

**Parkinson patient, oldest person booked under India's anti ...**

<https://www.freepressjournal.in/mumbai/parkinson-patient-oldest-person-booked-under-indias-anti-terror-laws-remembering-activist-stan-swamy-84-who-passed-away-ahead-of-bail-hearing>

On Monday, July 5, 84-year-old imprisoned activist Stan Swamy took his last breathe as he had been ailing for quite some time now, having tested positive for COVID-19 and had been critical in the ICU for some time. The activist, arrested in connection with the Elgar Parishad-alleged Maoist links case was lodged in Navi Mumbai's Taloja jail. Swamy passed away at 1.30 pm on Monday. The Bombay High Court bench was informed about his death by Holy Family hospital's Dr Ian D'Souza. He had been shifted from jail following the HC's order on May 28 this year.

Who is Stan Swamy? All you need to know about the 84-year-old Jharkhand tribal rights activist and why was he sent to judicial custody

Father Stan Swamy is a Jesuit priest and has been advocating for the land, forest and labour rights of Jharkhand's Adivasis for the past three decades. "This includes questioning the non-implementation of the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution, which stipulated setting up of a Tribes Advisory Council with members solely of the Adivasi community for their protection, well-being and development in the state."

Besides, his work also involves opposition to the setting up of 'land banks', which he argues would free up land belonging to the community to set up small and big industries.

He was also a part of the Jharkhand Organisation against Uranium Radiation (JOAR), a campaign which was run against Uranium Corporation India Limited in 1996. Swamy has also been working for welfare and rights of displaced people of Bokaro, Santhal Parganas and Koderma.

Swamy and his co-accused have been charged by the National Investigating Agency (NIA) as being members of frontal organisations working on behalf of the banned CPI (Maoists). The case is related to inflammatory speeches made at a conclave held in Pune on December 31, 2017, which, the police claimed, triggered violence the next day near the Koregaon-Bhima war memorial located on the outskirts of the western Maharashtra city.

Stan Swamy, who was jailed in Mumbai, was being treated at the Holy Family Hospital in Mumbai following a court order on May 28. Last week, the activist had filed a fresh plea for bail in the High Court, challenging the stringent conditions for bail to an accused charged under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) Act.

Stan Swamy and other accused in the case had repeatedly complained of inadequate health facilities in the Taloja prison where they had been jailed during their trial. They had alleged neglect by prison officials in ensuring medical aid, tests, hygiene and social distancing.

Swamy, who claims to be suffering from several ailments, including the Parkinson's disease, had moved the high court earlier this year through advocate Desai, seeking medical treatment and interim bail on health grounds. He had tested positive for coronavirus at a private hospital last month and was subsequently shifted to the ICU. His plea for medical bail and bail on merits was listed for hearing in the high court on Friday (July 4) but could not be taken up due to paucity of time.

With regards to his health, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), which was looking into the complaint drawing attention to his serious health condition on Sunday (July 4) had issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra. The notice has called upon the chief secretary to ensure that every possible effort is made to provide Stan with proper medical care.

## **Continuance of manual scavenging goes against Constitutional values, violates rights: NHRC chief**

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/continuance-of-manual-scavenging-goes-against-constitutional-values-violates-rights-nhrc-chief20210705225114>

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) chairperson Justice A. K. Mishra said on Monday that the widespread persistence of the practice of manual scavenging, despite laws and guidelines for its elimination, not only goes against the values of our Constitution but also violates numerous national and international rights. Manual scavenging and hazardous cleaning still remain a stinking truth of our nation, he said. While chairing an online meeting with different stakeholders on 'Manual Scavenging and Hazardous Cleaning' organized by the Commission today, Mishra said, "It is high time we make fundamental shift in our approach and adopt more scientific and innovative technique to end the inhumane, discriminatory and hazardous practice of manual scavenging." Justice Mishra said that though Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was a revolutionary step towards eradication of these hazardous practices, but it suffers from several shortcomings.

