

# Cops give SC fuzzy report in woman lawyer assault case

## She Was Manhandled At Lajpat Nagar Police Station In April

Dhananjay Mahapatra  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Two months after the Supreme Court took suo motu cognizance of an alleged assault of a woman lawyer at Lajpat Nagar police station in south Delhi, the Delhi Police has filed an action taken report before the court revealing little about taking the probe to its logical conclusion.

The affidavit, filed by Joint CP S K Gautam on behalf of the commissioner of police, said the investigations into the case was transferred from the Lajpat Nagar police to crime branch, which has recorded the statements of all relevant persons relating to the alleged assault incident of April 4.

"Further in-depth inquiry is in progress regarding allegations leveled by Ambika Das against police officials of Lajpat Nagar Police Station,"

**The woman, Ambika Das, had complained that the policemen were in collusion with the party from whom the land was to be transferred back to her clients**

Gautam said.

Das had complained that when she visited the Lajpat Nagar police station on April 4 evening to serve a court order staying transfer of land, she was allegedly manhandled by policemen. She had alleged that the policemen were in collusion with the party from whom the land was to be transferred back to her clients on the basis of the court's stay order.

The Supreme Court took cognizance of the incident and on May 9 ordered: "Having regard to the gravity of matter, we direct the Com-

missioner of Police, Delhi to submit to this Court the report about action taken on the complaint made by Ambika Das on April 12 and the complaint of the Supreme Court Bar Association made on April 28. The Deputy Commissioner of Police, East Delhi, is also directed to ensure that no harm is caused to the person of Ambika Das."

Despite the court order, the police allegedly did not relent. Das again moved the apex court on May 28 alleging that she had been made to feel insecure through the tactics adopted by Lajpat Nagar police station official in the ruse of investigating the incident.

The court on May 28 ordered: "Having regard to the seriousness of the allegations made in the petition and keeping in view the sensitiveness of the matter; we deem it proper that the matter be placed before the Police

Commissioner, Delhi. The entire record including the record of proceedings of this Court shall be placed before the Police Commissioner who will take a call on prayers made by the complainant in this application including the prayer for providing of security to complainant Ambika Das and pass appropriate orders thereupon."

In response to the orders, the Joint Commissioner of Police said it had recorded the statements of all concerned, including the police officers and personnel present at Lajpat Nagar police station on the date of incident. It has also recorded the statement of Das and provided security to her.

But, beyond this, the police has not revealed anything to the court in its affidavit. The case is listed before the court for fresh hearing on Monday.

# Notice to corp'n commissioner

Abhinav Garg@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Delhi high court has issued notice to the commissioner of North Delhi Municipal Corporation in connection with a building collapse in Sadar Bazar area that left two people dead.

Justice Mukta Gupta recently made North corporation a party to a petition filed by the lone survivor in the collapse accusing police and civic agencies of slackness in probing the case. "Since the area falls under the North corporation, it would be appropriate to implead them as a party. Issue notice to the commissioner, North corporation," the court directed on the petition filed by Salman Qureshi.

Qureshi has alleged that despite HC transferring the probe from Sadar Bazar police station to the District Investigation Unit (DIU), no headway has been made and police is a mute spectator. "Almost three months have lapsed since HC



Sadar Bazar has seen many building collapses like this one last month

transferred the investigation but the DIU has merely sent notices to the SHO of Sadar Bazar, the executive engineer of North corporation, assessor & collector Geospatial Delhi and the IIT director to assist in technical investigation of the case," Qureshi's counsel, Sufian Siddiqui, told the court while seeking action against the officials.

Police claimed it wrote to the IIT director and DCE so that a team of experts could in-

spect the site to find out the cause of the collapse. They said their request was turned down by IIT, though DCE has done one inspection. Police added they have also sought help from Central Building Research Institute.

