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SC refuses to suspend Tarun Tejpal's 10-year sentence in 2013 rape case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to suspend the 10-year sentence handed down to journalist Tarun Tejpal, convicted of raping a junior colleague inside a hotel elevator in 2013.

A bench of justices MM Sundresh and Prasanna B Varale observed that it was not inclined to suspend the sentence given by the Bombay High Court.

"We don't find it to be a fit case to grant suspension of sentence," the bench said while hearing Tejpal's application seeking suspension of sentence.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Tejpal, referred to the evidence and other materials in the case and argued that the "whole story is false".

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for the Goa government, opposed



Tarun Tejpal

Tejpal's plea and said it is a case for enhancing the sentence.

On August 6, the Bombay High Court convicted Tejpal of rape and sentenced him to rigorous imprisonment for 10 years, overturning the acquittal of the former editor of Tehelka magazine by the trial court five years ago.

He was convicted of raping the junior colleague during an event organised by the magazine in Goa. The 62-year-old journalist has claimed that he was a victim of political vendetta.

On August 25, the top court had directed Tejpal to surrender within three weeks to undergo his 10-year prison sentence and had dismissed his application seeking exemption from surrendering.

Subsequently, Tejpal surrendered before the trial court.

During the hearing on Friday, Sibal questioned the prosecution's case and also the victim's account about the incident.

He argued that as per the prosecution, the door of the elevator did not open for two minutes and nine seconds during the alleged incident.

Sibal said there was evidence to show that the elevator door opened twice at the ground floor during that period.

"The whole story is false," he said.

Senior advocate Siddharth Agarwal, who also appeared for Tejpal, said there were six documented versions of the victim prior to the registration of FIR in the case and in none of them, there was any reference of rape.

Countering their submissions, Mehta said Tejpal was the owner of the magazine and the victim was an employee there.

"When this unfortunate incident happened in the lift, she (victim) thereafter rushed to her room where her other colleagues were there," he said. Mehta said there were statements of her colleagues that she was crying profusely.

"It is a case for enhancement of sentence," the top law officer said.

Tejpal was convicted under several sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including 376(2)(f) (rape committed by a person in a position of trust or authority), 354(a) (sexual harassment) and 354(b) (assault or use of criminal force with intent to disrobe).

Under Section 376(2)(f), the maximum punishment is life imprisonment.

On August 20, Tejpal moved the top court, challenging the high court order convicting him in the case.

The Goa Government has also approached the apex court seeking an enhanced sentence for Tejpal, contending that the case warranted imprisonment for life.

In its petition filed in the apex court, the Goa government has contended that the sentence imposed by the high court was grossly disproportionate to the nature and gravity of the offences committed by Tejpal.

In its 81-page judgment, the high court had termed the trial court's 2021 order "perverse", noting that it fell for the notion that a sexual assault complainant must be a "perfect victim" and should conduct herself in a certain way to appear credible.

The high court also expressed strong disapproval of the way the defence put the victim in the dock and focused on her personal life, and said it found it surprising that the trial court "remained silent and allowed the defence to harass and humiliate her during the cross-examination".

Order Order

Relief for 2,000 as HC scraps JSSC-CGL cancellation



The Jharkhand High Court on Friday quashed the state government's notification cancelling the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level (JSSC-CGL) examination, a decision taken in August amid protests by job aspirants over alleged recruitment irregularities.

The verdict is expected to secure jobs for more than 2,000 government employees who had cleared the examination and were recruited through the process.

Hearing petitions filed by successful candidates, Justice Deepak Roshan set aside the August 18 notification, terming the government's decision "unfair and unjust".

The state government defended the cancellation, arguing that investigations by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) had established evidence of large-scale irregularities and question paper leaks.

Appearing for the government, Advocate General Rohitashya Roy argued that the department was left with no option but to cancel the examination in view of the evidence of mass bungling and paper leaks found during the CID probe.

"The only way left for the Government to redress the wrong was to terminate the examinations," Roy had submitted.

The successful candidates, led by Akash Gaurav and Niranjan Khess, had challenged the cancellation, arguing that their services had been terminated without even issuing show-cause notices or giving them an opportunity to present their case.

Former Supreme Court Justice Rajesh Bindal appointed NCLAT Chairperson

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

Former Supreme Court Justice Rajesh Bindal has been appointed chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

Justice Bindal, served more than three years in apex court and retired on April 15 this year. He had earlier served as Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court before his elevation to the Supreme Court in February 2023.