According to the National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey 2019-20, only 27.3 per cent of the toilets surveyed have a double leach pit; 1.1 per cent goes into a sewer while all others empty into some form of a septic tank or single pits which requires manual hazardous cleaning. Justice P.C Pant, member of NHRC said, "The toxicity of the society in the form of denials of basic human rights of manual scavengers needs to be nullified." Replicating the best practices across selected Municipal Corporations (Hyderabad, Chennai etc.), and evaluating the impact of mechanisation and technology on manual scavenging were discussed during the meeting. The group also discussed various centrally sponsored schemes and programs run by ministries that could be implemented to fill existing gaps. The NHRC has on many occasions expressed grave concern on the persistence of the practice of manual scavenging in the past through its various letters, National Seminars and Regional Workshops, urging the concerned stakeholders to take adequate steps towards eradicating these hazardous practices. (ANI)

## **Activist Stan Swamy, accused in Elgar Parishad case, succumbs to cardiac arrest**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/activist-stan-swamy-accused-in-elgar-parishad-case-succumbs-to-cardiac-arrest-101625478894101.html>

Stan Swamy, a human rights activist and an accused in the Elgar Parishad case, died after suffering a cardiac arrest early on Monday, doctors informed the Bombay High Court. Eighty-four-year-old Swamy was put on ventilator support at the Holy Family Hospital on Sunday after he faced severe breathing difficulties with doctors examining him saying his condition was "critical" due to post-Covid complications.

Ahead of Swamy's bail hearing on Monday, Dr Ian D'souza of the Holy Family Hospital informed the high court that the activist suffered a cardiac arrest at around 4am. The hospital, D'souza said, tried to resuscitate Swamy but his condition only deteriorated and that he was declared dead at 1:30pm.

Mihir Desai, a senior advocate representing Stan Swamy in the high court, called for a post-mortem of his body. "We have a grievance of gross negligence and hence a post mortem could be conducted," Desai said to the court, which said it had no words to express its condolences. Countering this, Dr D'Souza said since the cause of death is known, a post-mortem is not necessary, adding that a death certificate can be issued.

In such a case, Desai said, Swamy's mortal remains should be handed over to Father Frazer Mascarenhas who was looking after the priest during the course of his hospitalisation.

Reacting to the news of Swamy's death, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said he deserved "justice and humanness." Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan, meanwhile, said it is "unjustifiable" that a man like Swamy had to die in custody.

On May 29, Swamy was shifted from the Taloja Central Jail to the Mumbai-based private hospital after testing positive for Covid-19. He was arrested on October 8, 2020, from his home in Ranchi by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for his alleged role in the Bhima Koregaon violence, also known as the Elgar Parishad case, and charged under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, or UAPA.

Several activists were arrested by the Pune Police in August 2018 in a series of nationwide raids in connection with the case and are currently awaiting trial.

## **NHRC seeks report from CS, DGP**

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/nhrc-seeks-report-from-cs--dgp.html>

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the Odisha DGP and Chief Secretary to look into the case of compensation for a rape victim afresh as per the Odisha Victim Compensation Scheme and sought a report on detailed steps taken by the State Government to check, control and prevent the spread of crime against the women within six weeks. The order of the apex human rights watchdog was passed on June 29, while adjudicating a petition filed by rights lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy. Tripathy alleged that on August 9, 2017 Adma Madkami raped a tribal woman on roadside near MV-84 Village in Malkangiri district. The incident came to light after video of the same went viral in sociPal media.

The tribal woman was returning from market and fell unconscious on the roadside and Madkami committed the crime in full public glare. No compensation has been paid to the victim nor psycho-social counselling provided to her and the video of the heinous act has not been stopped by the Government machinery from spreading in social media. Due to failure and inaction of the Government machinery the crimes against women are rising, Tripathy slammed. Pursuant to the direction of the NHRC, the Superintendent of Police, Malkangiri Collector had earlier informed to the NHRC that two cases have been registered against the accused persons for rape and another for recording and making the video viral in social media, pending trial in the court.

The report further indicates that the provisions of SC/ST (PoA) Act were not invoked in the case as both the victim and the accused person belong to ST category. No compensation till date has been paid to the victim.

