

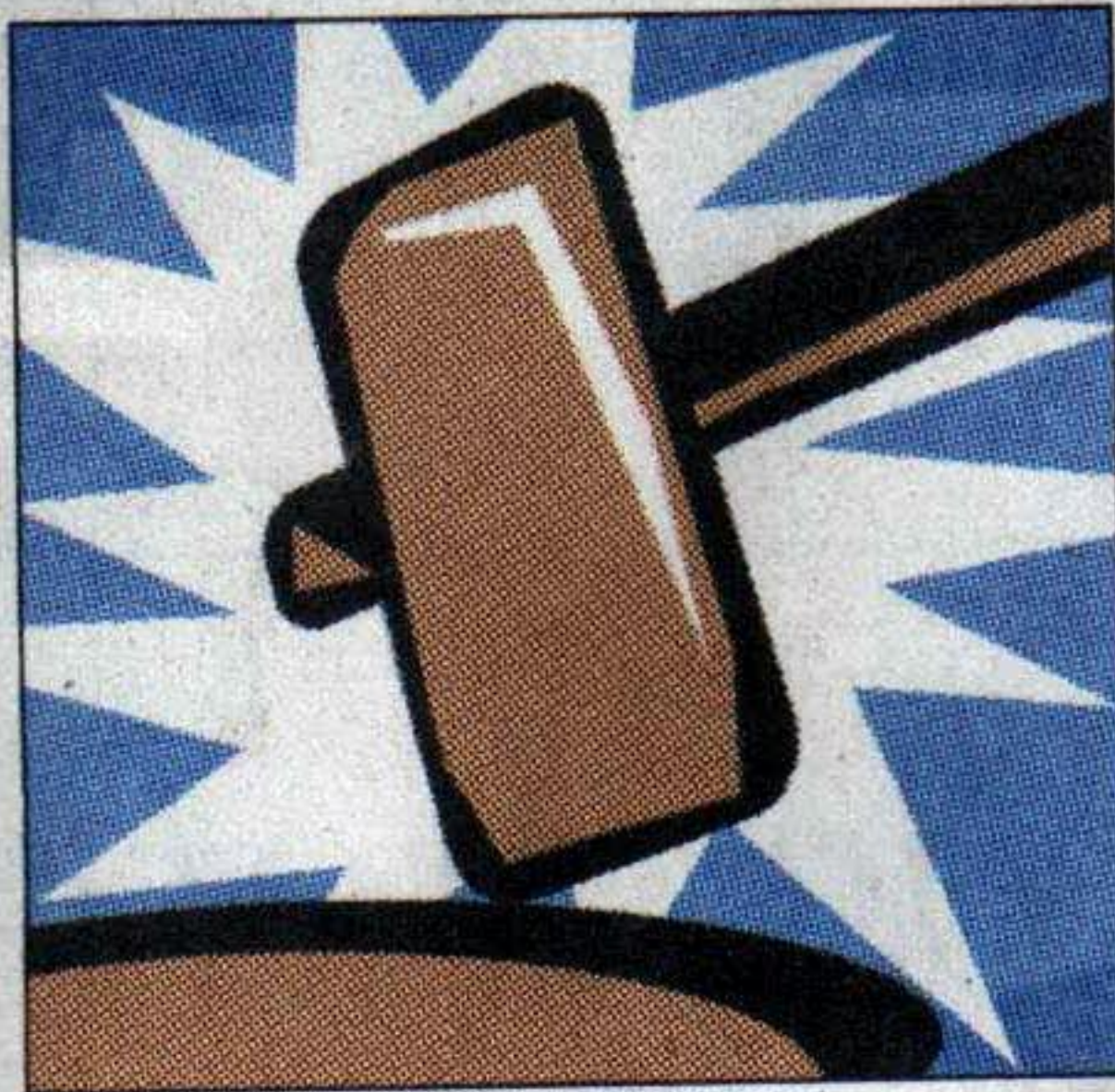
'Sleep-aiding apparatus must be covered under Mediclaim'

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, December 27

A CONSUMER court pulled up the New India Assurance Company for refusing to reimburse the cost of a life-saving equipment to a claimant who had purchased it to overcome his sleep disorder on the ground that it did not come within the purview of his policy.

"Sleep disorder if not treated early may turn out to be life threatening. The company's claim that the equipment - Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) machine, a life-saving device like the pacemaker, does not come under the purview of the claim is not true," Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum (North) head K. K. Chopra said. The court has ordered the company to pay Rs 56,160 as reimbursement and a compensation of Rs 9000. Rakesh Kumar Juneja, a resident of Tilak Nagar, had been suffering from sleep disorder for quite some time.

After consultations with a specialist at Safdarjung Hospital and various tests, he was diagnosed with obstructive sleep apnea syndrome. He was then recommended nasal CPAP to control the illness.



IN THE COURTS

Banking on a one-year medical insurance policy he had taken a few months before the start of his ailment, Rakesh bought the CPAP device for Rs 56,160 and later applied for a reimbursement.

The company refused payment on the ground that sleep disorder was a "chronic phenomenon" and does not develop within months of taking the policy.

Woman, son get 5 years for stabbing neighbour

A SESSIONS court sentenced a woman and her son to five years for stabbing their neighbour after a fight over drinking water.

Additional Sessions Judge S. C. Rajan convicted

the accused for 'attempt to murder'. The court also slapped a fine of Rs 6,500 on both the convicts.

The accused Shiksha and her son Sanjeev Tayagi were next door neighbours of Renu and her husband Mukhtiyar at Hastal village in west Delhi.

Man caught with explosives in IGI let off

A CITY court has discharged a man caught with explosives near Indira Gandhi International Airport earlier this year for want of sanction from central government to prosecute him.

Additional Sessions Judge Narottam Kaushal dismissed all charges against truck-driver. Narullah was charged under the Explosive Substances Act, which requires mandatory consent of the central government for any trial to proceed.

While the FIR was lodged on June 12 this year, and the chargesheet was filed on August 8, "no application has so far been made seeking requisite sanction", the court said.

The court said that Narullah had no criminal intentions and was "just a cog in the hands of the contractor and sub-contractor".