The appointment comes months after former Supreme Court Justice Ashok Bhushan completed his tenure as NCLAT chairperson on July 4, 2026. Following Justice Bhushan's retirement, Justice Yogesh Khanna, a judicial member of the appellate tribunal, was appointed officiating chairperson from July 5.


Justice Rajesh Bindal

His tenure was subsequently extended by the Central Government in October.

The development also assumes significance against the backdrop of recent proceedings before the Supreme Court concerning the functioning of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). Justice Bindal's appointment places him at the helm of the appellate tribunal dealing with some of the country's most significant corporate insolvency, restructuring and competition law disputes.

Last week, the top court had raised concerns over the Ministry of Corporate Affairs' control over the tribunals, with CJI Surya Kant remarking that the ministry had "completely hijacked" the institutions."I know how contractors play their hands. They don't care about judicial/technical members. Complete autonomy must be with presidents. They can take UPSC/SSC. The tribunal has been completely hijacked by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. That is impinging on the autonomy of the institution. That's the problem. The ministry wants to have complete grip; that's most unfortunate," the CJI orally remarked while hearing a petition filed by contractual employees working in the NCLT, NCLAT. The bench comprising CJI Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana called for granting the presidents of the NCLT and NCLAT complete autonomy over appointments.

Born on April 16, 1961, in Ambala, Haryana, Justice Bindal began practising law before the Punjab and Haryana High Court in September 1985. He did his LL.B. from Kurukshetra University. He was elevated as a Judge of the same High Court on March 22, 2006, and subsequently served at the Jammu and Kashmir and Calcutta High Courts. He was appointed Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court in October 2021 before being elevated to the Supreme Court on February 13, 2023.

BCI scraps age limit for law course aspirants

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

The Bar Council of India (BCI) on Friday informed the Supreme Court that it has withdrawn the upper-age restrictions for admission to three-year and five-year law degree programmes, paving the way for aspirants of all age groups to pursue legal education.

Taking note of the BCI's decision, a bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana disposed of the plea filed against the age restriction.

In March 2017, the top court had stayed the decision of the Bar Council of India (BCI) prescribing an upper age limit of 22 years for the five-year LLB course and 45 years for the three-year course.

The bench was hearing a plea filed by one Rishabh Duggal challenging a 2016 BCI circular that had reinstated Clause 28 of Schedule III of the Rules of Legal Education, 2008. The provision prescribed a maximum age limit of 20 years for admission to the five-year integrated law programme. Advocate Radhika Gautam, appearing for the council, apprised the bench that the BCI's General Council had resolved to withdraw the age restrictions.

In view of the subsequent resolution, the bench disposed of the petition as having become infructuous.

On September 25, the bench had asked the BCI to clarify its stand on whether it is willing to withdraw the upper age limit prescribed for admission to five-year integrated law courses.The BCI had originally prescribed an upper age limit of 20 years for general-category candidates and 22 years for candidates belonging to SC, ST and backward communities for admission to five-year integrated law courses under Clause 28 of the Rules of Legal Education, 2008.

SC verdict clears 11,973 MU power for Himachal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

In a major relief to Himachal Pradesh, the Supreme Court on Friday brought the curtain down on a decades-long inter-state energy dispute over the payment of dues arising from Bhakra Beas Management Board projects since 1966, under which the hilly state will get 11,973 MU of electricity from Punjab and Haryana.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana accepted the Centre's cashless proposal on payment of dues in energy terms to Himachal Pradesh by Punjab and Haryana. The top court said the arrangement will be as per a 2011 apex court verdict settling power dues arising out of Bhakra Nangal and Beas hydro projects since 1966 in favour of Himachal Pradesh at the rate of 7.19 per cent.

It said Punjab and Haryana will pay Himachal Pradesh 11,973 million units of electricity over 20 years. The Punjab Government initially opposed the Centre's proposal for payment of energy arrears in 15 years, but later sought the implementation of the plan over 30 years, while Himachal Pradesh sought implementation within 10 years.

Under the proposal, an adjustment of around ₹420 crore towards historical capital costs incurred in the construction of the dams has been factored into the settlement, and Himachal Pradesh will not have to pay anything to Punjab and Haryana. The original entitlement was calculated at 13,066 million units by the Central Electricity Authority.