## **NHRC to Odisha: Why not pay Rs 5 lakh to electrocuted student's kin**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2021/jul/05/nhrc-to-odisha-why-not-pay-rs-5-lakhto-electrocuted-students-kin-2325691.html>

The National Human Rights Commission has sought to know from the Chief Secretary why an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh be not paid to the kin of an 11-year-old student who died after an electricity line snapped and fell on her two years ago.

Sneha Gardha, an inmate of Deendayal Upadhyaya Residential School of Majhiguda village under Nabarangpur block was electrocuted in May 2019. She was practising dance in her hostel premises when the power cable fell on her killing Sneha on the spot.

Basing on a petition filed by Dillip Kumar Das, a rights activist from Bhawanipatna, NHRC asked the Energy Department to file an affidavit. Subsequently, the Special Secretary of the Department submitted a report to the Commission. An investigation by SOUTHCO confirmed that the minor girl died on the spot after coming in contact with the electricity line.

In a show-cause notice to the Chief Secretary, the NHRC asked why family of the deceased not be compensated. The Principal Secretary of Energy Department and Nabarangpur SP were directed to register criminal cases against anybody found responsible. It also asked for an action taken report by August 27. Sneha, daughter of Naveen Gardha, was a resident of Singsari village under Umerkote block.

One arrested for stealing teak wood

Bhubaneswar: Police on Sunday arrested a man on charges of stealing teak wood worth `3 lakh. During checking near Palasuni here, Mancheswar police intercepted and seized the vehicle carrying the wood and arrested its driver Babu Khatua of Gobindapur in Cuttack district after he was unable to produce any documents.

## **Jailed under UAPA in October, activist Fr Stan (84) dies waiting for bail**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/jailed-under-uapa-in-october-activist-fr-stan-84-dies-waiting-for-bail/articleshow/84138459.cms>

Stan Swamy, the 84-year-old rights activist-priest who was in custody since October 2020 in the Elgar Parishad case under an antiterror law despite repeated pleas for bail on grounds of old age and poor health, died at a Mumbai hospital on Monday. His death was announced by Holy Family Hospital medical director, Dr Ian D'Souza, during a virtual session of the Bombay high court which was hearing Swamy's plea for medical bail. His counsel Mihir Desai had sought an unscheduled hearing at 2.30pm. Cause of death was a combination of pulmonary complications and Parkinson's, the doctor informed the judges. Swamy had developed septicaemia too. He died at 1.24pm after suffering a cardiac arrest on Sunday at 4.30am, the doctor said. He had not regained consciousness after being put on the ventilator. The bench of Justices S S Shinde and NJ Jamadar recorded the news with a "heavy heart".

When Swamy's health deteriorated in custody, the HC judges had overridden objections from the National Investigation Authority and ordered him to be shifted from Taloja central jail to a private healthcare facility on May 28. The NIA had suggested a government-run facility to which Swamy had said, "I would rather die here in prison." He had tested Covid positive on admission, but recovered.

While tributes poured in for the Jesuit priest and tribal rights champion, social media was thick with condemnation for the treatment meted out to the activist by the investigating agency and judiciary. Desai was all praise for the treatment at the hospital. The HC too acknowledged the care given. Swamy's lawyer, however, alleged negligence by jail authorities and questioned the NIA's conduct in opposing his bail. He said the agency had not sought even a day's custody for questioning since his arrest and incarceration in Taloja prison. The chargesheet against him was filed on October 9, which meant the investigation was over and he should have been entitled to bail. Desai said, "There ought to be a probe against the authorities."

Last year, a special trial court had denied him medical bail and this March it said, given the seriousness of the allegations against Swamy it had "no hesitation" to conclude that "the collective interest of the community would outweigh the right of personal liberty of the applicant notwithstanding his 'old age and/or alleged sickness'". In April Swamy approached the HC to appeal against both orders. On May 28, an HC vacation bench directed his hospitalisation. He was shifted the same night from Taloja jail, where he had been lodged since his arrest in Ranchi. NIA had said sending him to a private hospital may set a "wrong precedent" but HC said given the "peculiar facts and circumstances of this case," it was permitting the shift. Fr Swamy's counsels Desai and Mihir Joshi had highlighted how he was "unable to stand, eat or visit the toilet" and his health was "extremely precarious with reduced oxygen saturation and acutely fluctuating blood pressure". The HC was informed hospital expenses would be borne by Fr Swamy. On May 21, while the hearing on his weak condition was on, he had refused to be shifted to JJ Hospital or even Holy Family. In a virtual interaction from prison, he