After taking on record the DIU's response, HC turned its reluctance to the North corporation. It had earlier demanded a status report from police on the collapse in Sadar Bazar area in October last year. "The

petitioner lost his father and elder brother in the collapse on October 9," Qureshi's counsel told the court.

In his plea, Qureshi has accused two builders of the area of ignoring safety concerns that led to the collapse of the 100-year-old building. He alleged the builders permitted digging in the land adjacent to his house and destabilized the foundation of his home. Despite repeated warnings, the builders continued their illegal work brazenly, the petition laments. His petition narrates how just few days before the collapse his dead family members last requested the builders to be careful and not carry out any digging work underneath the common wall of both properties.

"They (Sadar Bazar police station) did not even bother to contact the petitioner or any neighbor for recording statements," the petition added, accusing the officials of shielding the builders.

# More women cops in city now: Bassi

New Delhi: The number of women police personnel in Delhi Police has increased since the Nirbhaya case, commissioner BS Bassi said on Saturday.

"There was an extreme shortage of women officers. After the December 16 gang rape case, the necessity of inducting more women personnel was felt. Over 2,000 women have been inducted," Bassi said while addressing a session on women's safety organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce (FICCI) and FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO).

"Since the Nirbhaya case, out of the 1,044 vacancies for male constables, 522 were converted for women. There are 306 vacancies for women sub-inspectors. Over 1,078 posts will soon be created for female constables," Bassi said. Of Delhi Police's strength of 84,536 people, 4,848 are women.

"There has been a paradigm shift in the number of registered cases of crimes against women. This has been possible because now the female fraternity is more aware of the legal advantage of registering complaints," he said.

According to Delhi Police statistics, 71,523 cases of crimes against women have been registered in 2014 as opposed to 33,797 in 2013. The highest number of cases registered relate to dowry harassment and rape, he said. IANS

# 'Post Nirbhaya, 500% jump in such crimes'

New Delhi: Police commissioner B S Bassi on Saturday said the Nirbhaya case brought "increased attention" on crime against women. He added that "truthful" recording of incidents saw a rise of almost 500% in such cases.

"A key takeaway of the Nirbhaya gang rape was that cases were not registered due to reluctance on part of the victim and policemen. Consequently, it was mandated by an amendment in 2013 that a woman will not be denied registration of an FIR if she reports a cognizable offence," said Bassi.

Then we found that crime against women started rising by almost 500%, he added.

According to police, while 706 rape cases were reported in the city in 2012, the number rose to 1636 in 2013.

So far, in the first six months of 2014, 984 cases of rape have been reported AS against 869 in the same period last year, police said. PTI

# Brace for another day of June heat, July humidity

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The severe heatwave that had Delhi in its grip on Friday took a turn for the worse on Saturday with the maximum temperature touching 42.3 degrees Celsius, seven degrees above normal. This is the highest temperature recorded in July so far. Met officials said the temperature would continue to be around 40-42 degrees Celsius on Sunday as well but a fall of three to four degrees is expected across the plains of north-west India from Monday.

Light rain and thunderstorms are expected in the city from Monday which will result in temperatures falling. "We will start seeing a change in weather from Sunday evening onwards. Models show that the latter part of Sunday will have a partly cloudy sky and thundery conditions could occur in some areas. On Monday, there will be a partly cloudy sky and very light rain and thundershowers could occur in some areas from afternoon," said Met officials.

Saturday's minimum temperature was 30.5 degrees Cel-



AAM, AURAT & PARTY: Participants dig into mangoes at a fest

sus, four degrees above normal. With humidity levels ranging between 35% and 72%, the day was not just hot but also muggy. "There was no strong system that would bring rain to the northwest plains. A system has finally formed over Bay of Bengal and the situation is going to improve in the coming week," said sources. The highest maximum temperature recorded in Delhi during July has been 45 degrees Celsius in 1931. Since 1969, the highest maximum has been 43.5 de-

grees Celsius, recorded once each in 1987 and 2012.

