

Since 2020, Gujarat reported the highest number of custodial deaths in the country, which remained in 2023 by just one case less than the latest report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). In the early 2000s, Gujarat reported the highest number of police encounter deaths, which were investigated under the supervision of courts and several police personnel were arrested.

There were 75 custodial deaths in 2023, one such case in which an FIR was lodged against police personnel following the direction of the court. However, the accused person was cleared with a clean chit as all the accused police personnel were arrested.

That was the case on November 6, 2021, when the Surendranagar police allegedly shot dead Hasmukh Jai Patel, 45, a member of the Patel gang and his 16-year-old son Matheshwan, while "firing self-defense".

Hasmukh's 15-year-old daughter Savitri Patel, 15, was also arrested under the direction of the Gujarat High Court, which directed an investigation against the police personnel. The FIR was registered on November 24, 2023, against Sub-Inspector Virendra Patel, Jaded, head constable Rajeshbhai Mittra and Keshab Patel, constable, all from Surendranagar. Kathewada, Digvijaynagar, Zala, Prabhatkhali Charnar and Manbhai Taluka, all in Surendranagar, are the major locations. In seven months, police filed a closure report before a magistrate court in Surendranagar. *The Indian Express*

Deputy Superintendent of Police (Legal) D Patel, the Investigation Officer (IO) of the Surendranagar police, said in his investigation, we have filed a summary in this case before the court. We found that the police had not filed a charge sheet in this case. The reason for this was that the accused was not in remand.

Minors among victims of police 'encounters'

According to NCRB data, in the first nine months of 2023, there were three incidents of accused persons dying in custody, allegedly as a result of physical assault by the police (One in 2019 and two in 2021).

An encounter and a suicide

In the latest 'police encounter' reported in the state, the Gujarat police shot dead a 32-year-old man, Viral alias Nee Patel from Narmada Canal in Adalaj of Gandhinagar district on November 24, 2023, four days after he allegedly killed his wife and son in their house, killing the man, a fashion model named Vaibhav Manav, with 12 stab wounds, on his 25th birthday.

Patel was reportedly involved in at least 10 other cases, including two cases of hot and one of murder. In all these cases, he was accused of killing a couple who were sitting in a lonely stretch of the Narmada canal in the Adalaj area.

According to the Gujarat Legal Control Board, Patel was holding the weapon of a police personnel and fired at them, injuring one during a crime scene reconstruction. The police failed to self-defence, killing him, they claimed. A magis-

The latest National Crime Records Bureau report shows that Maharashtra and Gujarat accounted for nearly half of the custodial deaths registered in the country in 2023 — 30 of the total 62 deaths. Gujarat, which reported 75 custodial deaths in five years (386 custodial deaths in India during the period), has consistently been in the top two positions in this period, writes BRENDAN DABH

terial inquiry is ongoing in the case.

On December 13, 2023, 21-year-old Patel, alias Nee Patel, was shot dead by the police in the Narmada Canal in Adalaj.

Patel had allegedly attempted suicide after he, along with his friend, was allegedly shot by the police. He was found thrashed on the road at the Vadinar marine harbour police checkpost. He ingested herbicide on August 18 and died in hospital. The

subsequent FIR was filed on September 4, 2023, at Vadinar Marine Harbour Police Station, under the direction of the Gujarat High Court, which directed an investigation against the police personnel.

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Minors among victims of police 'encounters'

On September 13, 2023, four constables of Bhatia Town police station, including Sub-Inspector Viral Patel, Asst. Sub-Inspector Kishore Patel and other unknown persons, were booked by the police for alleged police brutality against a 17-year-old youth for self-defense.

There was at least one death due to lethal use of force by police in 2023 and there were at least 3 cases of alleged police brutality in the year, causing death by suicide in one instance

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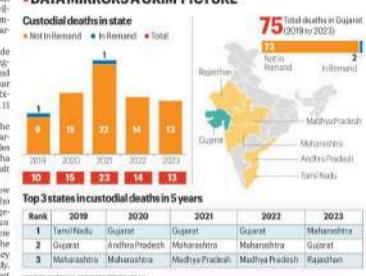
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DATA MIRRORS A GRIM PICTURE



Top 3 states in custodial deaths in 5 years

Rank 1: Tamil Nadu, 73; Rank 2: Gujarat, 73; Rank 3: Maharashtra, 73.

DATA MIRRORS A GRIM PICTURE

75 Total deaths in Gujarat (2019-2023)

73 Total deaths in Maharashtra (2019-2023)

73 Total deaths in Tamil Nadu (2019-2023)

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Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/toxic-taps-in-indias-cleanest-city-the-cost-of-ignoring-water-safety/article70486245.ece>

Toxic taps in India's 'cleanest city': the cost of ignoring water safety

The Indore crisis underscores a broader truth: access and safety are not interchangeable. A functional tap connection that delivers contaminated water does not improve health outcomes; it amplifies risk. By prioritising coverage numbers over verified water quality, governance frameworks risk scaling the very vulnerabilities that caused the tragedy

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Sudheer Kumar Shukla

India's recurring waterborne disease outbreaks are often treated as unfortunate but isolated lapses—local failures caused by ageing pipes, human error, or sudden contamination. The deaths in Indore in early January 2026, expose how misleading that framing is. What unfolded in Bhagirathpura locality was not an accident but the foreseeable consequence of a governance model that prizes visible cleanliness, numerical coverage, and rankings over the fundamental public health obligation of delivering safe drinking water. Indore's tragedy forces a hard question: what does cleanliness mean if a city's taps deliver sewage?

Early warning

Between late December 2025 and the first week of January 2026, residents of Bhagirathpura began reporting foul-smelling, discoloured, bitter-tasting water from municipal taps. Complaints were made repeatedly, but they were treated as routine supply disturbances. Only when people began collapsing—children, elderly residents, and entire families suffering acute diarrhoea, vomiting, and dehydration—did authorities respond with urgency. Official figures acknowledge at least 7–10 deaths; opposition leaders, hospital staff, and local reporters put the number higher, between 14 and 17. Hundreds were hospitalised, several in intensive care, and emergency health teams were deployed to survey thousands of households.

Laboratory tests subsequently confirmed faecal contamination, including *Escherichia coli*, a pathogen that should never be present in treated drinking water and whose detection unequivocally signals sewage intrusion.

Investigations traced the contamination to leaking drinking water pipelines laid dangerously close to sewer lines, compounded by the construction of a public toilet directly above a water main. These are not marginal lapses; they represent violations of basic engineering and public health safeguards.

Engineering failures

To understand why such tragedies recur, one must look beneath the streets—quite literally. Most Indian cities run intermittent water supply systems, leaving pipelines depressurised for long hours. During these low-pressure phases, even small cracks or loose joints can suck in surrounding wastewater—especially in dense areas where sewage saturates the soil.

The risk intensifies when drinking water and sewer lines are laid too close together or intersect, a common outcome of unplanned urbanisation and retrofitting around ageing pipes. Leaking sewers contaminate the ground, and during pressure drops, pathogen-laden effluent is drawn directly into water mains. Once sewage enters the distribution network beyond treatment plants, chlorination offers little protection.

Ageing infrastructure, corrosion, poor leak detection, and weak pressure monitoring compound these failures. Together, intermittent supply and unsafe co-location of water and sewer lines turn routine engineering lapses into public health disasters. These risks are well known. India's Central Public Health & Environmental Engineering Organisation's manuals and World Health Organization guidelines mandate strict physical separation and pressure maintenance to prevent contamination. Violating these norms is not ambiguity but negligence—

embedding risk into everyday urban service delivery.

Not an exception

What makes Indore exceptional is not the failure itself, but the illusion of success surrounding it. Across India, similar outbreaks have occurred with alarming regularity. Ahmedabad has recorded over 3.2 lakh complaints of water contamination in just five years, alongside repeated outbreaks of diarrhoea, jaundice, typhoid, and cholera linked to leaking municipal pipelines. Jaipur and Lucknow have documented hepatitis E outbreaks associated with sewer intrusion into drinking water lines. Bengaluru, Gandhinagar, Greater Noida, Ranchi, and several other cities have reported episodes of sewage-smelling tap water followed by spikes in gastrointestinal illness.

Nationally, the numbers are stark. Government and epidemiological estimates suggest that around 2 lakh Indians die every year due to unsafe water and inadequate sanitation. India's death rate from unsafe water—about 35 deaths per 100,000 people—is more than three times the global average. These deaths are not acts of nature; they are the cumulative outcome of policy decisions that tolerate unsafe water as an acceptable risk.

The Swachh Survekshan Paradox

Indore's repeated coronation as India's "cleanest city" under Swachh Survekshan makes the recent tragedy deeply unsettling. The rankings have undoubtedly driven improvements in solid waste management, street cleanliness, and toilet coverage across urban India. Yet they have also narrowed the idea of cleanliness to what is most visible, easily documented, and readily scored.

