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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n 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.

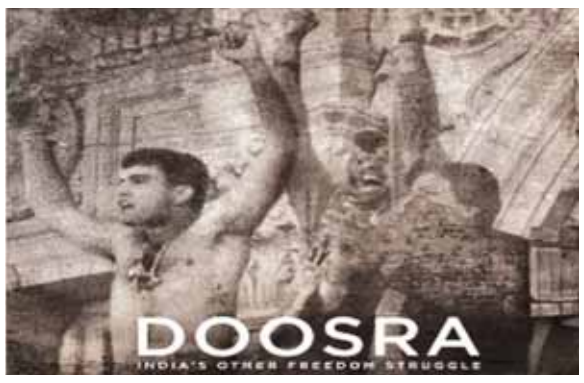
Hearing petitions filed by successful candidates, Justice Deepak Roshan set aside the August 18 notification, terming the government's decision "unfair and unjust".

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.

'Doosra' violates Sourav's personality rights: Delhi HC



The Delhi High Court on Friday said the film "Doosra" prima facie violated cricketer Sourav Ganguly's personality rights but refused to interfere with the theatrical screening of the movie that was released last month.

Justice Tejas Karia, however, asked the filmmakers to add appropriate disclaimers in English and Hindi in the movie within two days to clarify that Ganguly did not consent to the use of his personality attributes and that it does not intend to violate his personality rights.

Justice Karia further directed the defendants to furnish a bank guarantee of `2 crore within two weeks with the registrar general of the high court, as security to protect the cricketer's rights during the pendency of the case. (*PTI*)

Former Supreme Court Justice Rajesh Bindal appointed NCLAT Chairperson

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n 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. His tenure was subsequent-



Justice Rajesh Bindal

ly 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
n 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
n 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.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
RAILWAY RECRUITMENT CELL/NORTHERN RAILWAY
Employment Notice No. RRC/NR 03/2026/Act. APP.

INDICATIVE NOTICE

RRC Website: www.rrcnr.org

Online Application are invited from eligible and desirous candidates for 4651 slots against Engagement of Act. Apprentices under the Apprentices Act 1961 for imparting training at various Division/units/Workshops over Northern Railway for the year 2026- 27.

Important Dates	
Date of Publication of Detailed Notification on RRC Website	06.11.2026
Date of start of online Application	11.11.2026
Date & time of closing of Online Application	11.12.2026 at 23:59 hrs.
Expected Date of Display of Merit	February 2027

3911/26 CHAIRMAN/RRC

"BEWARE OF TOUTS, BROKERS AND JOB RACKETEERS"

Delimitation: Calcutta High Court stays announcement of Bengal civic elections

SAUGAR SENGUPTA n Kolkata



The Calcutta High Court has restricted the West Bengal Election Commission (WBSEC) from announcing the dates for Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) elections.

A Division Bench of Justices Sabyasachi Bhattacharya and Arjun Roy on Friday directed the SEC not to announce the date of the elections until a petition lying with a Single Bench challenging the delimitation of the wards in KMC. The delimitation was conducted by the new BJP Government after it came to power in May this year increasing the number of wards from present 144 to 209.

The main petition challenging the delimitation is pending at the Single Bench of Justice Hiranmay Bhattacharyya.

Petitioner Dipu Das a former CPI(M) councilor submitted before the Court that if the SEC were to announce the schedule of the KMC before a clear judgment in the matter, her petition would not have any relevance. The Friday's order incidentally comes within hours of Mamata Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee criticizing a section of the top judiciary for taking sides of the BJP.

Taking a jibe at the country's top most judiciary, Banerjee earlier said that the Trinamool Congress government in Bengal lost power on account of injudicious decisions of the Apex Court. He remarked "I have no qualms in saying this that we lost the Bengal elections not to the BJP" but to the judiciary "because we took a leap of faith on the highest court of the country."

Banerjee was talking about alleged "arbitrary" deletion of names from the electoral rolls and the judiciary failing to take adequate action on that.