According to the 2011 decision of the apex court, the share of Himachal was fixed at 7.19 per cent, while that of Punjab and Haryana was fixed at 51.80 per cent and 37.51 per cent, respectively.



Rajasthan's share largely remained unaffected, while the share of Chandigarh was fixed at 3.50 per cent.

According to the 2011 decision, Himachal was to get a share in the Bhakra project from November 1, 1966, the Dehar project from November 1977, and the Pong Dam project from January 1978.

No. O-19013/24/2022-SUS
Government of India
Ministry of Ayush
Siddha & Unani Section

Advertisement for the post of Director General, Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, New Delhi

Applications are invited, **in duplicate,** from eligible candidates for filling up the post of **Director General, Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM), New Delhi,** an Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India. Details are also available on the websites of the Ministry (www.ayush.gov.in) and CCRUM website (www.ccrum.res.in).

2. The application, in the prescribed proforma, complete in all respects, should reach through proper channel to **Shri Arjun Kumar, Under Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, Ayush Bhawan, B-Block, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi-110023,** within **60 days** from the date of publication of the advertisement for the said post of DG, CCRUM, in the Employment News/Rozgar Samachar.

CBC 17201/11/0018/2627

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

UNION BANK OF INDIA
Regional Office : Bhopal Central

POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule – 8 (1)]

WHEREAS,The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Union Bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated mentioned below calling upon the Borrower's/Guarantor's to repay the Amounts (mentioned below) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.
The borrowers as well as guarantors having failed to repay the full amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower's / Guarantor's & the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on dates mentioned below.
The Borrower's/Guarantor's in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the below mentioned properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of **Union Bank of India, Concern Branch** for an amount mentioned herein below & interest thereon
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset/s.

Name of Borrower	Description of Property of Borrower	Demand Notice Date / Possession Date / Outstanding Amount as per demand notice
UNION BANK OF INDIA, RKMP Station Road Branch, Bhopal (Bhopal M P Nagar Branch),		
Borrowers: **Mr. Indrajeet Bakalwar S/o Mr. Govind Prasad Bakalwar**	**All that piece and parcel of Residential House Bungalow No. 49 of type A in Sagar Green Hills, Village- Damkheda, Kolar Road, Ward no 80, Tehsil Kolar, Dist. Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Admeasuring Plot area 162.26 Sq. Mtr. or 1745.92 Sq. ft. Owners: Dr. Indrajeet Bakalwar Boundaries: -** East: - Bungalow No. 50, North: - Service Road, West: - Bungalow No. 48, South: - Open	10-08-2026 / 03-11-2026 / ₹ 1,34,20,604.64 + Interest & Charges

Date : 03-11-2026, Place : Bhopal — **Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India**

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक punjab national bank

CO SAM, KATNI : 1ST FLOOR , ASTHA PLAZA, JHARRA TIKURIYA,KATNI - 483501(M.P.)
EMAIL - coktnsamd@pnb.bank.in

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE for sale of immoveable assets under the Securitisation and Reconstructions of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(6) & 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower(s), mortgagor(s) and guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property(ies) mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic/physical (whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorized officer of Punjab National Bank, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on the date as mentioned hereinbelow for recovery of amount, due to the Punjab National Bank secured Creditor from below Named borrower(s), mortgagor(s) and guarantor(s). The Reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned below against the respective properties. A short description of the immovable property(ies) with known encumbrances, if any, are mentioned as under.

Date and Time of E-Auction – 30.11.2026 between 11:00 A.M. to 05:00 P.M.(with extensions of 10 minute duration after 05:00 P.M., if required).Last date of submission of EMD – 29.11.2026