Swachh Survekshan places disproportionate emphasis on solid waste handling, surface sanitation, documentation, and citizen perception surveys. What it largely sidelines are the factors that actually safeguard human life: the microbial quality of drinking water, the age and integrity of underground pipelines, pressure stability in water networks, sewer overflows, and long-term trends in waterborne disease. Also, much of the data feeding into these rankings is self-reported by municipalities, with limited independent verification. Meanwhile, citizen feedback disproportionately captures the voices of digitally connected, relatively affluent residents, while informal settlements—often the most exposed to unsafe water—remain structurally underrepresented.

This distortion is compounded by sanitation infrastructure that prioritises construction over containment. Toilets built without adequate sewerage or faecal-sludge treatment systems increase contamination pressure on groundwater and drinking water networks. In dense urban and peri-urban areas, poorly constructed septic tanks, unsafe sludge disposal practices, and congested underground corridors—where water supply and sewer lines run side by side—create ideal conditions for cross-contamination.

From a scientific standpoint, sanitation and drinking water safety are inseparable. From an administrative standpoint, however, they continue to be treated as parallel, siloed achievements—allowing systemic risks to slip through institutional gaps.

The result is a paradoxical outcome: a city can score high on national dashboards while its drinking-water infrastructure quietly deteriorates underground. Indore illustrates the danger of this distortion all too clearly.

Access without assurance

India's Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) represents one of the most ambitious drinking water infrastructure expansions in the world. Rural tap coverage has reportedly risen from about 17% in 2019 to over 80% by late 2025. Yet parliamentary committees and independent studies have repeatedly flagged concerns about data authenticity, weak operation and maintenance, and persistent water quality problems in thousands of habitations.

The Indore crisis underscores a broader truth: access and safety are not interchangeable. A functional tap connection that delivers contaminated water does not improve health outcomes; it amplifies risk. By prioritising coverage numbers over verified water quality, governance frameworks risk scaling the very vulnerabilities that caused Indore's tragedy.

What must change

If the deaths in Indore are to mean more than passing outrage, India must rethink how it measures success in water and sanitation. Public health outcomes—not visual cleanliness or ranking scores—must be central. This follows directly from Constitutional obligation, not administrative preference.

The Supreme Court has repeatedly held that the right to life under Article 21 includes access to safe drinking water. The National Human Rights Commission has likewise found that failure to provide safe water, particularly where negligence leads to preventable deaths, constitutes a human rights violation. Water contamination incidents, therefore, are not routine lapses but breaches that demand accountability.

This requires practical reform: real-time, ward-level disclosure of drinking water quality from independent laboratories; a gradual transition to continuous, pressurised water supply to prevent sewage ingress; and risk-based replacement of ageing pipelines, especially where water and sewer lines run in close proximity, in violation of CPHEEO and WHO norms. Public health surveillance must be integrated with water operations so disease

spikes trigger immediate testing and corrective action.

The families in Bhagirathpura trusted the municipal tap. It failed them. A city cannot be clean if its water is unsafe, nor can sanitation success be claimed while preventable deaths persist. Indore should be remembered not for its rankings, but as a warning against confusing appearance with outcome.

(Dr. Sudheer Kumar Shukla is an environmental scientist and sustainability expert. He currently serves as head-think tank at Mobius Foundation, New Delhi. sudheerkrshukla@gmail.com)



Source: <https://www.indiatodayne.in/manipur/story/misrepresentation-of-human-rights-work-khrc-refutes-claims-of-communal-provocation-1333128-2026-01-18>

Misrepresentation of human rights work: KHRC refutes claims of 'communal provocation'

The Kuki Human Rights Council (KHRC) has strongly refuted allegations accusing the organisation of inciting communal discord in violence-hit Manipur, describing the claims as "baseless, misleading and completely devoid of factual substance."

Kaybie Chongloi | Jan 18, 2026, Updated Jan 18, 2026, 7:40 PM IST

Story highlights

KHRC denies fostering communal discord in Manipur.

KHRC's mandate focuses on tribal rights and dignity.

Separate administrative demand is a democratic aspiration.

The Kuki Human Rights Council (KHRC) has strongly refuted allegations accusing the organisation of inciting communal discord in violence-hit Manipur, describing the claims as "baseless, misleading and completely devoid of factual substance."

The clarification follows a letter dated January 15, 2026, submitted by Muzamil Khan, State Director of the International Federation (NITI AAYOG & MSME, Government of India), to the National Human Rights Commission of India (NHRC).

In a press statement issued on Sunday, January 18, KHRC reaffirmed that its sole mandate is the protection of tribal rights, ancestral land, and the preservation of life, dignity, and fundamental freedoms of the Kuki people—strictly within the framework of the Indian Constitution. The organisation categorically denied allegations that it has played any role in fuelling hostility between the Kuki and Meitei communities, stating that such assertions amount to a deliberate distortion of its human rights advocacy.

Addressing concerns over its demand for a separate administrative arrangement, KHRC clarified that the position represents a constitutionally protected democratic aspiration born out of prolonged insecurity, systemic marginalisation, and governance failures during the ongoing ethnic conflict. The council emphasised that it harbours no hostility toward the Meitei community or any other group, reiterating that its opposition is directed solely against human rights violations, injustice, and sexual violence against women.

On the controversy surrounding the National Register of Citizens (NRC), KHRC stated that its comments were issued in response to remarks made by Arambai Tenggol leader Korounganba Khuman and were not aimed at the Manipur government. The organisation asserted that any move to implement the NRC in Kuki-inhabited areas must be based on the informed consent of local communities and cannot be externally imposed.

Rejecting accusations that it is responsible for Manipur's territorial or social fragmentation, KHRC said the violence that erupted on May 3, 2023, had already irreversibly fractured inter-community relations. "Blaming human rights organisations for these deep-seated divisions amounts to misdirecting responsibility away from the real causes of the crisis," the statement said.

Responding to questions over its registration status, KHRC explained that the council was formed during the most volatile phase of the ethnic conflict, and continuing instability has rendered formal registration procedurally unfeasible. Highlighting the scale of the humanitarian catastrophe, the organisation cited official figures indicating that more than 260 people have lost their lives and over 60,000 individuals—predominantly from tribal regions—have been displaced since May 2023.

KHRC firmly denied engaging in any activity that could derail peace initiatives or undermine constitutional values.

Instead, it called for an independent and impartial probe into the allegations and urged the NHRC to objectively evaluate its role in protecting vulnerable communities and seeking justice in Manipur.

Reiterating its commitment, the council said it remains open to constructive engagement with all stakeholders to rebuild trust, ensure accountability, and work toward lasting peace and harmony, while continuing to prioritise the protection of life, dignity, and human rights for all affected populations.



Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/ahmedabad/75-custodial-deaths-in-5-years-a-problem-gujarat-encounters-10481899/>

75 custodial deaths in 5 years: A problem Gujarat encounters

Brendan Dabhi | January 19, 2026

The latest National Crime Records Bureau report shows that Maharashtra and Gujarat accounted for nearly half of the custodial deaths registered in the country in 2023 — 30 of the total 62 deaths. Gujarat, which reported 75 custodial deaths in five years (386 custodial deaths in India during the period), has consistently been in the top two positions in this period, writes Brendan Dabhi

Since 2020, Gujarat reported the highest number of custodial deaths in the country, which reduced in 2023 by just one case compared to 2022, according to the latest report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). In the early 2000s, Gujarat witnessed a series of police encounter deaths, which were investigated under the supervision of courts and several police personnel were arrested.

More recently, the year 2021 saw one such case in which an FIR was lodged against policemen on direction from the courts. However, the investigation was closed, with a clean chit to all the accused police personnel. The court, however, is yet to take a decision on the matter.

The incident dates back to November 6, 2021, when the Surendranagar police allegedly shot dead Hanifkhan Jat Malek, 45, a member of the 'Talpatri' gang and his 14-year-old son Madeenkhan, while "firing in self-defence". Hanifkhan's 13-year-old daughter Suhanakhan moved the sessions court on the directions of the Gujarat High Court, which directed an investigation against the policemen involved in the firing. An FIR was registered on May 29, 2025, against Sub-Inspector Virendrasinh Jadeja, head constables Rajeshbhai Mithapara and Kirit Solanki; and constables Shaileshbhai Kathevadiya, Digvijaysinh Zala, Prahladbhai Charmata and Manubhai Fatepara, booking them for murder, at Bajana police station. In seven months, police filed a closure report before a magisterial court in Surendranagar, The Indian Express has learnt.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Jugal D Purohit, the Investigation Officer (IO) of the case, told The Indian Express, "After investigation, we have filed a C-summary in this case before the court. We found that the police had fired on the two persons (Hanifkhan and Madeenkhan) in self-defence."

A C-summary indicates "nil findings" of guilt on the part of the accused persons. The Surendranagar magisterial court is expected to hear the case soon.

