

Sidhu case: SC says human hand can be used as a weapon

Continued from P 1

Writing the judgment, Justice Kaul said the human hand can be used as a weapon especially when it belongs to an extremely fit person, be it a cricketer, boxer or wrestler. Thus, when a 25-year-old man, who was an international cricketer, assaults a man more than twice his age and inflicts, even with his bare hands, a severe blow on his (victim's) head, the unintended consequence of harm would still be properly attributable to him as it was reasonably foreseeable," he said.

A fine of Rs 1,000 is grossly inadequate punishment for a crime involving the death of one Guram Singh, the SC said and added, "A disproportionately light punishment humiliates and frustrates a victim of crime when the offender goes unpunished or is let off with a relatively minor punishment as the system pays no attention to the feelings of the injured. Indifference to the rights of the victim of crime is fast eroding the faith of the society in general and the victim of crime in particular in the criminal justice system." Justices Kianwilkar and Kaul said, "While a disproportionately severe sentence ought not to be passed, simultaneously it also does not clothe the law courts to award a sentence which would be manifestly inadequate, having due regard to the nature of the offence, since an inadequate sentence would fail to produce a deterrent effect on the society at large."

"Punishments are awarded not because of the fact that it has to be an eye for an eye or a tooth for a tooth, rather having its due impact on the society," he said.

Sidhu, along with co-accused Rupinder Singh Sandhu, was tried for charges under Section 302 IPC and Section 323 read with Section 34 (common intention) of IPC, but was acquitted by a Patiala court on September 22, 1999. On Punjab government's appeal, the HC in December 2006 had convicted Sidhu under Section 302 and sentenced him to three years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of rupees one lakh each. SC on January 23, 2022 had suspended the conviction and sentence.

ty, while undue harshness is not required but inadequate punishment may lead to suffering of the community at large... any undue sympathy to impose inadequate sentences would do more harm to the justice system and undermine the public confidence in the efficacy of law," it said. Explaining why the SC in March 2018 imposed a lenient sentence, the bench said some material aspects which were required to be taken note of appear to have been somehow missed out at the stage of sentencing, such as the physical fitness of Sidhu as he was an international cricketer, who was tall and well built and aware of the force of a blow that even his head would carry. SC said the blow was not inflicted on a 65-year-old person, more than double his age.

"Sidhu cannot say that he did not know the effect of the blow or plead ignorance on this aspect. It is not as if someone has to remind him of the extent of the injury which could be caused by a blow inflicted by him. In the given circumstances, tempers may have been lost but then the consequences of the loss of temper must be borne," it said.

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LPG price hiked by ₹3.5, crosses ₹1,000 mark

Second Increase In Rate This Month

New Delhi: Cooking gas LPG price was on Thursday hiked by ₹3.50 per cylinder, the second increase in rate this month following the firming of international energy rates.

Non-subsidised LPG now costs Rs 1,003 per 14.2-kg cylinder in the national capital, up from Rs 999.50 previously according to a price notification of State-owned fuel retailers.

This is the second increase in LPG rate this month and the third in less than two months. The price was hiked by Rs 50 per cylinder on March 22 and again by the same quantum on May 7. Since April 2021, prices have risen by Rs 193.5 per cylinder.

Petrol and diesel prices however continue to be on freeze for the 43rd day in a row. The pause followed rates being hiked by a record Rs 10 per litre in a matter of 16 days beginning March 22.

Non-subsidised cooking gas is the one that consumers buy after exhausting their quota of 12 cylinders at subsidised or below-market rates. However, the government pays no subsidy on LPG

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in most cities and the price of the refill that consumers, including the poor women who go for free connection under the much-talked Ujwala scheme, is the same as that for non-subsidised or market price LPG.

Non-subsidised LPG costs Rs 1,002.50 per 14.2-kg cylinder in Mumbai while it is priced at Rs 1,008.50 a bottle in Chennai and Rs 1,029 in Kolkata. Rates differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes such as VAT. Prices are higher in states with higher taxes.

Alongside, oil firms also hiked the price of commercial LPG cylinders - the ones used by establishments like hotels and restaurants - by Rs 8 per cylinder to Rs 2,354 per 19-kg bottle.

On May 1, the price of a commercial LPG cylinder was increased by Rs 102.50 to Rs 2,355.50 but on May 7 it was reduced to Rs 2,346. ₹8

FCRA case: MHA officials were under lens

New Delhi: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) officials who were arrested in the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) in a bribery case, had been on the radar of intelligence agencies for the last two months.

The accused were involved in the renewal of FCRA licenses in lieu of bribes for the last year. But they came under the radar of security agencies after they received an anonymous complaint regarding the demand for bribes for the renewal of FCRA licenses. They were under watch for

the last two months and their activities were under surveillance," official sources told ANI.

Sources said that the accused who were posted in the FCRA division had complete access to the details of NGOs applying for it. ANI

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Delhi Technological University invites applications for its M.Tech. Programmes in various disciplines for the academic session : 2022-2023. Application forms may be filed Online w.e.f. 23.05.2022 (Monday) 10:00 A.M. to 23.05.2022 (Monday) 12:00 Midnight through the University website www.dtu.ac.in. If a candidate wishes to apply for more than one programme, he/she should submit separate application form.

For complete details regarding M.Tech. Programmes, admission brochure may be downloaded from the University Website : www.dtu.ac.in

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► Continued from P 1

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