Borrower/Mortgagor/ Guarantor Name	Description of Immoveable Properties/Secured Assets	A) Demand Notice date B) Possession date C) Nature of possession D) Amount due to bank (As per Demand Notice)	A) Reserve Price (Rs.) B) EMD (Rs.) C) Bid Increase Amount D) Date and Time of E-Auction
1. Branch: Garha Kola (MP) **1. M/s Agrawal Grain Stores Prop. Shri Rajendra Kumar Agrawal S/o Neelkanth Agrawal,** Add- Ram Ward, Galla Mandi Rehli, Garhakota, Sagar, MP - PIN-470229, **2. Shri Rajendra Kumar Agrawal S/o Neelk anth Agrawal** Add- House No. 100 Jagdamba Marg Ram Ward Main Road, Pateriya Sagar MP 470229	1 All that part and parcel of the property consisting of land having Khasra No. 56/3 area 2213 sq.ft i.e. 205.66 sq.mt. situated at Gram Kekra, P.H. No. 37/32 Tehsil Garakhta District Sagar (M.P), **Owner-Shri Rajendra Agrawal S/o Shri Neelkanth Agrawal, Garhakota, District Sagar, Boundries - North-** Sagar damoh road, **South-** Land of Bhagvat, **East-**Land of Anil Kumar, **West-** Land of Ashok Bagairah. 2. All that part and parcel of the property consisting of land having Khasra no. 56/4 area 1092 sqft or 101.48 sq.mt. situated at Mauja Gram kekra P.H.No. 37/32, Tehsil Garhakota District Sagar M.P.,**Owner- Shri Rajendra Agrawal S/o Shri Neelkanth Agrawal , Garhakota, District Sagar M.P., Boundried - North-** Sagar Damoh Road, **South -**Land of Bhagwat, **East-** Land of Narendra Kumar Agrawal, **West-** Land of Bhagwat. 3. All that part and parcel of the property consisting of land having Khasra no. 18/3 (After diversion new khasra no. 18/3/2) area 0.40 Hectare or 4000 sq.mt. out of 0.98 hectare of 2.45 acre situated at Mauja Gram kekra Old P.H.No. 26/37 New P.H.No. Tehsil Garhakota District Sagar., **Owner- Shri Rajendra Kumar Agrawal Garhakota, District Sagar, Boundries-North -** Khasra no. 18/3/1 of Rajendra Agrawal after that afat land, **South-** Sagar Damoh Road, **East-** Khasra no. 20 of Balaprasad, **West-** Khasra no 18/2/2 of Narendra kumar Agrawal 4. All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Land Khasra no. 18/3 (After diversion new Khasra no. 18/3/1) area - 0.5800 Hectare or 5800 sq. mt. out of 0.98 hectare or 2.45 acre situated at Mauja Gram Kekra Old P.H.No. 26/37 New P.H. No. 32 Tehsil Garhakota District Sagar M. P., **Owner: Shri Rajendra Kumar Agrawal Garhakota, District Sagar, Boundries : North-** Khasra no. 16 of Afat and Khasra no. 17 of Narendra Agraal, **South -** Khasra no. 18/3/2 of Rajendra Kumar Agrawal, **East-** Area of Khasra no. 12, **West-** Khasra No. 18/2/1 and 18/2/2 of Narendra Kumar Agrawal and Khasra no. 18/4 of Sandhya Rani.	A) 06.11.2025 B) 19.01.2026 C) Symbolic Possession D) Rs.2,14,78,808.48 + further interest and charges	A) 1,96,24,680.00 B) 19,62,468.00 C) 50,000.00 D) 30.11.2026
2. Branch: Garha Kola (MP) **1.M/s Narendra Kumar Rajendra Kumar Agrawal Prop. Shri Narendra Kumar Agrawal S/o Neelkanth Agrawal,** Add- Ram Ward, Main Road, Garhakota, Sagar (M.P.) PIN - 470229, **2. Shri Narendra Kumar Agrawal S/o Neelkanth Agrawal,** Add- House No. 112, Bhagat Singh Ward, Garhakota Pateriya Sagar MP 470229	**1.** All that part and parcel of Commercially Diverted Land Bearing Old P H No. 26/37 New PH No 32 Halka Kenkra Old kh18/2 after diversion New kh No. 18/2/1 Area 0.37 Hectare or 3700 Sq.mtr. Village Kenkra, Tehsil Garhakota District Sagar Madhya Pradesh, **Owned by Shri Narendra Kumar Agrawal S/o Shri Neelkanth Agrawal, R/o Ram Ward Garhakota. District Sagar, Bounded** as under : **In East** by- Khasra No. 18/3/1 of Rajendra Kumar Agrawal , **In West** by-Khasra no. 18/4 of Sandhya Rani. **In North** by- Khasra no.18/3/1of Rajendra Kumar Agrawal after that Afat land, **In South** by- Khasra no. 18/2/2 of Mortgagor Narendra Kumar Agrawal **2.