The Division Bench held that it would not deliberate on propriety of the delimitation and said any notification announcing elections had to be issued only after primary suit had been decided in the Single Bench.

The Government had earlier decided to hold elections to seven municipal boards including Kolkata, Howrah, Bally etc. The polling was to take place sometime in the last week of December. The civic boards were presently being run by administrators as elections had fallen due since mid 2025. The Opposition parties including the Trinamool Congress and CPI(M) had strongly objected to the way the delimitation had been conducted "so as to favour the BJP."

Dipu Das said that the ward lines were "arbitrarily demarcated with a clear intention of putting areas that generally do not vote for the BJP with the areas that vote for them thus affecting the voting pattern of several areas."

The CPI(M) leader also said that the "present demarcation pattern will make it a big problem for a vast majority of population to get civic services... which is already proven from a sample case — soon after the change of power in one of the wards in North Kolkata water and power lines of some 600 people have been cut... though power was subsequently restored they still have to bring water from Ganges... all because they belong to a different community and generally do not vote for the BJP."

The BJP leaders refused to comment on the judicial order but said that the delay in elections could impact service to the people.

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E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE SALE OF SECURED IMMOVABLE ASSET UNDER SARFAESI ACT

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the "Act") read with Rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to Grihum Housing Finance Limited (hereinafter referred to as the **"Secured Creditor"** as per the Act) , the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Secured Creditor **in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) of the Act read with Rules 8 and 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rule pursuant to notice under section 13(2) of the Act.**

The Secured Assets will be soldon"Asiswhereis","Asiswhatis",and"Whateverthereis"basis on **23-11-2026** through E-Auction. It is hereby informed to General public that we are going to conduct public through E-Auction platform provided at the website: https://www.bankeauctions.com.

For detailed T&Cs of sale, please refer to link provided in GHFL's/Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.grihumhousing.com

PROPOSAL NO. CUSTOMER NAME {A}	DEMAND NOTICE DATE AND OUTSTANDING AMOUNT {B}	NATURE OF POSSESSION {C}	DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY {D}	RESERVE PRICE {E}	EMD (10% OF RP) {F}	EMD SUBMISSION DATE {G}	INCREMENTAL BID {H}	PROPERTY INSPECTION DATE&TIME {I}	DATE AND TIME OF AUCTION {J}	KNOWN ENCUMBANCES/COURT CASES IF ANY {K}
LOAN NO. HL00691100000005035434 NITIN KUMAR (BORROWER) ALKA NITIN (CO BORROWER)	Notice date: 09-06-2026 Total Dues:Rs. 2098358/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Eight Only) payable as on 09-06-2026 along with interest @11.7% p.a. till the realization.	Physical	All That Piece And Parcel Of The House Bearing Khasra No. 13 Min Admeasuring Towards Area In East & West 21 Ft 2 Inch, In North & South 52 Ft, Total Area 1100 Sq.Ft Or 102.23 Sq.Mtr. Or Covered Area 107.00 Sq.Mtr Boundary -East:- House Of Omprakash.West:- Rasta 18 Ft Wide.North:- Land Of Seeta Pawar. South:- Land Of Thakri.	Rs. 1600000.00 /- (Rupees Sixteen Lacs Only)	Rs. 160000.00/- (Rupees One Lacs Sixty Thousand Only)	20-11-2026 Before 5 PM	10,000/-	16-11-2026 (11 AM 4 PM)	23-11-2026 (11 AM 2 PM)	NIL
LOAN NO. HL00173100000005061221 MINTU SO NARESH KUMAR (BORROWER) KUSUM KUSUM (CO BORROWER)	Notice date: 11-05-2026 Total Dues: Rs. 239734/- (Rupees Two Lakh Thirty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Four Only) payable as on 11-05-2026 along with interest @12.99% p.a. till the realization.	Physical	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Constructed Residential Property / Flat Bearing Flat No. Q-203, Second Floor Having Total Carpet Area Of 23.04 Square Meter, In The Project In The Name And Style Of "Ojas Awaas Vikas Aanneki Hettampur" Belonging To Khasra No. 1840, 1841 & 1842 Situated At Village Aanneki Hettampur, Tehsil And District Haridwar.	Rs. 420000.00/ - (Rupees Four Lacs Twenty Thousand Only)	Rs. 42000.00/- (Rupees Forty Two Thousand Only)	20-11-2026 Before 5 PM	10,000/-	16-11-2026 (11 AM 4 PM)	23-11-2026 (11 AM 2 PM)	NIL
LOAN NO. HL00173100000005059746 GIRISH KUMAR (BORROWER) RAMAN . (CO BORROWER)	Notice date: 09-04-2026 Total Dues: Rs. 200370/- (Rupees Two Lakh Three Hundred Seventy Only) payable as on 09-04-2026 along with interest @12.84% p.a. till the realization.	Physical	All That Piece And Parcel Of Property Being Residential Property / Flat Bearing Flat No. R-104, First Floor Having Total Carpet Area Of 23.04 Square Meter, In The Project In The Name And Style Of "Ojas Awaas Vikas Anneki Hettampur" Belonging To Khasra No. 1840 & 1841, Situated At Village Anneki Hettampur, Tehsil And District Haridwar	Rs. 420000.00/ - (Rupees Four Lacs Twenty Thousand Only)	Rs. 42000.00/- (Rupees Forty Two Thousand Only)	20-11-2026 Before 5 PM	10,000/-	16-11-2026 (11 AM 4 PM)	23-11-2026 (11 AM 2 PM)	NIL