Meanwhile, heatwave to severe heatwave conditions continued over some parts of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, some parts of west Rajasthan and Punjab. Delhi has recorded only 58mm rain this monsoon, starting June 1. Till 8.30am on Saturday, this was a deficit of 72mm. Northwest India is staring at a deficit of 54% in the monsoon rain while the overall deficit for the country till 8.30am on Saturday was 43%.

# Chef from Kerala cooks up a CBI story, lands in soup

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A chef from Kerala, who came here to trace his love interest, found a unique way to fund his stay. He landed at well-known eateries in Hauz Khas Village wearing a police uniform and posed as a CBI officer. He made inquiries relating to the licence and other things. As the conversation became less formal, he asked the owner to keep his twin brother as a chef.

He later approached them posing as the twin brother and got a job. He also visited the hospital where his girlfriend worked as a nurse—she had borrowed Rs 1 lakh from him and gone out of touch—to find her whereabouts. He posed as a cop and told them about an inquiry being conducted against her.

When he didn't turn up for work, the hotel owner grew suspicious and ap-



SPICY PLOT: Saji Kumar

proached the crime branch. "The accused, Saji Kumar (38), was intercepted from Taimur Nagar after a team led by DCP (crime) Bhisham Singh received a tip-off. He confessed to have duped several people, the details of which are being collected," said Ravindra Yadav, joint commissioner of police (crime branch). The accused said he was pursued a catering and hotel management course from Bangalore and

had been working at several restaurants.

Yadav said his unit was receiving regular inputs about a person impersonating Ajith Kumar, an IPS officer posted as IGP in CBI.

On July 11, the owner of a popular south Indian restaurant in INA Market complained about a 'cop' seeking a job for his twin brother. A case of cheating and impersonation was registered.

He said his girlfriend had come to the NCR and had been working at a hospital. He claimed that she had called him to come to Delhi for a better job.

"The accused is fond of Malayalam movies, which served as his inspiration. He procured a police uniform from Hyderabad," DCP Bhisham Singh said. Here, he began to masquerade as Ajith Kumar from CBI. He found a job before tracing his girlfriend.

# Cong tells last poll candidates to reach out to aam aadmi

New Delhi: The All India Congress Committee on Saturday set in motion preparations to give BJP and AAP a tough fight if assembly polls are declared anytime soon. All 70 candidates who contested in December, includ-

ing the eight sitting MLAs, have been told to reach out to the common man at the booth level or count themselves out of the race for a ticket. On Saturday, Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee, took its "Halla Bol Andolan"

against the BJP-led government to the minority-dominated Walled City. The demonstration was a continuation of its campaign against rising prices of essential commodities and the worsening power situation. TNN



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davp 22204/13/0013/1415

# Petrol pump worker hurt after explosion

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A minor explosion was reported at a petrol pump in Vasant Kunj on Saturday after a Toyota Qualis drove ahead with the nozzle of the fuel dispenser still inside the fuel tank. An employee was injured. He is being treated at Fortis Hospital.

The incident took place around 12.30pm at the petrol pump located in sector-B pocket-7. A man drove up to the pump to get fuel filled. However, while the car was being tanked up, the driver suddenly moved the car ahead which led to the fuel dispenser being pulled to the ground. The nozzle of the dispenser broke and fuel began spilling on the ground. A short-



A car drove ahead with the nozzle of the fuel dispenser at this spot

circuit and subsequent blast occurred just as an employee, Sohan Pal Verma, tried to switch off the machine. Verma (29) got thrown away and sustained burn injuries on his body.

It took six fire tenders an hour to douse the flames. However, no other vehicles were damaged as they were moved out of the petrol pump.

The driver of the Qualis stopped for a few seconds after the incident but, perhaps, panicked and fled the spot, police said. Police are scanning the CCTV footage from the of the petrol pump to identify the driver.

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