

## TN CUSTODIAL DEATHS

# NHRC notice to senior cops over 'torture'

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**NEW DELHI:** The NHRC on Wednesday said it has issued notices to the DGP of Tamil Nadu and SP of Thoothukudi district in the southern state over the death of a father-son duo allegedly due to torture by police.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), in a tweet, also said it has sought a report from the police officers, which has to "include inquest report, post-mortem examination report, medical treatment record, magisterial enquiry report and health screening report of both victims, within 6 weeks".

P Jayaraj and his son Bennix, who were arrested for "violating" lockdown norms over the business hours of their cell phone shop, died at a hospital in

**THE PANEL, IN A TWEET, ALSO SAID IT HAS SOUGHT REPORT WHICH HAS TO "INCLUDE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION REPORT, TREATMENT RECORD, MAGISTERIAL ENQUIRY REPORT ETC WITHIN 6 WEEKS"**

Thoothukudi's Kovilpatti on June 23, with the relatives alleging that they were severely thrashed at the Sathankulam police station by the personnel earlier.

The incident has triggered a nationwide furor. "NHRC notice to DGP, Tamil Nadu and SP, Thoothukudi on allegations of the deaths of father-son due to police torture," the rights panel said in a tweet

## आयोग का तमिलनाडु के डीजीपी को नोटिस

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)। राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने बुधवार को कहा कि उसने तमिलनाडु के पुलिस महानिदेशक और राज्य के थूथुकुडी जिले के पुलिस अधीक्षक को पितामुत्र की मौत के संबंध में नोटिस जारी किया है जिनकी मौत पुलिस द्वारा कथित तौर पर प्रताड़ित किए जाने के कारण हुई थी। एनएचआरसी ने ट्वीट में यह भी कहा कि उसने छह सप्ताह में पुलिस अधिकारियों से रिपोर्ट तलब की है जिसमें कानूनी जांच रिपोर्ट, पोस्टमॉर्टम जांच रिपोर्ट, चिकित्सकीय जांच दस्तावेज, मजिस्ट्रेट जांच रिपोर्ट और दोनों मृतकों की स्वास्थ्य जांच रिपोर्ट शामिल होनी चाहिए। मोबाइल फोन की दुकान चलाने वाले पी जयराम और उनके बेटे वेनिक्स को लॉकडाउन के नियमों का उल्लंघन करने के लिए गिरफ्तार किया गया था।

# Have not heard of Pinjra Tod, says accused in Delhi riots case

Police chargesheet states he named two of its activists in his confession statement

HEMANI BHANDARI  
NEW DELHI

Shahrukh Khan, a 24-year-old auto mechanic who has been charged with sections of rioting and murder, and who lost complete vision in one eye and 90% in the other during the north-east Delhi riots in February, said he hasn't heard of Devangana Kalita or Natasha Narwal, Pinjra Tod activists whose names the police say was in his confession statement.

In a case connected to the Jafraabad riots – in which an 18-year-old boy, Amaan, was killed – the police arrested 12 people, out of which 10, including Shahrukh, were chargesheeted by the Delhi police on June 2.

The police submitted that in his confession, Shahrukh named Mohammed Faizan, Natasha, Devangana, Suhagini, Gul and others to be involved in the incident. The police had also arrested Devangana and Natasha in connection with the case.

"I haven't heard their names," said Shahrukh, when *The Hindu* caught up with him at his jhuggi in New Seelampur.

Sitting next to him was his mother Jaheda (54), holding his hand. During the riots, bullet shards hit Shahrukh in the eyes and he lost complete vision in one eye and 90% in another. He claimed that men in uniform were firing from the opposite side.

Recalling the day, Shahrukh said it was his weekly off and in the afternoon, he went outside. "I started walking, saw a funeral procession and started walking



Shahrukh Khan, 24, with his mother Jaheda, 54, at their house in New Seelampur. He lost complete vision in one eye and 90% in the other during the violence. ■ HEMANI BHANDARI

**His life is a struggle now. He won't be able to work or even get married. I have to take him to the public toilet nearby... he fell in the drain once when he tried to go alone**

JAHEDA  
Shahrukh Khan's mother

with them. I reached Jafraabad, in the vicinity of a school. When stone-pelting started from the opposite side and many others from our side retaliated, I too joined in," he said.