According to NCRB data, in the five years (2019-2023), there were three incidents of accused persons dying in custody, allegedly as a fallout of physical assault by the police (One in 2019 and two in 2021).

An encounter and a suicide

In the latest 'police encounter' reported in the state, the Gujarat police shot dead a 32-year-old man, Vipul alias Neel Vishnu Parmar, at a secluded spot along the Narmada Canal in Adalaj of Gandhinagar district on September 24, 2025, four days after he allegedly assaulted a young couple in their vehicle, killing the man, a fashion model named Vaibhav Manvani, with 12 stab wounds, on his 25th birthday.

Parmar had been accused or convicted in at least 10 other cases, including two cases of loot and one of murder. In all three cases, the victims were either alone or a couple who were sitting in a lonely stretch of the Narmada canal in the Adalaj area.

According to the Gandhinagar Local Crime Branch, Parmar snatched the weapon of a police personnel and fired at them, injuring one, during a crime scene reconstruction. The police fired in self-defence, killing him, they claimed. A magisterial inquiry is ongoing in the case.

Earlier last year, Karansinh Malaji Jadeja, a 21-year-old man from Bharana village of Dwarka district, died after

consuming a poisonous substance, herbicide 'Sarvanash'.

Jadeja had allegedly attempted suicide after he, along with his friend, were allegedly stopped by police on August 17 and thrashed on the road and at the Vadinar harbour police chowki. He ingested herbicide on August 18 and died in hospital 11 days later.

Subsequently, an FIR was filed in the case on September 4, 2025, at Vadinar Marine Police station, booking head constables Pradipsinh alias Pradyumansinh Dhirubha Gohil and Karsan Rajsinh Gojiya for assault and abetment to suicide of Karansinh.

Police inspector M R Sauvseta, now serving in Kalyanpur police station, who investigated the case and filed the chargesheet in December 2025, told The Indian Express, "Their anticipatory bail pleas were rejected by the sessions court as well as the Gujarat High Court, following which they were arrested and sent to judicial custody. In December 2025, I filed the chargesheet on the basis of evidence that included several videos of the deceased saying that the reason for him attempting suicide was the two police personnel beating them. Karansinh also said this in his dying declaration before an executive magistrate."

Minors among victims of police 'atrocities'

On September 13, 2025, four constables of Botad Town police station, including Kaushik Jani, Yogesh Solanki, Ajay Rathod, Kuldeepsinh Vaghela and other unknown persons, were booked for alleged police brutality against a 17-year-old youth for several days in August.

A petition in this case is currently listed in the Gujarat High Court. The minor was allegedly severely beaten up by the accused police personnel for 8-9 days while under illegal confinement by the constables, who allegedly also extorted Rs 50,000 from his elderly grandparents. On January 9, the Gujarat High Court disposed of the Special Criminal Application (SCRA) after the police said that an FIR had been registered in the case and two of five accused had been arrested and chargesheeted in the case.

Investigation Officer DySP Maharshi Rawal of Botad Police was unavailable for comment.

In another instance, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on October 15, 2025, took suo motu cognizance of media reports of the alleged torture of a minor boy at a police station in Rajkot city. The incident of September 1 came to light only on October 6 after a video was circulated on social media platforms. The video purportedly showed a man sitting on a chair, holding a boy writhing in pain, by his hair, pulling out handfuls of it and throwing it in the dustbin, laughing and smiling as the boy pleaded with him to stop. The video had allegedly been shot at the staff room of a police station.

On October 6, a sanitary worker and a constable were booked under the BNS and Juvenile Justice Act. In this case, investigation officer police inspector S R Meghani told The Indian Express, "On the basis of evidence, we filed a chargesheet against the accused constable as well as the sanitation worker in December last year. They were not sent to judicial custody as the allegations are for crimes whose punishment is less than seven years. The trial in the case has begun."

Maharashtra, Gujarat top in custodial deaths

The latest NCRB report for 2023, published in October last year, shows that Maharashtra and Gujarat made up for nearly half of all custodial deaths reported in India in 2023, accounting for 30 of the total 62 deaths. Notably, these two states have accounted for the highest number of custodial deaths in the last three years — 2021, 2022 and 2023. Gujarat reported 13 custodial deaths in 2023 and Maharashtra saw 17 cases.

Data from the Crime In India reports of the NCRB shows that illnesses and suicide, are the two leading causes of custodial deaths in Gujarat as well as the rest of the country. The data does not differentiate if those who died of illness had comorbidities. Of the 13 custodial deaths in Gujarat in 2023, five prisoners died allegedly by suicide, seven due to illness and one person due to a previous injury. Across India in 2023, of the total 62 custodial deaths, 24 prisoners reportedly died by suicide, and 27 due to illnesses.

In the five years between 2019 and 2023, of the 75 custodial deaths in Gujarat, 31 died by suicide and 32 died of illness. Similarly, across India, of the total 386 custodial deaths in five years, 150 reportedly died by suicide and 167 due to illnesses.

Gujarat Police shooting cases in 2025

Apart from the incident that caused the death of Vipul alias Neel Purohit in Gandhinagar, there were seven more instances in a span of 50 days in the latter half of 2025, in which the Gujarat police shot and injured accused persons, in one leg or both, while the accused allegedly tried to attack them or escape their custody.

Ramsingh Tersingh Dudwa, 32, hailing from Madhya Pradesh, was sentenced to death on Saturday by a trial court, for raping a minor girl in Rural Rajkot, prompting deputy CM Harsh Sanghavi to say that any offence against girls and women would end up in a death penalty.

Over a month ago, on December 10, when the accused was taken for reconstructing the crime, he had allegedly

tried to attack the police team with a scythe and was shot in both legs. Dudwa's was among six such cases of police shooting at accused persons in the month of December 2025 alone.

Around 7:45 pm on December 30, 2025, when the Gujarat Police's State Monitoring Cell (SMC) was returning with an accused in an SUV by road from Guwahati, Assam, the man identified as Ashok Punaram Panwar (Bishnoi) allegedly tried to strangle the sub-inspector driving the vehicle with the seat belt as as they entered Gujarat from Dahod district.

The accused, Panwar alias Bishnoi, allegedly caught hold of the driver's seatbelt, wrapped it around the neck of sub-inspector K D Raviya, according to the police account. Two other suspects were being taken in a second vehicle tailing the SUV.

Police inspector R J Khant shot Panwar, an alleged leader of a bootlegging gang, who was booked under Gujarat Control of Terrorism and Organised Crime (GujCTOC), in the leg, and then took him to a Community Health Centre (CHC) where doctors referred the patient to Zydus Civil Hospital in Dahod. Hours earlier on the same day, December 30, the Surendranagar police had shot at a riot accused in the right leg after he "attacked" a policeman with a knife when they took him to the scene of crime for reconstruction.

The Surendranagar incident took place between 5 pm and 6 pm in Shiyani village in Limbdi on December 30. The accused, Divyarat alias Bull Shiva Borana, was booked on December 2 on charges of rioting, and other BNS sections, after he along with others allegedly attacked a shop owner at his residence over purchase of grains.

Sub-Inspector V M Kodiyatar fired five rounds from his service weapon of which one hit Divyarat, injuring him in the right leg, after he allegedly attacked the police team with a knife during reconstruction of the crime scene.

In all, December 2025 witnessed six such incidents of policemen shooting at accused in their custody, two in a single day. Two of these accused were involved in sexual assault and rape cases.

November 11: In Bilmora town of Navsari, Inspector C H Panara of the State Monitoring Cell (SMC) "thwarted" an "escape attempt" by alleged weapons trafficker Yash Singh Sundersingh and three others, by firing at him after he "fired two rounds at the police team".

December 7: Detection of Crime Branch (DCB) of Ahmedabad City Police shot and injured on the leg, a rape accused Moinuddin Badshah, when he allegedly attempted to assault the police team and seize a weapon from Inspector Imran Ghasura at crime scene, during reconstruction.

December 15 : Surat City Police shot and injured in the right foot, Shivakanth Lallan Yadav alias Shiva Takla (28) after he allegedly tried to snatch the service pistol of a sub-inspector who was part of the police team transporting him from Ahmedabad to Surat while in their custody (not in remand).

December 20: Gandhinagar Police shot at Ramganit Devnandan Ramroop Yadav (40), accused of raping a 4-year-old girl, when he allegedly attempted to escape police custody after the reconstruction of the crime scene.

Most deaths 'not in remand'

NCRB data shows that the highest number of custodial deaths year on year takes place while 'not in remand' rather than 'in-remand', most of them being reported as death by illness or suicide. NCRB defines 'Not in Remand' as persons arrested and yet to be produced before court. It defines 'In Remand' as persons in police/judicial remand.