said, "I would prefer to die here (in jail), than go to JJ Hospital." The NIA had suggested the JJ prison ward. Swamy had told the court, "I was brought healthy to Taloja jail eight months back but over a period all my body functions have deteriorated. I cannot eat on my own, can't bathe nor walk unsupported. Though I have been getting medicines it has not helped." A week on, Desai, asked by the HC to convince Swamy, did so and sought orders for his shift to Holy Family. The HC while directing Swamy's hospitalisation for 15 days permitted hospital visits by Fr Frazer Mascarenhas, of St Peter's Church. The hospitalisation was extended till July 6. Desai said Fr Swamy has no family. "The Jesuits are his only family." On his request, the HC directed his body be handed over to Fr Mascarenhas for the last rites in Mumbai.

For the NIA, ASG Anil Singh and state's public prosecutor Deepak Thakare said they would abide by HC's order. Thakare said inquest and post mortem is needed, since the undertrial was in custody. The HC directed it to be done forthwith. Desai said last rites would be in conformity with the state's pandemic SOP. The HC directed that all medical and post-mortem reports be placed before it next Tuesday, when Desai said he would make further submissions in the matter. Just last week, Fr Swamy had freshly petitioned HC against section Section 43 D (5), UAPA which bars bail if a court forms prima facie opinion that accusations are true. Swamy had also questioned the terminology 'frontal organisations' in the UAPA first schedule, claiming its use by prosecuting agencies to "arbitrarily" oppose bail pleas. The NIA had claimed that Bagaicha, an organization founded by Fr Swamy to empower tribals, is connected with a frontal organisation of the CPI (Maoist).



## **NHRC seeks reports from Odisha on crime against women**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/nhrc-seeks-reports-from-odisha-on-crime-against-women/articleshow/84134965.cms>

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has asked the director general of police (DGP) and the chief secretary of Odisha to look into the case of compensation to a rape survivor from Malkangiri district and the steps taken by the state to check, control and prevent crime against women within six weeks. The commission passed this order on June 29 after hearing a petition, which was filed by human rights lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy on August 14, 2017. He had alleged that a tribal woman was raped on the roadside in broad daylight near the MV-84 village in Malkangiri district on August 9 that year. The matter had come to light after a video of the incident had gone viral on social media. He had said the incident had occurred when a tribal woman fell unconscious on the roadside, prompting a tribal man to commit the crime in full public glare. No compensation has been paid to the victim and the video of the heinous act has not been stopped by the government, the petitioner had said in his prayer. After intervention of the commission, the Malkangiri SP had submitted a report in this regard on July 11, 2018.

## मानवाधिकार आयोग के अध्यक्ष ने मैला ढोने की प्रथा को खत्म करने के लिए नवीन तकनीक अपनाने का किया आह्वान

<https://www.jagran.com/news/national-human-rights-commission-chairman-calls-for-adopting-new-technology-to-end-manual-scavenging-21802852.html>

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के अध्यक्ष न्यायमूर्ति (सेवानिवृत्त) अरुण मिश्रा ने सोमवार को कहा कि व्यक्ति द्वारा मैला ढोने की प्रथा अब भी हमारे देश का एक कड़वा सच है। उन्होंने इस अमानवीय और भेदभावपूर्ण प्रथा को खत्म करने के लिए अधिक वैज्ञानिक और नवीन तकनीक अपनाने का आह्वान किया।

एनएचआरसी) द्वारा आयोजित मैला ढोने की प्रथा और खतरनाक सफाई पर ऑनलाइन बैठक

वह राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) द्वारा आयोजित मैला ढोने की प्रथा और खतरनाक सफाई पर विभिन्न पक्षों की एक ऑनलाइन बैठक की अध्यक्षता कर रहे थे।

