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Lalu will not move high court for bail in 'Kharmas'

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RANCHI: The incarcerated RJD chief Lalu Prasad, who was convicted last month on December 23 in a fodder scam case and sentenced to 3.5 years of imprisonment, is understood to have instructed his lawyers not to move appeal-cum-bail petition in the Jharkhand high court in the month of 'Kharmas'.

Believed to be an inauspicious month in the Hindu calendar, devout Hindus, mainly in north India, refrain from commencing or doing anything new and auspicious during the period. According to priest Awdesh Mishra, a Sanskrit expert in Ranchi, the month of 'Kharmas' started on December 14, 2017 and would end on January 14, 2018.

Prasad, who has been languishing here at the Birsa Munda Central Jail since December 23 last year, is in no hurry and has instructed his lawyer to move the high court only after January 14 to file the appeal-cum-bail petition.

"We got the copy of the fodder scam judgment on January 7. We are preparing the appeal-cum-bail petition. As per my client's instruction, it will be filed in the Jharkhand high court soon after the end of 'Kharmas'," said Prasad's advocate Prabhat Kumar.

Priest Mishra said, "Kharmas is considered to be bad and auspicious works like marriage, house warming are strictly prohibited in this period. Astrologically, the period is related with the movement of the sun, venus and jupiter that



■ Former Bihar chief minister Lalu Prasad has told his counsel to move his bail plea only after January 14.

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produces bad effect during this period."

The period of 'Kharmas' ends with the festival of Makar Sankranti on January 14. The day is celebrated in almost all parts of the country in myriad cultural forms with great devotion and fervour.

Prasad also celebrates this festival by relishing special food of 'dahi chura'. On January 10, he, in a lighter note, had complained to special judge Shivpal Singh that he had sent

him to jail during the festival of Makar Sankranti and he would not be getting 'dahi chura' this year.

Judge Shivpal Singh then said, "I will order the jail administration to provide the same to you on January 14 (Makar Sankranti). How many kilograms of 'dahi chura' will serve your purpose?"

A witty Lalu quick then remarked, "This is not your department. Let it be with Yadavs like me."