

RANCHI

MAX: 30.5°C
MIN: 22.7°C

Subsidi: 11.4mm

Relative humidity

Morning: 84%

Evening: 87%

TODAY'S FORECAST

Partly cloudy sky. Max. & min. readings to be around 28°C & 23°C

Sunrise: 5:18am

Sunset: 8:34pm

Temperature

(Max. min. in degree Celsius)

Jamshodpur 21.4 26.0

Dumka 21.5 23.0

Dabhoigari 24.0 26.8

Bokaro 20.8 24.0

Mediation quick-fix for plot poser

RAJKUMAR

A three-year-old property dispute, which spawned from the bogus sale of 16 decimal land in Jharia, has been resolved in just two weeks, thanks to the mediation centre at Ranchi civil courts.

Last Friday, key mediator L.K. Giri and his colleagues Babita Singh and Lokeshwari Bamerjee persuaded the original owner of the land to withdraw a criminal case against two buyers who were cornered by a third person. In return, the buyers pledged not to stake any claim on the land even as they lost the money they had unsuspectingly paid to a fraudulent deed.

While the case is an eye-opener for gullible buyers, it is also a model for speedy resolu-

tion of disputes outside court and yet within the framework of law.

Mediator Giri said the 16-decimal plot in question belonged to one Jaleshwar Mahato. But, a son named Bidhu Singh impersonated Mahato to sell the land to Aditya Yadwakaema and Lalit Sharma on July 2, 2007, at the rate of Rs 30,000 per decimal. So, Vishwakarma purchased his 10-decimal for Rs 3 lakh from Singh and Sharma paid Rs 3 lakh for the remaining six decimals.

Mahato got wind of the fraud six years later, in 2013, and lodged a complaint case in a city court, said Giri. The court directed Jhamaidpur police to register criminal case against the fraud and his buyers. The case was registered in 2014. Police arrested



LK Giri (second from left) mediates the land dispute in Ranchi civil court premises last week. *Tejaswini Chatter*

Singh and launched a manhunt for Vishwakarma and Sharma.

"In the meantime, land owner Mahato also filed a title suit, challenging the right of the two buyers on his land.

When the court realised that the gullible buyers were unnecessarily in trouble, it referred the matter to the mediation centre in June this year for an amicable solution," Giri said.

The mediators convened

two sessions on July 11 and July 22, and settled the matter. Mahato agreed to withdraw the case against the buyers while the latter gave up their claim.

Mediation is a process of dispute resolution under Section 89 of the Civil Procedure Code. The centre at Ranchi civil courts came into existence in May 2018. Currently, it boasts 26 mediators who have so far resolved more than 1,500 cases.

On July 14, the centre settled a 30-year-old dispute over tribal land in three sessions. Earlier, on July 4, the mediator had resolved a case of cheating in which jobless men and women were swindled out of Rs 43.3 lakh on the pretext of loans under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme.

Starna mediation panel in Kumar pointed out that congestion on Main Road was playing havoc with his schedule. "If vendors sell out the road, people will stop in Jey. And, most of them will park their vehicles in the middle of nowhere to check out what is on offer. This is leading to endless commuting woes. The court order had brought a semblance of road discipline in Ranchi, but all that is hazy now," he said.

Hearing a PIL in April, a division bench of Chief Justice Vinod Kumar and Justice S. Chandrasekhar had come down heavily on the Ranchi district administration for having failed to remove encroachments on Main Road.

The court said that it didn't care about protests (by vendors) when free movement of traffic was being affected, and gave the administration and police three weeks to clear the capital artery. The orders were followed and Main Road broadened way albeit temporarily.

newly appointed team, as per cent of the force (traffic police) have been deployed in Doghbar for Shrawan Mela. Yet another team is keeping vigil at Pahari Muslim Hosana; we will resume our crackdown against illegal vending as soon as we can," Singh said.

Functionaries of Ranchi Panchayat Dukandaar Hawala Association, an outfit of street vendors, said their members had returned to Main Road because the administration failed to make adequate alternative arrangements.

"We had given a memorandum to BMC and urban development minister (C.P. Singh), seeking other vending zones, but in vain. Vendors were left with no option," said union president Dinku Singh.

Municipal commissioner Pradant Kumar denied the allegation. "We had identified new vending spots based on requests and carried out cleaning work too. But, the vendors didn't relocate," he said.