न्यायमूर्ति अरुण मिश्रा ने मैला ढोने की प्रथा को जारी रखने पर की चिंता व्यक्त

मानवाधिकार आयोग के प्रमुख ने मैला ढोने की प्रथा को जारी रखने पर गंभीर चिंता व्यक्त की और कहा कि इसके उन्मूलन के लिए कानून और दिशानिर्देश मौजूद हैं। इसके बावजूद इसका जारी रहना न केवल हमारे संविधान के मूल्यों के खिलाफ है, बल्कि कई राष्ट्रीय और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अधिकारों का भी उल्लंघन है।

मैला ढोने की अमानवीय प्रथा को समाप्त करने के लिए वैज्ञानिक और नवीन तकनीक अपनाने

एनएचआरसी द्वारा जारी एक बयान में उनके हवाले से कहा गया, यह उचित समय है कि हम अपने दृष्टिकोण में मौलिक बदलाव करें और मैला ढोने की अमानवीय, भेदभावपूर्ण और खतरनाक प्रथा को समाप्त करने के लिए अधिक वैज्ञानिक और नवीन तकनीक अपनाने।

एनएचआरसी प्रमुख ने कहा- शौचालयों से मैला ढोने की प्रथा को खत्म करने में मिलेगी मदद

एनएचआरसी प्रमुख ने यह भी कहा कि स्वच्छ भारत मिशन के तहत बनाए गए शौचालयों से मैला ढोने की प्रथा को खत्म करने में मदद मिलने की उम्मीद है, लेकिन इनमें कई कमियां भी हैं।

## WB: चुनाव बाद हुई हिंसा में जान गंवाने वाले अभिजीत सरकार की दूसरी बार अटॉप्सी का आदेश, मामले में दो गिरफ्तार

<https://www.abplive.com/news/india/west-bengal-atopsy-ordered-for-second-time-abhijit-sarkar-who-died-in-post-poll-violence-two-arrested-in-the-case-ann-1936005>

पश्चिम बंगाल चुनाव बाद हुई हिंसा में मृतक बीजेपी कार्यकर्ता अभिजीत सरकार के शव का दूसरा शव परीक्षण करने के लिए कलकत्ता हाई कोर्ट के आदेश के बाद पुलिस ने दो लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया है।

राज्य विधानसभा चुनाव के नतीजे घोषित होने के बाद बंगाल में हिंसा के एक मामले में अभिजीत सरकार को कथित तौर पर पीटकर मार डालने के आरोप में नारकेलडांगा पुलिस थाने ने हिंद मोटर से संजय बसाक और सुफल बोस नाम के दो आरोपियों को गिरफ्तार किया है।

### अभिजीत सरकार के शरीर की दूसरी शव परीक्षा का कोर्ट ने आदेश दिया

शुक्रवार को, कलकत्ता हाई कोर्ट ने बीजेपी कार्यकर्ता अभिजीत सरकार के शरीर की दूसरी शव परीक्षा का आदेश दिया था, जिसकी कथित तौर पर 2 मई को कोलकाता के नारकेलडांगा में भीड़ द्वारा गला घोटकर हत्या कर दी गई थी। शव 66 दिनों से आरजी कर अस्पताल में सुरक्षित रखा गया है।

कलकत्ता हाई कोर्ट ने आगे आदेश दिया था कि दूसरा शव परीक्षण कमांड अस्पताल में किया जाना चाहिए, जिसमें एनएचआरसी प्रतिनिधि की उपस्थिति हो, ना कि किसी राज्य सरकार के अस्पताल। मृतक के भाई बिस्वजीत सरकार को आज शव की शिनाख्त के लिए तलब किया जाएगा जिसके बाद शव को कमांड अस्पताल भेजा जाएगा।

### हमलावरों ने अभिजीत के गले में केबल टीवी का तार डाल मौत के घाट उतारा- बिस्वजीत सरकार

मई में सुप्रीम कोर्ट का रुख करने वाले बिस्वजीत सरकार याचिकाकर्ताओं में से एक हैं, जिन्होंने बंगाल में चुनाव के बाद की हिंसा के कृत्यों की जांच की प्रार्थना की। उन्होंने आगे कहा कि टीएमसी समर्थकों ने उनके घरों और नारकेलडांगा इलाके में स्थित एक बीजेपी कार्यालय में तोड़फोड़ की।

उसने दावा किया कि हमलावरों ने अभिजीत के गले में केबल टीवी का तार डाल दिया और उसे तब तक सड़क पर ले गए जब तक उसकी मौत नहीं हो गई. उन्होंने कहा कि उनकी मां के साथ भी मारपीट की गई. यह घटना टीएमसी उम्मीदवार परेश पाल के विजेता घोषित होने के तुरंत बाद हुई.