While the number of deaths 'not in remand' in both states were the same at 13, Maharashtra reported four deaths 'in remand' in 2023, against none in Gujarat, shows data from the NCRB. In the five years between 2019 and 2023, Gujarat reported 75 custodial deaths but only 2 of them were 'in-remand' custody while 73 were in not-in-remand custody. Across India, of 386 custodial deaths in these 5 years, a total of 231 were 'not in remand' custody while 155 were 'in remand.'



Source: <https://www.dAILYEXCELSIOR.COM/HOMELAND-OR-DEMOGRAPHIC-BALANCE-IS-THE-SOLUTION/>

'Homeland or Demographic Balance' is the solution

By Daily Excelsior - January 18, 2026

Ashwani Kumar Chrungoo

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On this day 19 January, thirty six years ago in 1990, the indigenous people of Kashmir -the Kashmiri Pandits faced their worst in their valley where they had been living for the last ten thousand years. They have a written history of more than five thousand years in Kashmir. This was not the first time that they faced the slogans of "Raliv-Galiv-Chaliv" (convert-get killed-flee) openly and publicly. It happened earlier also during the despotic rule of Sultans, Cheks, Mughals, Pathans and even in 1931 and 1947. However, this time it happened despite the existence of the constitution, democratically elected governments, rule of law and universal human rights & the fundamental rights which include the right to life.

After experiencing genocide and forced mass-exodus from Kashmir in 1989-90, the displaced community of Kashmiri Pandits decided to organise a convention in Jammu to build a response to their ethnic cleansing and displacement. It was a tall order to think in terms of an appropriate response to the situation that the exiled community was put to in their own country. In the climatic intense heat of July 1990 coupled with the heat of having been forcibly thrown on the streets by the Islamic fundamentalists and terrorists in connivance with the political organisations in the valley, the displaced community of Kashmiri Pandits organised a two-day conference on 13-14 July 1990 in Jammu named 'Kashmiri Hindu Convention-1990'.

37th Holocaust Day: 19th January

The convention was attended by around 500 delegates of the community who adopted a number of resolutions in the conclave. The most important resolution passed unanimously was called 'Resolution no. 4' and it gave a call for the creation of a security zone in the valley of Kashmir with constitutional guarantees for the Hindu community of Kashmir. This convention was held under the banner of All State Kashmiri Pandit Conference (ASKPC) -the oldest socio-political representative body of the Kashmiri Pandits headquartered at historic Sheetalnath in Srinagar-Kashmir. With this Convention and Resolution number 4, the struggle for the socio-cultural-political existence of the displaced community began.

After a marathon public contact drive immediately after the convention, the key youth activists of the displaced community including this author formed a public platform to pursue the cause of the Resolution number 4. It consequently resulted in the formation of Panun Kashmir on 31st December 1990. Panun Kashmir became the biggest rallying factor for the displaced community and accordingly a big conclave was organized on 27-28 December, 1991 which was attended by the community activists from all over the world. The 1,000 delegates' conclave named 'Margdarshan-1991' adopted the Homeland Resolution on 28 December 1991. The resolution achieved historical importance in the socio-political struggle of the Kashmiri Pandit community post exodus from the valley and it caught the imagination of the people at large.

The Margdarshan homeland resolution has three parts viz the context, the declaration and the operative part of the resolution. In the operative part, the resolution demands that keeping in view the context and the declarations in the resolution, a separate homeland for the Hindus of Kashmir be established on the north and east of river Vitasta (Jehlum) in Kashmir where Kashmiri Hindus yearning to return and live in the valley be resettled. The homeland should be declared a Union Territory and in this territory, the Indian constitution should have a full flow in letter and spirit. It meant that the historic resolution wanted reorganisation of the state of

Jammu and Kashmir along with the nullification of the Article 370 and 35A, separate constitution, flag and emblem of Jammu and Kashmir along with any sort of special status to Jammu and Kashmir state.

This resolution received great support from the people across the displaced community; and conferences after conferences held during the 1990s in various parts of the country endorsed and reiterated the demand made in the historic resolution. On 13 July 2000, all frontal organisations of the Kashmiri Pandit community held a 'Kashmiri Pandit Representative Assembly' in Jammu and in the spirit of the Margdarshan resolution demanded a separate state for the Hindus of Kashmir in the Kashmir valley. Thereafter, the Kashmir Displaced District unit of the BJP in 2013 adopted a resolution in a conference held at Jammu in which it demanded a 'one-place settlement' of the displaced community in the valley of Kashmir.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in the case of genocide and human rights violations against the displaced community filed by this author in March 1994 in its decision in the Commissions's court in June 1999 said that the 'Community of Kashmiri Pandits was not given the due understanding and relief that they deserved'. It also said that 'the Commission is constrained to say that the acts akin to genocide were committed against the Kashmiri Pandits in the valley and.....a genocide type design may exist in the minds and utterances of the militants and terrorists against the Kashmiri Pandit community'. The governments and the administration failed to do what they were supposed to do for the victims of genocide in Kashmir even after their displacement from Kashmir. The Delhi High Court described the displacement as the ethnic cleansing.

The responsibility for their genocide rests with the Islamic fundamentalist and terrorist forces sponsored by Pakistan in Kashmir along with the cunning politicians who worked hands in glove with the radical elements in the valley to execute ethnic cleansing. The J&K government led by Farooq Abdullah connived with the conspirators to implement their planning of forced mass-exodus from Kashmir. Equally responsible is the government of India for its failure to take effective measures to stop the unfortunate happenings against the minuscule minority community in Kashmir for decades despite getting all intelligence and official reports about the same.

The struggle for existence of the Kashmiri Pandit community continues for the last more than three decades though generations changed over all these 36 years. The spirit of the struggle stands unfazed among the members of the exiled community. In continuation of the struggle, the prominent leaders and activists also struggled for the reservation of seats for the exiled Kashmiri Pandit community in the J&K Legislative Assembly so that the community was represented at the highest political platform. This important issue was taken up by this author and represented before the Delimitation Commission along with the other community key activists, thinkers and intellectuals. The Commission was convinced with the arguments put before it and it recommended nomination of two seats in the Assembly for the Kashmiri Pandit community. Thereafter in December 2023, the parliament adopted an amendment to the J&K Reorganisation Act 2019 paving way for the nomination of 5 members to the J&K Assembly including two members from the displaced community.

In September-October 2024, the elections for the J&K Assembly were held and the Assembly was constituted. It is now fifteen months that the Assembly stands constituted and functional, but the nomination of the members, that has parliamentary sanction, has not been made till date. In case the government was unable to take a decision in this regard due to some court case pertaining to the nominations, it should have been guided by the Supreme Court judgement in the case of nominations to the Puducherry Assembly which upheld the nominations. Moreover, no court has granted any stay to these nominations by the government. The unnecessary delay in this regard has created more distress to the already existing distress among the exiled community and the community remains unrepresented in the J&K Assembly.

The original question of the resettlement of the Kashmiri Pandit community in the valley remains. There is no doubt that the government of India implemented a large part of the operative part of the historic Margdarshan resolution on 5th August 2019. It was a revolutionary step in the context of Jammu and Kashmir that brought a great positive constitutional, administrative and political changes in J&K sans the resettlement of the exiled Hindu community of Kashmir. Many important people in the political circles at the national level believe that these changes will be followed by the changes at the levels of social, cultural and demographic balance in the valley as well. They are of the opinion that such changes can pave the way for the resettlement of the displaced Kashmiri Pandit community back in the valley.

The Margdarshan Resolution explains in detail the reasons for the agony, distress and repeated exodus of the Hindus of Kashmir. It maintains that the Muslim majoritarianism is inherently communal by nature and refuses co-existence which Kashmir is a glaring example of. For the last seven hundred years of history in Kashmir, the native Kashmiri Pandits were refused co-existence every time in the valley. In the recent history, it happened in 1931, 1947 and 1986 when the Hindus faced attempts of genocide in which their life, properties and places of worship were attacked mercilessly.

The much hyped PM's package for employment of the youth of the community in the valley has also failed in context of the resettlement of the exiled community. It has proved a mere economic survival initiative for a bunch of the exiled youth. Moreover, they are also not treated as the regular employees of the government for many purposes and are virtually the 'second class employees' in the set-up for all practical purposes. It is now important to reconsider the issues of the resettlement in view of the continuous struggle for existence by the displaced Kashmiri Pandit community. The whole issue needs to be reconsidered in the new context which has all ingredients of a sense of security, security, political and constitutional guarantees against repetition of history in it.

Establishment of homeland as per Margdarshan-1991 resolution or the Demographic Balance in the entire valley are the only two viable options available before the nation for the resettlement of the displaced community in the valley. The community has vowed not to forget and forgive what was done to them. On this day of 37th Holocaust Day, the exiled community reiterate their will with determination and resolve....!