** All that part and parcel of Commercially Diverted Land bearing khasra No. 18/2/2 area 0.40 Hectare or 4000 Sq.mt. (After diversion) 298/37 Village Kenkra, Tehsil Garhakota District Sagar Madhya Pradesh .**Owned by Shri Narendra Kumar Agarwal S/o Shri Neelkanth Agrawal,** R/o Ram Ward Garhakota, District Sagar, **Bounded as under :** In **East** by- Land of Narendra Kumar Agrawal, In **West** by-Land of Sandhya Rani, In **North** by-Khasra no.18/3/1 of Rajendra Kumar Agrawal, In **South** by-Sagar-Damoh Road	A) 22.05.2026 B) 04.08.2026 C) Symbolic Possession D) Rs.2,09,04,515.92 + further interest and charges	A) 1,54,34,550.00 B) 15,43,455.00 C) 50,000/- D) 30.11.2026
3.Branch : Maihar (MP) **1) Borrower- M/s Hotel R (Proprietor: Shri Laxmi Narain Soni S/o Shri Ramprasad Soni), Address:** Plot No. 1601/2/Kha/2, Ward No. 14, Maihar Katni Road, Maihar, Distt. Satna (Now Maihar) (M.P) -485771, **2) Shri Laxmi Narain Soni S/o Shri Ramprasad Soni (Proprietor & Mortgagor), Address 1:** House No. 125, Ward No. 16, In front of Rest House, Malhar, Distt. Satna (Now Maihar) (M.P) - 485771, **Address 2 :** C/o G.R. Traders & Metro Minchi, City Palace, Station Road, Maihar, Distt. Satna (Now Maihar) (M.P.) -485771, **3) Shri Manoj Soni S/o Shri Ramprasad Soni (Guarantor), 4) Shri Padam Kant Soni S/o Shri Ramprasad Soni (Guarantor), 5. Shri Prakash Chand Soni S/o Shri Ramprasad Soni (Guarantor), 6. Smt. Kanti Soni W/o Shri Padam Kant Soni (Guarantor), 7. Smt. Ritu Soni W/o Shri Laxmi Narain Soni (Guarantor), 8. Smt. Hemlata Soni W/o Shri Manoj Soni (Guarantor), Address : (3,4,5,6,7,& 8)** House No. 125, Ward No. 17, Chopda Colony, Maihar, Distt. Satna (Now Maihar) (M.P.)-485771,	All that part and parcel of commercially diverted immoveable property bearing Aaraaji Khasra No.32/2 rakwa 0.314 Hect. (33798.67 Sq.Ft.), Mouza Katiyakalan, situated within Unit No.1 of Ward No.22 Bhagat Singh Ward, P.H.No.50, Maihar Amarpatan Road, RNM Maihar, Block and Tehsil Maihar, District Satna (M.P.), with two buildings constructed on portions admeasuring area 4200 sq. ft. that is 390.33 sq. mtr each and which is 390.33 sq. mtr. Each and which is bounded as under as per registered deed sale dated 07.02.2020, Total Area 33798.67 Sq.Ft. and 8402.95 Sq.Ft. Construction area, **Boundaries : East :** Aaraaji of Neelam Chourasia, **West :** Aaraaji of Vikas Tiwari, **North :** Amarpatan Bela Maihar NH-07 (Rewa Road), **South :** Aaraaji of Jaya Tiwari, **Owner & Mortgagor -** Shri Laxmi Narain Soni S/o Shri Ramprasad Soni	A) 05.01.2023 B) 27.04.2023 C) Symbolic possession D) Rs.8,50,827.77 + interest and other charges	A) 6,80,76,900.00 B) 68,07,690.00 C) 1,00,000.00 D) 30.11.2026

Details of encumbrances known to the secured creditor: Not known

STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) & 9(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 AND SARFAESI ACT, 2002

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: (1) The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 and to the following further conditions. **(2)** The properties as being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" AND "AS IS WHATEVER THERE IS"** basis. **(3)** The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule herein above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. **(4)** The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website – **https://baanknet.com**, on mentioned dates at the given time. **(5)** For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to www.pnbindia.in, **https://baanknet.com.**

Date : 06.11.2026, Place : Katni — **Authorised Officer, Punjab National Bank**