पीठ ने विशेष रूप से कहा, "रिपोर्ट में शरीर की स्थिति के बारे में उल्लेख किया जाएगा कि क्या इसे अस्पताल में ठीक से संरक्षित किया गया था जहां यह था" बीजेपी नेता और वकील, प्रियंका टिबरेवाल के अनुसार, कार्यवाहक मुख्य न्यायाधीश राजेश बिंदल और जस्टिस आईपी मुखर्जी, हरीश टंडन, सौमेन सेन और सुब्रत तालुकदार की पांच-न्यायाधीशों की पीठ ने राज्य पुलिस को एनएचआरसी की सिफारिशों के आधार पर बयान दर्ज करने का आदेश दिया था. राज्य सरकार प्रभावित परिवारों को चिकित्सा उपचार और राशन उपलब्ध कराए.

### **चुनाव के बाद की हिंसा पर एनएचआरसी की रिपोर्ट में कई मामले शामिल**

टीएमसी सरकार को शुक्रवार को उस समय झटका लगा जब कलकत्ता हाई कोर्ट ने बंगाल में चुनाव के बाद की हिंसा पर राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) की रिपोर्ट पर संज्ञान लिया, जिसमें हत्या, बलात्कार और आगजनी के दावे शामिल थे.

सुनवाई के दौरान महाधिवक्ता किशोर दत्ता ने कहा कि अभिजीत सरकार की हत्या पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने संज्ञान लिया है. बेंच ने कहा कि वह सिर्फ दूसरे शव परीक्षण का आदेश दे रही थी और उसके पास कोई और निर्देश नहीं था.

# Post-poll violence: NHRC team meets Bengal DGP

**Kolkata/Burdwan:** An NHRC team on Monday met Bengal DGP Virendra at Nabanna on issues related to post-poll violence, as the Calcutta High Court asked for a report from the rights body.

The HC on Friday had asked for a second autopsy on BJP worker Abhijeet Sarkar. NHRC officials discussed their mandated presence at the autopsy with the DGP. Sarkar's body was brought to Command hospital from the NRS hospital morgue. An NHRC team went to Jamalpur in East Burdwan to contact victims' families. They also went to TMC worker Bibhas Bag's home. TNN

*Full report on [www.toi.in](http://www.toi.in)*

## 84-yr-old activist Stan Swamy dies in hospital waiting for bail

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
Mumbai, July 5

**PRIEST-ACTIVIST STAN** Swamy, arrested under an anti-terror law in the Elgar Parishad case, died at a Mumbai hospital on Monday in the middle of his fight for bail on health grounds.

The 84-year-old Jesuit priest — possibly the oldest person to be accused of terrorism in India, as per his lawyer — had been on a ventilator since Sunday after his health worsened rapidly.

Dr Ian D'souza, director of the Bandra-based private Holy Family Hospital, where Swamy was undergoing treatment, and the tribal rights activist's lawyer Mihir Desai informed a bench of the Bombay High Court of his death following cardiac arrest.

The bench, comprising Justices S S Shinde and N J Jamadar, expressed shock over the news

and said it was at a loss of words and hoped Swamy's soul would rest in peace. Swamy the oldest among the 16 accused persons arrested in the Elgar Parishad case and, possibly the oldest in India to be charged under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the lawyer said.

Those arrested include some of India's most-respected scholars, lawyers, academicians, cultural activists, and an ageing radical poet, who then contracted coronavirus in prison.

Condolences poured in for the tribal rights activist, with many bemoaning his demise.

The Jesuit Provincial of India expressed grief over Swamy's death. In a statement, it said the priest had worked all his life for the "Adivasis, Dalits, and marginalised communities so that the poor may have life with dignity and honour".





Jesuit priest had just about recovered from Covid but suffered cardiac arrest on Saturday, was put on ventilator; arrested in Oct last year in the Elgar Parishad case, was fighting for bail ever since

## Health check



### SUDHA BHARADWAJ

She is 58, has multiple ailments. Her family members say her health deteriorated during her stay in jail, and that she has developed arthritis and a heart condition



### ANAND TELUMBDE

At 72, he has pre-existing ailments, his family has pointed out, adding inadequate facilities in prison further aggravated his condition and left him exposed to Covid



### HANY BABU

At 54, Babu developed acute eye infection in Taloja jail. He now has little vision in the eye due to swelling. He is currently at Breach Candy at his own expense after testing Covid+



### GAUTAM NAVLAKHA

He is 70. Taloja prison officials had last year refused to accept a parcel containing new spectacles for him after the old one was stolen in jail



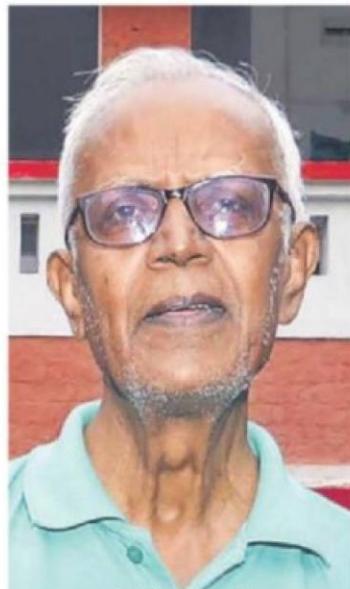
### SURENDRA GADLING

53-year-old, he has co-morbidities like hypertension, diabetes and asthma



### VARAVARA RAO

The octogenarian got interim bail in March after two years in jail. He was denied even basic healthcare facilities during incarceration



STAN SWAMY

26 APRIL 1937 ■ 5 JULY 2021

## VIRUGALLUR MOURNS

Tiruchy: Virugallur village in the district, where Swamy hailed from, on Monday evening was buzzing with scores of people arriving from different places to express their condolences to the bereaved family. A peaceful procession has been organised and a special mass in Stan's memory will be held at the Our Lady of Seven Dolours church on Tuesday

# Grim Reaper, not state, sets Stan Swamy free at 84

MUKESH RANJAN AND SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Ranchi/Mumbai

JESUIT priest and tribal rights activist Father Stan Swamy, arrested in connection with the Elgar Parishad case, passed away at a Mumbai hospital on Monday shortly before the Bombay High Court took up his plea for bail. He was 84.

Swamy had been languishing in Mumbai's Taloja Jail ever since the National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested him under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) on October 8 last year. The High Court had on May 28 told state prison authorities to shift him to the private Holy Family Hospital in Bandra.

On July 3, the HC slated his bail plea for hearing on July 6. However, his lawyers moved the court on Monday seeking urgent hearing after his health deteriorated and he was put on ventilator.

Earlier on March 23, special judge D E Kothalikar had refused bail even on health grounds saying the "collective interest of the community

would outweigh Swamy's right to personal liberty" given the seriousness of the allegations made against Swamy. "As such the old age and alleged sickness of the applicant would not go in his favour," he said.

Prima facie Swamy had hatched a "serious conspiracy" with members of a banned Maoist outfit to create unrest and to overthrow the government, the court had ruled, while refusing bail.

On Monday, when a bench comprising justices S S Shinde and N J Jamadar took up the bail plea around 2.30 pm, counsel Mihir Desai urged the court to hear Dr Ian D'souza, director of the Holy Family Hospital. He broke the news of Swamy's demise at 1.24 pm. Swamy had suffered cardiac arrest on Saturday and could not be revived, the doctor said, adding, "Cause of death is definitely pulmonary infection and Parkinson's disease among others." The shocked bench said, "With all humility at our command, we are sorry to know that Stan Swamy passed away. We have no words to express."