The intending bidders/purchasers are advised to visit Secured Creditor Branch and the auction properties, and make his own enquiry and ascertain additional charges, encumbrances and any third-party interests and satisfy himself/herself/itself in all aspects thereto before submitting the bids. All statutory dues like property taxes, electricity/water dues and any other dues, if any, attached to the property to be ascertained and paid by the successful bidder.

The interested bidders are required to register themselves with the portal and obtain login ID and Password well in advance, which is mandatory for e-bidding, from auction service provider) C1 India PVT LTD. Address- Plot No-68 3rd floor Gurgaon Haryana-122003. Helpline Number- 7291981124,25,26 Support Email id Support@bankeauctions.com. Contact Person Dharni P, Email id-dharani.p@c1india.com Contact No- 9948182222. Please note that Prospective bidders may avail online training on e-auction from them only. The intending purchaser/bidder is required to submit amount of the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) by way of by way of NEFT/RTGS/DD in the account of "GRIHUM HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED - AUCTION PROCEEDS A/C", Bank-ICICI BANK LTD. Account No-**091551000028** and IFSC Code- **ICIC0000915** , ICICI Bank Ltd, Panchshil Tech Park, Near Ganapathi Chowk, 43/44 Viman Nagar 411014 411014 drawn on any nationalized or scheduled Bank on or before **20-11-2026** and register their name at https://www.bankeauctions.com and get user ID and password free of cost and get training on e-Auction from the service provider. After their Registration on the website, the intending purchaser/bidder is required to get the copies of the following documents uploaded, e-mail and sent self-attested hard copy at **Address:R.K. Tower, 2nd Floor, Opposite Swami Harichuram Trust, Kankhal Road, Arya Nagar Chowk, Jwalapur, Haridwar, Uttarakhand - 249407Mobile no. +91 8281138143 e-mail ID p.adith@grihumhousing.com**

For further details on terms and conditions please visit https://www.bankeauctions.com&www.grihumhousing.comto take part in e-auction.

This notice should also be considered as 15 DAYS (Fifteen) notice to Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s) under Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule-2002

PLACE:-KASHIPUR, HARIDWAR, UTTARAKHAND DATE: 07.11.2026 **Authorised Officer Grihum Housing Finance Limited**