(The author is a senior BJP and KP leader)



Source: <https://en.themooknayak.com/india/incarcerated-journalist-rupesh-singhs-bombshell-letter-never-seen-corruption-like-bihars-beur-jail-heaven-for-the-rich-inmates-hellish>

Incarcerated Journalist Rupesh Singh's Bombshell Letter: Never Seen Corruption Like Bihar's Beur Jail! Heaven for the Rich Inmates, Hellish...

Drawing from his experiences documented in his 'Jail Diary' Kaedkhane Ka Aaina (Mirror of the Prison), he has penned a detailed letter to the Patna District Magistrate, highlighting 12 grave issues with the jail administration.

Geeta Sunil Pillai

Published on: 18 Jan 2026, 10:45 am

Patna- "I have never seen such widespread corruption anywhere like in the Ideal Central Jail, Beur. Here, wealthy and influential prisoners enjoy heaven-like comforts, but ordinary inmates endure torments worse than hell."

These are the bitter words of senior journalist Rupesh Kumar Singh, who is currently a undertrial prisoner in Beur Jail's high-security cell.

Rupesh had written an application to the Collector in December too, exposing the problems, arbitrary practices, and corruption within the jail. It is still unknown whether any action has been taken against the jail administration in this matter. Speaking with The Mooknayak, Rupesh's wife Ipsa Shatakshi informed that her husband is currently suffering from several health problems, including high triglycerides and cholesterol, sinusitis, and a slipped disc. However, despite a court order, the jail authorities have neither taken him to a hospital for treatment, nor conducted any tests, nor even arranged for his examination within the jail premises.

Drawing from his experiences documented in his 'Jail Diary' Kaedkhane Ka Aaina (Mirror of the Prison), Rupesh has penned another detailed letter to the Patna District Magistrate, highlighting 12 grave issues with the jail administration. This letter is not just a record of Rupesh's personal suffering but has become the collective voice of thousands of inmates in Beur Jail. Copies sent to the National Human Rights Commission and Bihar Home Minister Samrat Choudhary have ignited fresh debates on prison reforms.

Rupesh Singh, a resident of Dharouni village in Bhagalpur, revealed that he has been imprisoned in Beur Jail since April 17, 2023. As a journalist who has always raised his voice for truth and justice, he paid the price for it when he was transferred to Bhagalpur Jail on January 22, 2024, on fabricated charges for demanding prisoners' rights.

Despite a supposed six-month sentence, he was brought back only after 20 months, on September 23, 2025. The very next day after his return, he was confined to Degree No. 29 in Gol Ghar-02, where 87 inmates are forced to share a single tap for bathing. Based on his experiences across six jails in Bihar and Jharkhand, Singh asserts that Beur Jail's corruption surpasses all others, where officials collude to provide every luxury to those with money.

The letter first addresses the gross violation of the diet chart. As per the Jail Manual, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays should include seasonal fruits worth Rs. 10 for breakfast, Mondays should have 200 grams of milk at night, Thursdays khichdi, Sundays sewai and bhujia, and Saturdays egg curry. However, these provisions are available only sporadically, perhaps 2-3 days a month. Elderly inmates over 70 years are entitled to 500 grams of milk and fruits daily, a right completely ignored. Similarly, basic hygiene items like bathing soap, laundry soap, oil, toothbrushes, and toothpaste are not provided, endangering inmates' health.

Singh has launched a scathing attack on the dilapidated health services. With minimal facilities in the jail hospital, patients with serious illnesses must obtain a court order to be sent to external hospitals. Doctors fail to prepare minutes on their own, leading to many diseases becoming incurable. Another face of corruption is the operation of private messes by influential inmates.

In dozens of wards, these messes charge Rs. 5,000-10,000 monthly, using stolen supplies from the jail warehouse

to prepare gourmet meals on heaters. Officials turn a blind eye, while the drug trade thrives openly- ganja, cigarettes, and khaini sold at 10-20 times inflated prices.

Corruption peaks in the visitation and communication processes. Online registrations often fail to send OTPs, forcing families to bribe middlemen at the counter to get visitation slips issued instantly. Of the three STD booths, one is permanently broken, and the other two are frequently out of order, delaying mobile number verifications by 3-6 months. Correspondence facilities are virtually nonexistent, inmates cannot even write to family, lawyers, or co-accused in other jails. Educational neglect is glaring too; the IGNOU study center lacks postgraduate courses, a disgrace for the capital's prison.

The conditions in high-security Gol Ghar-02 are heart-wrenching. Ventilators were sealed a month ago, there are no windows, just a front door and no TV or radio setups. With 87 inmates, bathing happens on toilet seats due to the single tap. The administration has formed a 'lathi command' from rowdy inmates, armed with sticks to patrol and beat others, fostering an atmosphere of fear. The most terrifying allegation is administrative punishment on false charges those who speak up are transferred for years to distant jails, enduring brutal beatings en route. Investigations lack transparency; officials meet only handpicked inmates, while other wards are locked. Singh cited the December 10, 2025 Human Rights Day event, where just 200 prisoners were allowed to participate, with the rest confined until the end.

Rupesh Singh has urged the District Magistrate for an immediate probe and offered to provide full details of the corruption in a personal meeting. This letter marks a significant step toward prison reform, potentially compelling the Bihar government and human rights bodies to act.



Source:

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/delhi/2026/Jan/19/gagged-gagged-delhi-gig-workers-trapped-in-endless-shifts-algorithmic-control-vanishing-rights>

Gagged, gagged: Delhi gig workers trapped in endless shifts, algorithmic control, vanishing rights

As platforms expand, gig workers fight a sorry state and unsafe conditions, while waiting for better days, reports Ifrah Mufti.

Ifrah Mufti | Updated on: 19 Jan 2026, 7:36 am

9 min read

"There are nights when I just stand on the road till morning. No orders, no money. Just waiting," he said. It is 2.30 am.

The road is eerily quiet with a flickering streetlight. Ali stands there braving the winter chills near Rajender Nagar, his phone clutched tightly in one hand, waiting for his Zomato app to show orders. It has been over an hour, but no luck.

The 24-year-old had come to Delhi six months ago to earn enough to help pay for his sister's wedding in Bihar and to fund the treatment of his elder brother, who has been unwell for over a year. Instead, most of what he earns disappears before it reaches home – lost to penalties, vehicle rent, and deductions he barely understands. Ali works from 6 pm to 9 am, a 15-hour shift that stretches across the city's most unsafe hours. When he first arrived in Delhi, he hoped to continue his bachelor's degree at Delhi University. Family emergencies forced him to abandon his studies.

Today, he rents a small room in the Jama Masjid area for Rs 2,500 per month and survives by stitching together two jobs: delivery rider at night and mobile technician during the day in Karol Bagh.

Amid growing protests by gig workers in Delhi, even as unions have written to the Labour Minister and approached the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), alleging exploitative and coercive practices by app-based platforms, the reporter spoke to several gig workers in the capital to know that even when the 10-minute delivery enforcement has been revoked, the other struggles persist.

The price of being logged in

In six months, Ali has paid penalties worth Rs 1,150 on five separate occasions. His delivery ID has been blocked multiple times by Zomato. Each time, he has had to deposit additional money just to resume work. "Instead of saving, I keep paying the company. Penalties, deposits, daily EV bike rent – everything is from my pocket," said Ali. Like most gig workers, Ali is not considered an employee.

He has no appointment letter, no salary slip, and no ID card. His proof of employment is limited to a uniform and a series of selfies the app demands at pickup points, delivery locations, and random checkpoints. Miss one, and deactivation follows. "How do I prove to anyone that I work for this company?" Only the app knows because they ask us to send a selfie after reaching the location," he said.

Waiting is also labour

Late-night deliveries bring a different kind of fear. Ali said that thieves often stop him, demanding money. He has narrowly escaped several times. "Standing on the road at night is also work. But nobody pays for waiting," he said. Customers cancel orders midway. Addresses change. Complaints are filed casually. Each incident pushes workers closer to penalties or suspension. There is no hearing, no explanation. The client, he said, is treated as infallible. Girish has been working for a year. He describes the job as "modern-day slavery". "Clients are gods," says Girish (name changed), a Blinkit delivery partner in his 20s. "And us, we are helpless," he said. Girish said the system is

designed to exploit workers' vulnerability.

"They take work from us in such a way that you end up feeling sorry for your own helplessness," he says. Despite completing 15-16 deliveries a day, he struggles to make ends meet. Even a single negative rating can lead to the immediate blocking of a delivery partner's ID. "To get back on the platform, we have to pay again. There is no justice because there is no place to even explain our side," he added.

When safety becomes optional

Sexual harassment is another reality rarely discussed for these gig workers. One of the gig workers associated with the Urban Company recounts an incident involving a transgender customer who allegedly touched him inappropriately. "I had to run, leaving my things behind." He added,

"This customer touched me inappropriately during a service. I complained. Still, the same customer booked me again four times. Earlier the company used to call us to ask for a reason for poor ratings from a customer, but now we don't receive any calls; we have to attend to the customer irrespective of our wish."

Despite filing a complaint through the helpline, no action was taken. Instead, the customer filed complaints that affected the worker's ratings. His ID was eventually blocked. "How do you justify this? Our complaints go into a box that never opens," he said.

Most platforms now rely on AI-run helplines. Human responses are rare. Callbacks, when they come, often arrive 20-30 minutes later – too late in situations involving harassment or danger.

"If something happens to us at 10 or 11 at night, who will help? The app?" he said.

Reality of women gig workers

Women form a growing yet fragile segment of Delhi's gig economy. Many enter platform-based work seeking financial independence, often as single mothers, divorcees, or women living alone. Yet, high attrition remains common, as rigid rules and unsafe working conditions push many out within months. Most women are concentrated in beauty services, care work, and domestic services, where flexibility is promised but rarely delivered.

Speaking to one of the members of the gig workers union in Delhi, she said, "New platform regulations, especially in companies like Urban Company, have made workdays more punishing. Peak-hour mandates from 9-11 am and 4-8 pm shifts that leave little room for caregiving." A single mother leaves home at 8 am for a morning job, locking her daughter inside because she has no support system. On days when her child needs to go to school, she must request customers for a delay. If a customer complains, her rating drops; repeated complaints can lead to her ID being blocked – cutting off her only source of income.

"Recently a single mother working with the Urban Company lost her 15-year-old daughter, who committed suicide at home," she said.

She added, "Safety is another unresolved concern. A Delhi-based worker has repeatedly requested a hub change from Mehrauli after facing harassment and filing a police complaint. Despite sharing official documents, the company's response has been limited to automated replies, 'ticket has been raised', with no resolution for over two months. She continues to work out of compulsion."

Not only this, but there are complaints from the female workers about how men also book their services, showing themselves as females on the app, and such customers misbehave with the workers, and ultimately the workers have to end the job at their own risk of getting their ID blocked.

Delivery timelines further endanger workers. Reaching a job within 30 minutes – often across long distances like Shahdara to Indirapuram – means rushing through traffic, society entry delays, and unsafe commutes.

Several women have met with accidents, a union member said. In one case, a worker who fractured her leg was asked to submit proof to justify cancelling jobs. "Even pain needs documentation," the union member added.

She further shared, "Earnings, too, are misleading. Bundle bookings advertised at '1,200 often leave workers with just '200-'250 after commissions, product costs, and travel expenses. Weekends are mandatory, heavy kits weighing up to 45 kg must be carried up staircases without lifts, and customer complaints, sometimes malicious, are routinely prioritised over workers' voices. With AI-run helplines replacing human support, women gig workers find themselves unheard, overworked, and expendable in a system built on their labour."

Workers union move human rights body

The Gig and Platform Service Workers Union (GIPSWU) moved the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), alleging that labour practices prevalent in India's gig economy amount to forced labour in violation of the Constitution.

In a submission dated January 12, the union urged the NHRC to take cognisance of what it described as a "serious and urgent" breach of Article 23, which prohibits forced labour. The complaint argues that app-based platforms impose rigid, target-driven and time-bound work regimes through algorithmic management systems, effectively

leaving workers with little real choice. According to the union, opaque performance metrics, continuous surveillance, penalties, and the constant threat of income loss create conditions of economic coercion, particularly for workers who are entirely dependent on platform earnings for survival.

GIPSWU cited the Supreme Court's landmark ruling in People's Union for Democratic Rights vs Union of India (1982), which held that forced labour is not limited to physical or legal compulsion but also includes work extracted through economic pressure where refusal is not a genuine option. The union argued that in the gig economy, such coercion is enforced not by supervisors but by algorithms, ratings, and incentive structures. The submission further stated that these practices disproportionately impact economically and socially marginalised workers, deepening inequality while allowing platforms to evade accountability. The union has sought NHRC intervention to examine systemic human rights violations in the gig economy and recommend corrective measures.

We tried approaching Zomato, Urban Company and Blinkit's CEO for a response, but none of them responded to the queries.

Many promises take little shape

The Delhi government had announced plans last year to constitute a welfare board for gig and platform workers and frame schemes aimed at improving their working conditions, though no concrete mechanism has been put in place so far. The announcement was made by Delhi Labour Minister Kapil Mishra on May 16, 2025, raising expectations among thousands of workers in the city's expanding gig economy.

Mishra had made the promise while chairing a meeting with gig workers and representatives of major platforms and aggregators, including Swiggy, Zomato, Blinkit, Uber, UrbanClap, and BigBasket. According to an official statement, the meeting served as a forum for gig workers to directly present their concerns to both the government and platform companies.

"All these problems will be addressed with the cooperation of platforms and aggregators," Mishra had said. "The government will constitute a welfare board for gig and platform workers and will frame schemes for their welfare." He also sought to reassure platform companies, stating that they would not face harassment from inspectors or government officials.

To support these initiatives, the Delhi government had earmarked `10 crore in its FY26 budget. Officials had said the funding would be used to design welfare schemes providing financial security, insurance coverage, and other benefits for gig workers, many of whom operate in the unorganised sector without formal social protection.

The proposed benefits included Rs 10 lakh life insurance coverage and Rs 5 lakh accidental insurance. According to labour department officials, committees will be formed to study existing welfare policies implemented in other states and draft a framework tailored to the specific needs of gig and platform workers in Delhi.

The gig economy is one of the fastest-growing employment sectors in India, currently engaging nearly one crore workers nationwide. As per NITI Aayog estimates, this number is expected to rise sharply to 2.4 crore by 2029-30. In Delhi alone, approximately five lakh gig and platform workers form a crucial part of the city's workforce, underscoring the sector's economic importance.

In a related development last week, Mishra directed labour department officials to expedite efforts to bring unorganised gig, platform, and construction workers under the ambit of social security. He also instructed them to align Delhi's labour code rules with those framed by the Union government.

"The department has been asked to study the rules pre-published by the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment and, where necessary, align Delhi's rules with central provisions to maintain uniformity in implementation," Mishra said, adding that all pending rules under the four labour codes should be finalised at the earliest to enable the rollout of welfare schemes and benefits in the capital.

Survival on thin margins

At 6 am, Rafiq starts his auto near Delhi Gate. By night, he clocks 120 km, earning about `850 on paper. After CNG, rent and daily expenses, barely `200 remains. In Mayur Vihar, Aman logs into a delivery app, his income ruled by algorithms. Fuel and incentives eat away

20-25% of his earnings. At the end of the day, both count what's left and wonder how long it will last.

Untold Hardships that gig workers face

1 Low and decreasing pay: Workers reported reduced rates per delivery and increased commission charges taken by platforms (rising from 5% to 30%)

2 Unsafe conditions and pressure: The "10-minute" delivery model places immense pressure on riders, increasing risk of accidents due to traffic, weather, and fatigue

3 Arbitrary account deactivation: Workers face sudden, unexplained suspensions or terminations, losing their income without proper grievance redressal mechanisms

- 4 Lack of benefits: There is a significant lack of insurance, paid leave, or social security, leaving workers to bear all costs if injured or sick
- 5 Customer fraud: Workers are often scammed by customers using fake payment screenshots or false non-delivery claims, which lead to penalization
- 6 Operational issues: Complaints include unfair penalties, lack of compensation for waiting times, and a demand for better support
- 7 No company support: Workers have alleged that the company doesn't seek any justification from the worker and if something goes wrong with the worker, the company still doesn't cater to the complaint or takes any action



Source: <https://hindi.asianetnews.com/news/manipur-riots-gang-rape-victim-dies-after-months-of-suffering/articleshow-yi8ar1r>

मणिपुर दंगे की 20 वर्षीय गैंगरेप पीड़िता की मौत, 4 दरिंदों ने नोंचा था-नहीं मिला था इंसाफ

1 Min read

Author : Ganesh Mishra

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मणिपुर दंगों में गैंगरेप की शिकार 20 वर्षीय युवती की मौत हो गई है। मई 2023 में 4 लोगों ने उसके साथ बेरहमी से बलात्कार किया था, जिससे उसे गंभीर चोटें आईं। लंबे इलाज के बाद भी वह मानसिक सदमे से उबर नहीं पाई और दम तोड़ दिया।

इंफाल: मणिपुर दंगों के दौरान गैंगरेप का शिकार हुई एक युवती की मौत हो गई है। चोटों के कारण लंबे समय से इलाज करा रही 20 साल की लड़की ने दम तोड़ दिया। यह घटना मई 2023 की है। मणिपुर में दंगों के दौरान कई लड़कियों के साथ बेरहमी से बलात्कार किया गया। दो लड़कियों को भीड़ के बीच निर्वस्त्र घुमाने का चौंकाने वाला वीडियो भी सामने आया था। यह 20 साल की लड़की इंफाल में हुई एक दूसरी घटना में गैंगरेप का शिकार हुई थी। मैतेई समुदाय के 4 लोगों के एक समूह ने लड़की को पहाड़ी पर ले जाकर पूरी रात उसके साथ बेरहमी से बलात्कार किया।

किसी तरह वहां से बचकर युवती बिना कपड़ों के शहर पहुंची। बाद में, वह सब्जी ले जा रहे एक ऑटो में बैठकर अपनी जान बचा पाई। कोहिमा में इलाज के दौरान भी लड़की मानसिक सदमे से उबर नहीं पाई थी। उसके फेफड़ों समेत शरीर के कई हिस्सों में गंभीर चोटें आई थीं। शिकायत के बावजूद पुलिस ने कोई कार्रवाई नहीं की। इस मामले में राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के दखल के बाद भी युवती को इंसाफ नहीं मिला।

Source: <https://www.themooknayak.com/bharat/incarcerated-journalist-rupesh-singhs-bombshell-letter-never-seen-corruption-like-bihars-beur-jail-heaven-for-the-rich-inmates-hellish>

बिहार के बेऊर जेल जैसा भ्रष्टाचार कहीं नहीं देखा पत्रकार रूपेश सिंह का पत्र- अमीर बंदियों का स्वर्ग, गरीबों के लिए नर्क से बदतर!

रूपेश की पत्नी इप्सा शताक्षी ने बताया कि रूपेश इन दिनों ट्राइग्लिसराइड्स, हाई कॉलेस्ट्रॉल, साइनस, स्लीप डिस्क जैसे कई स्वास्थ्य समस्या से जूझ रहे हैं लेकिन कोर्ट आर्डर के बावजूद भी आदर्श केन्द्रीय कारा बेऊर ने अभी तक न इन्हें पटना के किसी अस्पताल में दिखाया है, न कोई जांच कराई है और न ही इनकी जांच जेल के अंदर ही करवाई है।

Geetha Sunil Pillai

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पटना- "मैंने अब तक आदर्श केन्द्रीय कारा, बेऊर के जैसा व्यापक भ्रष्टाचार कहीं भी नहीं देखा और ना ही इतने भ्रष्ट व गैर जिम्मेदार अधिकारियों को ही देखा है। यहाँ पग-पग पर भ्रष्टाचार जिस कारण पैसे वाले बंदियों व दबंगों के लिए यह जेल स्वर्ग के समान है, लेकिन आम बंदियों के लिए यह जेल नरक से भी बदतर है।"

ये कड़वे शब्द हैं वरिष्ठ पत्रकार रूपेश कुमार सिंह के, जो खुद बेऊर जेल के उच्च सुरक्षा कक्ष में विचाराधीन बंदी हैं। अपनी 'जेल डायरी' 'कैदखाने का आईना' के अनुभवों के आधार पर उन्होंने पटना जिलाधिकारी को एक विस्तृत पत्र लिखा है, जिसमें जेल प्रशासन के 12 गंभीर मुद्दों का जिक्र है। यह पत्र न केवल रूपेश की व्यक्तिगत पीड़ा का दस्तावेज है, बल्कि बेऊर जेल के हजारों बंदियों की साझा आवाज बन चुका है।

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग और बिहार गृह मंत्री सम्माट चौधरी को प्रति भेजे गए इस पत्र ने जेल सुधार की बहस को नई गति दी है।

रूपेश की पत्नी इप्सा शताक्षी ने द मूकनायक को बताया कि रूपेश इन दिनों ट्राइग्लिसराइड्स, हाई कॉलेस्ट्रॉल, साइनस, स्लीप डिस्क जैसे कई स्वास्थ्य से जूझ रहे हैं लेकिन कोर्ट आर्डर के बावजूद भी आदर्श केन्द्रीय कारा बेऊर ने अभी तक न इन्हें पटना के किसी अस्पताल में दिखाया है, न कोई जांच कराई है और न ही इनकी जांच जेल के अंदर ही करवाई है।

रूपेश ने जेल की परेशानी, मनमर्जी, भ्रष्टाचार को उजागर करते हुए एक आवेदन पटना के जिलाधिकारी को दिसंबर में भी लिखा था। लेकिन अभी तक जेल प्रशासन के खिलाफ इस मामले को लेकर कोई कदम उठाया गया है या नहीं यह अभी पता नहीं चला है।

रूपेश सिंह जो भागलपुर के धरानी गांव के निवासी हैं, 17 अप्रैल 2023 से बेऊर जेल में बंद हैं। पत्रकारिता में सत्य और न्याय के लिए आवाज उठाने का खामियाजा भुगतते हुए उन्हें झूठे आरोपों पर 22 जनवरी 2024 को भागलपुर जेल स्थानांतरित कर दिया गया। छह महीने की सजा के बावजूद वे 20 महीने बाद, 23 सितंबर 2025 को ही वापस लाए गए। वापसी के दूसरे दिन ही उन्हें गोल घर-02 के डिग्री नंबर 29 में ढूंस दिया गया, जहां 87 बंदी एक ही नल से नहाने को मजबूर हैं। बिहार-झारखण्ड की छह जेलों के अनुभव के बाद सिंह का कहना है कि बेऊर जेल का भ्रष्टाचार बाकी सबको मात देता है, जहां अधिकारियों की मिलीभगत से पैसे वाले बंदी हर सुविधा हासिल कर लेते हैं।

यहाँ के दर्जनों वार्डों में दबंग बंदियों द्वारा निजी मेस का संचालन किया जाता है, जिसमें 5-10 हजार रूपये महीना लेकर बंदियों को खाना बेचा जाता है। वे लोग वार्ड में ही हीटर पर लज़ीज़ खाना बनाते हैं। मेस संचालक कारा गोदाम से ही आलू, दाल, आटा, अंडा, चीनी, हरी सब्जी, प्याज आदि खरीदते हैं। मेस संचालक का जेल प्रशासन से मिलीभगत है।

रूपेश सिंह

15 जनवरी को लिखे पत्र में सबसे पहले डाइट-चार्ट के घोर उल्लंघन का मुद्दा उठाया गया है। कारा हस्तक के अनुसार सोमवार, बुधवार और गुरुवार को सुबह 10 रुपये का मौसमी फल, सोमवार को रात में 200 ग्राम दूध, गुरुवार को खीर, रविवार को सेवई-भुजिया और शनिवार को अंडा करी मिलनी चाहिए। लेकिन ये सुविधाएं महीने में मुश्किल से 2-3 दिन ही नसीब होती हैं। 70 वर्ष से अधिक उम्र के बुजुर्ग बंदियों को दैनिक 500 ग्राम दूध और फल का प्रावधान है, जो पूरी तरह नजरअंदाज कर दिया जाता है। इसी तरह, नहाने-सफाई के लिए साबुन, तेल, टूथपेस्ट और ब्रश जैसी बुनियादी चीजें भी उपलब्ध नहीं होतीं, जो बंदियों के स्वास्थ्य को खतरे में डाल रही हैं।

स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं की लंचर स्थिति पर सिंह ने तीखा प्रहार किया है। जेल अस्पताल में न्यूनतम सुविधाओं के अभाव में गंभीर रोगियों को बाहर के अस्पताल भेजने के लिए कोर्ट का आदेश लाना पड़ता है। डॉक्टर खुद मिनट्स नहीं बनाते, जिससे कई बंदियों की बीमारियां असाध्य हो जाती हैं। भ्रष्टाचार का एक और चेहरा है दबंग बंदियों द्वारा निजी मेस का संचालन। दर्जनों वार्डों में ये मेस 5-10 हजार रूपये मासिक वसूलकर जेल गोदाम से चोरी के सामान पर लज़ीज़ व्यंजन परोसते हैं। अधिकारियों की आंखें बंद रहती हैं, जबकि नशे का कारोबार भी खुलेआम फल-फूल रहा है--गांजा, सिगरेट और खैनी 10-20 गुना ऊंची कीमत पर बिकते हैं।

मुलाकाती के लिए जब बंदियों के परिजन ऑनलाईन रजिस्ट्रेशन करते हैं, तो उन्हें समय से कन्फर्मेशन (ओटीपी) नहीं भेजा जाता है। ऐसी स्थिति में भी परिजन मुलाकात के लिए पहुंच जाते हैं तो मुलाकाती पर्ची करने वाले काउंटर पर ओटीपी नहीं होने के कारण मुलाकाती पर्ची काटने से मना कर दिया जाता

है, लेकिन जैसे ही कुछ पैसा वहाँ मौजूद दलाल को दिया जाता है, तुरंत ही ओटीपी भी आ जाता है और मुलाकाती पर्ची भी कर जाता है। जेल के तीन STD बूथों में से एक हमेशा खराब है और बाकी दो भी अक्सर बंद रहते हैं, जिससे मोबाइल नंबर सत्यापन में 3-6 महीने लग जाते हैं। पत्राचार की सुविधा तो जैसे सपना है, बंदी न तो परिजनों, वकीलों या केस पार्टनर्स से पत्र लिख पाते हैं। शिक्षा के मामले में भी उदासीनता बरती जा रही है; IGNOU स्टडी सेंटर में स्नातकोत्तर कोर्स की कमी बिहार की राजधानी की जेल के लिए कलंक है।

उच्च सुरक्षा कक्ष गोल घर-02 की दशा तो दिल दहला देने वाली है। यहां वेंटीलेटर एक महीने पहले बंद कर दिए गए हैं, खिड़कियां नहीं हैं और टीवी-रेडियो की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं। 87 बंदी लैट्रिन शीट पर ही नहाने को विवश हैं। जेल प्रशासन ने दबंग बंदियों की 'लाठी कमान' गठित कर दी है, जो अन्य बंदियों पर लाठियां बरसाते हैं और भय का माहौल बनाए रखते हैं। सबसे डरावना है झूठे आरोपों पर प्रशासनिक सजा-आवाज उठाने वालों को वर्षों तक दूर की जेलों में रखा जाता है, और अन्य वार्डों को ताला लगा दिया जाता है। सिंह ने 10 दिसंबर 2025 के मानवाधिकार दिवस का जिक्र किया, जब केवल 200 बंदियों को कार्यक्रम में शामिल किया गया।

रूपेश सिंह ने इन गंभीर मुद्दों पर जिलाधिकारी से तत्काल जांच की मांग की है और कहा है कि वे व्यक्तिगत मुलाकात में भ्रष्टाचार का पूरा व्योरा दे सकते हैं। यह पत्र जेल सुधार की दिशा में एक बड़ा कदम है, जो बिहार सरकार और मानवाधिकार संगठनों को कार्रवाई के लिए मजबूर कर सकता है।

Source: <https://panchjanya.com/2026/01/18/454525/bharat/madhya-pradesh/sagar-kinner-mona-death-conversion-controversy/>

किन्नरों पर इस्लामिक कन्वर्जन की छाया! मोना की मौत में नए तथ्यों से बड़ा खुलासा

डॉ. मयंक चतुर्वेदी — edited by Shivam Dixit Jan 18, 2026, 09:38 pm IST

मध्य प्रदेश के सागर जिले से सामने आया किन्नर मोना उर्फ राकेश अहिरवार की मौत का मामला अब एक आत्महत्या की जांच नहीं रह गया है, इसे कथित इस्लामिक कन्वर्जन के संकट से जोड़कर देखा जा रहा है। आरोप हैं कि मजहबी दबाव, पहचान से छेड़छाड़ और सामाजिक बहिष्कार ने एक संवेदनशील जीवन को इस कदर तोड़ दिया कि उसने मौत को ही रास्ता समझ लिया। यह घटना देशभर में यह सवाल खड़ा कर रही है कि क्या कन्वर्जन इस्लामीकरण के नाम पर बनाया गया दबाव किसी की जान लेने तक पहुंच सकता है?

“किन्नर जिहाद” और वायरल ऑडियो क्लिप

दरअसल, सागर जिले में चर्चित “किन्नर जिहाद” प्रकरण ने इन दिनों राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर एक नई बहस को जन्म दे दिया है। सोशल मीडिया पर वायरल हो रही एक ऑडियो क्लिप, जिसे मृतक किन्नर मोना उर्फ राकेश अहिरवार की मौत से पहले का बताया जा रहा है, इस मामले को और गहरा करती है। ऑडियो में मोना और किरण नायक के बीच कथित विवाद और मारपीट जैसी आवाजें सुनाई देती हैं। फिलहाल इसे लेकर प्रशासन ने स्पष्ट किया है कि इस ऑडियो की आधिकारिक पुष्टि अब तक नहीं हुई है और इसकी जांच की जा रही है।

मस्जिद निर्माण के आरोप

इस बीच, मृतक मोना की गुरु किन्नर रानी ठाकुर ने राष्ट्रीय मानव अधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) में शिकायत दर्ज कराई है। रानी ठाकुर का आरोप है कि सागर के रंग महल क्षेत्र में एक मस्जिद का निर्माण कराया गया है, जहां रहने वाले किन्नरों पर नमाज पढ़ने, रोजा रखने और इस्लामिक तौर-तरीकों को अपनाने का दबाव बनाया जाता है। उनका दावा है कि इस दबाव के चलते कई किन्नरों ने कन्वर्जन इस्लामीकरण कर लिया है, जबकि मोना ने इसका विरोध किया था, उसने दृढ़ता से कहा था कि वो हिन्दू ही रहेगी।

मानसिक उत्पीड़न और आत्महत्या के आरोप

रानी ठाकुर के अनुसार, मोना द्वारा विरोध किए जाने के बाद उसके साथ मारपीट हुई और उसे मानसिक रूप से प्रताड़ित किया गया। आरोप है कि इसी मानसिक उत्पीड़न से टूटकर मोना ने आत्महत्या कर ली। यदि यह आरोप जांच में सही पाए जाते हैं, तो यह मामला कानून-व्यवस्था से जुड़ा हुआ नहीं, बल्कि इस्लामीकरण के कथित दबाव से जुड़ा गंभीर मानवाधिकार संकट बनता हुआ दिखता है।

दान की राशि और धार्मिक आस्था से जुड़ा विवाद

मामले में यह आरोप भी सामने आए हैं कि हिन्दू समाज से मिलने वाली बधाई और दान की राशि का उपयोग मदरसों और मस्जिदों की फंडिंग में किया गया। सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता और मध्य प्रदेश बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग के पूर्व सदस्य ऑंकार सिंह का कहना है कि किन्नर समुदाय का हिन्दू समाज से पौराणिक और सांस्कृतिक रूप से गहरा जुड़ाव रहा है।

विवाह, जन्म और त्योहारों पर किन्नरों की उपस्थिति को शुभ माना जाता है और श्रद्धा से उन्हें दान दिया जाता है। यदि इस श्रद्धा से मिले दान का उपयोग कथित तौर पर कन्वर्जन या किसी विशेष धार्मिक ढांचे के विस्तार के लिए किया गया, तो यह हिन्दू आस्था के साथ विश्वासघात है।

पौराणिक संदर्भ और किन्नर समुदाय की सांस्कृतिक पहचान

उल्लेखनीय है कि पौराणिक ग्रंथों में भी किन्नरों का उल्लेख देवों, गंधर्वों और सिद्धों के साथ मिलता है। रामायण में उनका विशेष संदर्भ मिलता है, जो उन्हें समाज में सम्मान और आध्यात्मिक महत्व प्रदान करता है। आधुनिक दौर में किन्नर अखाड़ा जैसे संगठनों ने यह दिखाया है कि लैंगिक विविधता और हिंदू धर्म एक-दूसरे के विरोधी नहीं, बल्कि सह-अस्तित्व के प्रतीक हो सकते हैं।

ऐसे में सागर का यह मामला यह संकेत देता है कि कथित इस्लामीकरण (कन्वर्जन) का संकट धार्मिक के साथ ही वर्तमान में सांस्कृतिक और सामाजिक संतुलन को भी प्रभावित कर रहा है।

प्रशासनिक जांच और उठते गंभीर सवाल

दूसरी ओर प्रशासन का कहना है कि मामले की निष्पक्ष जांच की जा रही है और किसी भी दोषी को बख्शा नहीं जाएगा। लेकिन यहां सबसे बड़ा सवाल यही है कि मोना उर्फ राकेश अहिरवार को अपनी जान देने जैसी मजबूरी क्यों आई? क्या वह सामाजिक दबाव, कथित मजहबी हस्तक्षेप और हिंसा के बीच खुद को असहाय महसूस करने लगी थी? इन सवालों के जवाब जांच के बाद ही सामने आएंगे। फिलहाल, यह घटना इस्लामिक कन्वर्जन के संकट के रूप में एक गंभीर चेतावनी बनकर उभरी है।

मानवाधिकार और आस्था की स्वतंत्रता की मांग

उल्लेखनीय है कि हर जीव का जीवन मूल्यवान है और किसी भी धर्म, मजहब, पंथ, विचारधारा या समूह के नाम पर किसी की गरिमा, स्वतंत्रता और मानसिक शांति को कुचलना सभ्य समाज की निशानी नहीं हो सकती है। मोना उर्फ राकेश अहिरवार की मौत आज मध्य प्रदेश में मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. मोहन यादव

की भाजपा सरकार से ये इस बात की मांग करती है कि आस्था की स्वतंत्रता और मानवाधिकारों की रक्षा को सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता दी जाए ताकि भविष्य में कोई और मोना इस संकट इस्लामिक कन्वर्जन या अन्य किसी भी प्रकार के कन्वर्जन की भेंट न चढ़े।