Within minutes, Shahrukh was hit by bullet shards and he fell on the road, after which he was first rushed by locals to a hospital nearby and next to Lok Nayak Hospital. From there he was referred to Guru Nanak Eye Centre, where he was treated for 4-5 days.

In the first week of March, Shahrukh's father Ayaz said that they received

a call from a 'government office' stating that they should submit compensation papers in the Sub-Divisional Magistrate's office as Shahrukh was injured. They decided to visit the Jafraabad police station on March 5 to register a first information report to be attached with the compensation papers.

Shahrukh said that he and his mother went to the police station where they were first asked to wait. "After a few hours, they told me that I was involved in rioting and said there was a video in which I could be seen," he said. In the chargesheet, the police have stated that Shahrukh can be seen with the aggressive crowd holding a stone and hurling it.

The police then told the family that Shahrukh – who was still nursing his wounds – would be arrested and produced before the court the next day. Mr. Ayaz alleged that policemen demanded and took ₹10,000 from

them for not beating Shahrukh during questioning.

"Even then, they punched me in the stomach twice. By then, another policeman came and stopped them saying they shouldn't beat me because I am blind," claimed Shahrukh.

## Signed statement

He also said that the police made him sign a statement which he couldn't read because his vision was impaired [Shahrukh has studied up to Class 6]; his mother, who was with him, is illiterate.

"We don't know what they wrote in it," he said.

On March 6, he was produced before the court in presence of his family and advocate where the judge granted him bail on humanitarian grounds.

Ever since, Shahrukh has been home. "His life is a struggle now. He won't be able to work or even get married. I have to take him to the public toilet nearby... he fell in the drain once when he tried to go alone," said Ms. Jaheda.

## Plan to move NHRC

"No police officer has the power to shoot an unarmed person and that too from a close distance. And against this act, we are even planning to move the National Human Rights Commission," Shahrukh's advocate Himalaya Gupta said.

"I don't know why I went that day. If it wasn't a weekly off, I would have been at work and nothing would have happened," said Shahrukh.



# Bengal BJP chief Ghosh heckled

*Midnapore MP escapes unhurt; Congress, CPM condemn attack*

**RAJIB CHOWDHURI**  
KOLKATA, JULY 1

West Bengal BJP chief Dilip Ghosh was allegedly attacked by a group of angry Trinamul Congress workers Wednesday when he went to attend "Chai Chakra" in Rajarhat-New Town after finishing his morning walk.

Around 30 Trinamul workers heckled him and vandalised his car at Atherotola Bazar, prompting his armed security personnel to intervene. The attackers wanted no BJP activity in the area. The Midnapore MP however escaped unhurt as his security personnel rescued him. He said: "The Trinamul government started creating trouble ever since I started living

## NHRC notice to Bengal govt over handling of bodies

Kolkata: The NHRC has sought an action taken report from the West Bengal government into the alleged indignity shown to over a dozen bodies of suspected Covid-19 victims during disposal last month in Kolkata.

Taking cognisance of a complaint filed by Bipul Chattopadhyay of Jaipur on June 17, the NHRC issued notices on June 29 to state chief secretary Rajiva Sinha, police commissioner Anuj Sharma

in my new address at Jotbhim in New Town."

"Sometimes it's NKDA or HIDCO or the police

and municipal commissioner Binod Kumar "calling for a report in the matter within six weeks... It is requested that an action taken report be sent to the commission within 6 weeks from the date of receipt of this letter".

It stated, "In a video that went viral on social media, the workers were seen dragging decomposed bodies by the neck with tongs and loading them into a van, outside the Garia Crematorium.

which is disturbing me. Now I was stopped from holding Chai Pe Charcha. I fail to understand why

the ruling party is so scared of me. Union home minister Amit Shah called me after learning the incident," Mr Ghosh added.

Trinamul MP Sudip Bandopadhyay said: "Our party does not need to resort to violence."

Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Chowdhury said: "The ruling party's weapons in Bengal are violence, corruption and police atrocities. There can be ideological differences between two political parties. But attack on a recognised party can not be accepted."

CPI(M) MLA Sujan Chakraborty said: "I condemn such incidents. It however looks as if the incident was caused to add importance of Mr Ghosh by the Trinamul."