form the government with majority of the seats won by them but, they are also to take into consideration, all those people, who may not have voted for them. The mandate is to govern as a majority party with a stable government, but carry others with you," he said.
He made a case for raising the number of Lok Sabha constituencies to 1,000 from the existing 543 and for a corresponding increase in the Rajya Sabha's strength, arguing that India has a "disproportionately large size" of electorate for elected representatives.
He said the last time the strength of the Lok Sabha was revised was in 1977, which, he noted, was based on the 1971 census that put the population at 55 crore.

Amitabha Bagchi wins 2019 DSC Prize

ANUSUA MUKHERJEE POKHARA

The 8th edition of the IME Nepal Literature Festival, held from December 13-16 at Pokhara, concluded with the announcement of the winner of DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2019.
The \$25,000 award went to Amitabha Bagchi for his 2018 novel, *Half the Night is Gone*. It was presented by Pradeep Gawali, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nepal, in the presence of Surina Narula, founder of the DSC Prize, and the four-member jury, headed by Harish Trivedi, former Professor of English at University of Delhi.
The six shortlisted books

included one translated work (Manoranjan Byapari's *There's Gunpowder in the Air*, translated from Bengali by Arunava Sinha), a novel by Pakistan-born author Jamil Jan Kochai and another by Sadia Abbas, who grew up in Pakistan and Singapore, besides fiction by Indian authors.
The DSC Prize, instituted in 2010, awards fiction from the South Asian region, which includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, as well as from the diaspora.
Ninety books had been submitted for the prize this year.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Cold conditions likely in pockets over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi and Rajasthan. Dense fog likely in pockets over Bihar, Punjab, south Assam & Meghalaya and Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	27	13.9	Kozhikode	.....	34.7	23.6
Ahmedabad	25	12.9	Kurnool	.....	31.6	19.7
Aizawl	21.2	8.8	Lucknow	.....	22.2	10.8
Allahabad	24	12.4	Madurai	.....	31	20.8
Bengaluru	27.6	17.4	Mangaluru	.....	37.6	22.6
Bhopal	19.6	11.4	Mumbai	.....	32.3	19.8
Bhubaneswar	29.7	18.9	Mysuru	.....	28	17.8
Chandigarh	19.9	8.5	New Delhi	.....	12.9	10.2
Chennai	30.6	23.5	Patna	.....	21.6	15
Coimbatore	30.1	19.4	Port Blair	.....	30.6	25.5
Dehradun	22.7	7.3	Puducherry	.....	31	20.4
Gangtok	13.6	5.7	Pune	.....	30.3	17.3
Goa	33.6	22.4	Raipur	.....	22	19.4
Guwahati	26.2	16.3	Ranchi	.....	21.4	14.5
Hubballi	29	18	Shillong	.....	16.6	8.2
Hyderabad	28.9	19.4	Shimla	.....	4	11.2
Imphal	21.5	6.1	Srinagar	.....	7.5	-1.6
Jaipur	19	9.6	Thiruvananthapuram	.....	33.2	22.8
Kochi	31.6	22.6	Tiruchi	.....	31.5	21.6
Kohima	24.4	6.2	Vijayawada	.....	30.1	21
Kolkata	26.8	18	Visakhapatnam	.....	29.8	22.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing							Yesterday	
CITIES	SO ₂	NO	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE		
Ahmedabad	22	16	15	68	80	.....	.....	.....
Bengaluru	04	52	88	47	70	.....	.....	.....
Chennai	10	31	71	67	.....	.....	.....	.....
Delhi	13	35	70	318	177	.....	.....	.....
Hyderabad	14	45	40	122	.....	.....	.....	.....
Kolkata	22	58	15	208	173	.....	.....	.....
Lucknow	.....	07	54	278	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mumbai	10	53	62	232	165	.....	.....	.....
Pune	85	23	90	123	98	.....	.....	.....
Visakhapatnam	.....	.....	47	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.
NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.
CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.
PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease