

Human Rights News

Ludhiana not on smart course!

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/ludhiana/ludhiana-not-on-smart-course-193460>

Leaking water supply and sewer pipes in Gole Market here, the main commercial hub in the posh Model Town locality, for over a month are mocking the tall claims of smart city and smart roads that are being talked about day in and day out by political leaders and bureaucrats.

The water accumulation at several places in the market has not only turned this stretch into an accident-prone area but leakage from water supply and sewerage pipes might as well lead to the mixing and contamination of drinking water, thereby resulting in a huge health hazard.

Residents and shopkeepers of the affected area say that repeated complaints made to senior officials of the operations and maintenance (O & M) wing of the Municipal Corporation have either remained unheeded or resulted in only temporary stop-gap arrangements.

On behalf of the aggrieved residents/shopkeepers, the Council of RTI Activists secretary Arvind Sharma has lodged a complaint with the Punjab Human Rights Commission (PHRC), seeking its immediate intervention in the matter to save people from the threats of road accidents or outbreak of water-borne diseases due to the accumulated water all along the road and big potholes that had been made due to the persistent leakage of water from the newly laid pipes.

In his complaint, Sharma said the leakage from water supply/sewer lines was the result of poor workmanship on part of the contractor who had executed the work of laying pipes and thereafter some shopkeepers/residents taking illegal water connections without proper repair of the joints. "At some places, rubber pipes have been used to reconnect the water supply lines," said the complainant.

He added that the matter had been reported in writing to the O & M officials of the D zone right from the junior engineer up to the Superintending Engineer but no permanent solution to the problem had been found yet.

The PHRC has been urged to intervene in the matter, issue directions to the officials concerned for resolving the issue and recommend suitable disciplinary action against the MC officials for negligence and dereliction of duty.

Rethinking police reforms

<https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/main-article/rethinking-police-reforms-934876.html>

We have recently been witness to a curious but sad spectacle of a public spat in between two senior police officers of Karnataka. Though the state government transferred both of them, the episode reflects a deeper malaise within the police force.

The Indian Police Service has the responsibility to provide leadership to the police forces in the states and the Union. The first Police Commission set up as far back as 1865 defined police as a government

department “to maintain order, enforce the law and detect the crime”. With the expansion of government activities and increasing security issues, the scope of functions was broadened to include matters like collection of intelligence, VIP security, economic offences, social legislations and disaster management.

The number of cognisable offences under IPC during the last decade increased by 63% and offences under special and local laws by 73%. No doubt, the police work under certain limitations such as lack of adequate personnel and modern equipment. What, however, matters most in terms of performance in services like the Armed Forces and the police are discipline and leadership.

Two years ago, we witnessed an ugly battle between the two senior-most officers of the CBI and even the mighty Central government found it difficult to control the situation. In states including Karnataka, bickering within the higher echelons of the police are not uncommon. Occasionally, they surface and become the subject matter for the media and juicy gossip.

In my understanding, the reasons for the present state of affairs are:

- 1) As officers move up the hierarchy, senior positions with substantive work are not available in proportion to the number getting promoted. After working as Superintendent of Police where you are in direct command of the entire police force of the district, you get promoted as DIG, then as IG and later as ADGP which are more of supervisory positions devoid of direct powers.
- 2) Politicisation of the police force has created divisions and dissensions within the department. Political leaders asking for certain officers to be posted to particular positions and some officers jockeying for their favourite positions make for a perfect nexus between the two classes, pushing public interest to the background.
- 3) Inspiring leadership within the police forces is becoming rare. Not because there are no officers who can provide such leadership; there are individuals with outstanding ability and uprightness, but because the system seems to have demotivated them. Unless they are free to take independent decisions and are supported by higher authorities, they choose the path of least resistance.

2-year tenure

The need for police reforms has engaged successive governments from the time the National Police Commission was set up in 1979. Unfortunately, the recommendations made by the various commissions and committees received little attention, leading to a PIL in the apex court by two retired DGPs, following which the Supreme Court issued a set of directives. According to a study by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, no state has fully complied with the court directives - such as constitution of Police Establishment Board to decide on transfers and promotions, State Security Commission to ensure that states do not exercise unwarranted influence or pressure on the police and Police Complaints Authority to deal with complaints from the public. More importantly, most states have failed in providing officers a minimum tenure of two years in a post.

Governments seem to view reforms more from a management perspective and tend to focus on matters like providing more funds, increasing technological capacity and upgrading infrastructure while the real challenge lies in behavioral change. Issues like assertion of police power, lack of courtesy while dealing the public, custodial deaths, fawning over VIPs, unprofessional investigation etc, have nothing to do with shortage of resources or manpower, they are behavioral in nature. What is therefore required is a rethink on the nature of police reforms. Let me mention a few.

- 1) The fundamental issue relates to recruitment. Time has come to delink recruitment to the IPS from the combined examination process of All-India Services that include the IAS and the IFS, and Central Services. The policing profession belongs to the specialist and not generalist category. Hence, the method of selecting officers for a job that requires specialised skills ought to be different, as in the case of the Indian Forest Service to which recruitment is made separately without clubbing with the other services.

- 3) It is not easy to fully avoid political interference in some form or the other, unless the police is given

functional autonomy. This is not likely as such a decision has to be taken by the political executive which relies on the police to achieve some of its own ends. The best way of dealing with and minimising political pressure is to build effective leadership within the police force, which consists primarily in developing a strong work ethic that includes integrity, professionalism, impartiality, sensitivity in dealing with others and concern for people's safety and welfare. Bringing about this behavioral change will be crucial in moving towards an effective and humane police service.

This decade will be decisive for democracy, capitalism

https://www.hindustantimes.com/columns/this-decade-will-be-decisive-for-democracy-capitalism/story-EnqTOqecGSOgJC6QFeR1CN_amp.html

Do you remember the moments when this century was about to begin? There was a buzz everywhere about the 21st century — that it would set the stage for humanity's decisive battle against violence, hunger and poverty. After 20 years, these dreams have given way to crippling fears. All the indications, which raised our hopes, have now crumbled. This next decade is going to prove decisive for democracy and capitalism.

If we look into the period from 1900 to 2020, we will find that a change of established values takes place every second decade. Let us fast forward to 2001. It was a period of big hopes and dreams. The Cold War between the erstwhile Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and the United States (US) that had become almost a permanent feature after World War II was over, strengthening the hold of capitalism. In the early 1990s, the world had accepted that capitalism was the main key to progress. At the same time, programmes for poverty alleviation in Asian and African countries gained momentum. Never in the history of mankind had such a large number of people risen above the poverty line. Along with this, all credit was given to democracy and globalisation for an increase in basic amenities across societies. So, the beginning of the 21st century was a hopeful one. But in 2001, two incidents led to a new turn all around.

That year, China became a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). This was the formal arrival of the Dragon on the world stage of the free market. Then came the fateful events of September 11. Osama bin Laden's jihadists crashed air planes into the iconic World Trade Center's skyscrapers in the greatest act of terror that the US had ever seen. These two events led to a decisive change in the world order. On the one hand, the US got caught up in protracted and unproductive wars, on the other, China quietly increased its strength. An economic crisis followed and then came the Covid-19 pandemic. The suffering and unemployment were there for all to see at the dawn of 2021.

The economic slowdown can be seen in the textile industry in India and Bangladesh. It was a lucrative multinational industry with raw material for the finished product coming in from all over the world. Due to the coronavirus, raw material could not reach either country and exports were stalled.

A large number of people lost their jobs in several industries. From ordinary workers to professionals, so many suffered. Many faced salary cuts. There were many who not only lost their jobs but also their homes. A large number of those who had risen above the poverty line over the last 30 years were forced to return to the same state again.

With the arrival of new "strains" of the coronavirus, a number of restrictions are coming back. But we now see a new trend. It is "economic nationalism". Most countries have started insisting on products

being made locally, to provide employment opportunities to locals. Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has also been advocating a “vocal for local” movement. However, it is not possible at the moment to predict how much improvement this will bring in economic conditions.

It is no surprise that all kinds of protests are being seen in many parts of the world at the moment. Farmers have been camping around Delhi in extreme weather conditions for over a month now. This is the first year since 1961 when the cold wave has wreaked havoc for more than eight consecutive days. On the first day of the New Year, the mercury dropped to one degree, but even this biting cold has not deterred the farmers from continuing their protest. But this kind of anger is not unique to India. Neighbouring Pakistan and Nepal are also witnessing struggles for various reasons. China, which is creating turmoil on our borders, is also struggling to maintain peace in Hong Kong. This anger is no longer the preserve of Asian and African countries. A while ago, a protest, dubbed Black Lives Matter in the US, took a violent form. There was also a Delhi-like farmers’ protest in Berlin, Europe’s biggest city in the continent’s richest country Germany in 2019. Farmers blocked the roads of the city with more than 20,000 tractors. They went back home after the pandemic but their resistance is still on.

There is cause for fear in these developments. There are many examples in history which tell us that in such situations, rulers start insisting on immediate measures, most of which have adverse impacts. This is happening at the moment. During this period, 91 countries imposed various restrictions on the mainstream or social media. In September 2020, a Freedom House survey showed grave human rights violations by the State and a severe assault on the democratic system in many nations. If this trend holds in this decade, then many values established in the post-World War II era may become things of the past. This will prove fatal for democracy. There is another fact which needs attention. Human civilisation has always discovered new light in the darkest days of crisis. With this hope, let us welcome this new decade.

Shocking: Cops beat up tourist in Atal Tunnel in HP, video goes viral

<https://mumbaimirror.indiatimes.com/news/india/shocking-cops-beat-up-tourist-in-atal-tunnel-in-hp-video-goes-viral/articleshow/80085210.cms>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/shimla/hp-police-orders-probe-after-video-of-cop-beating-man-in-atal-tunnel-goes-viral/articleshow/80082170.cms>

A shocking video clip of a group of policemen mercilessly beang up a man in the newly inaugurated Atal Tunnel beneath the Rohtang Pass near here in Himachal Pradesh went viral on Sunday. The police admied that the incident involving the tourist and policemen was a result of an overtaking incident amid a massive traffic snarl in the tunnel on Saturday. The video was shot by a passerby.

In the clip, a Constable can be seen beang the man with a sck. Many bystanders watch but no one intervenes. Another policeman joins in towards the end of the clip and beats the man again by kicking him on the face and slapping him. Among the six security personnel involved, one allegedly belonged to the Border Roads Organisaon. Twier users who shared the video clip expressed shock over the "inhuman" treatment of the tourist by the policemen involved. Earlier, a case of hooliganism had come to light when a group of youngsters from Delhi stopped their three vehicles midway in the Atal Tunnel, a new tourist aracon where parking vehicle inside is an offence, and started clicking photographs, recording videos and dancing. This led to obstrucon of traffic inside the tunnel. The 9.2-km horseshoe-shaped single-tube, two-laned tunnel has shortened the distance between Manali and Keylong, the headquarters of Lahaul-Spi, by 46 km and travel me by nearly three hours.

27-year-old 'beaten to death' with baseball bat

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/27-year-old-beaten-to-death-with-baseball-bat-7131665/>

A 27-year-old man was allegedly beaten to death by a group of men in West Delhi's Raghbir Nagar on Saturday. Police said the victim, Satender, was out with his friends Nitin and Manish in the night when they allegedly had an altercation with a man named Vicky who then called his associates and allegedly assaulted Satender.

"The accused thrashed Satender with a baseball bat. Satender was rushed to Guru Gobind Singh Government Hospital where the doctors declared him dead on arrival," said DCP (West) Deepak Purohit.

According to police, Satender, who lived in Shivaji Vihar, was involved in eight cases of robbery and theft. Vicky is also a history-sheeter and is involved in cases of gambling and theft. During enquiry, Satender's friends told the police that the fight happened near Vicky's house.

While police said the accused and victim are known to each other, they are yet to identify the cause of the fight. Police said they are scanning through the CCTV footage from the area to trace the accused.

Pregnant woman kicked, beaten over website deal

<https://bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com/bangalore/crime/pregnant-woman-kicked-beaten-over-website-deal/articleshow/80086441.cms>

A 21-year-old pregnant woman was allegedly beaten, kicked on her stomach and sexually harassed by a techie in Kudlu village at his office when she had gone to ask to refund her money as a deal for her business's website went awry. The incident happened around 11 am at techie Sunil Kumar's office - Nescode Technologies Pvt Limited in Kudlu situated close to the victim's godown where they store their customers' household items. Babita and her husband Farooq (both names changed) run a packers and movers business. Since the slowdown a lot of people are moving to their hometowns and other places, so there is a demand for packers and movers, the couple told Bangalore Mirror. The couple wanted to put their business online, so they approached their neighbour Kumar. They got in touch with him to develop two websites, one for themselves and another for Farooq's brother who also has a business. The couple says they spoke to Kumar about their requirements and agreed that the work will be done for Rs 73,500 for two websites. Kumar asked Farooq to pay the money in advance so that he could settle his office rent. "Since he was a friend and his requests seemed genuine, we gave the money in three instances," said Babita. A few days later, when Farooq inquired with Kumar about the status of his websites, he was given a pending due of about Rs 2.87 lakh. Kumar told Farooq that the bills ran up to this amount inclusive of GST. A shocked Farooq told Kumar that he had agreed for 73,500, but the latter stuck to the new price. Farooq then asked for bills but Kumar refused to give them. "I had pledged my jewelry at a pawn shop for interest and had taken Rs 75,000 to pay Kumar," Babita said. On Monday, she went to Kumar's office and asked him either to refund their money or give the website's user IDs and passwords. "There was no response from Kumar. He kept busy with his laptop and ignored me so I shut the laptop and asked him to talk to me," Babita said. Kumar pushed Babita to a wall and touched her inappropriately. She called up her husband who rushed to Kumar's office and took his 7-month pregnant wife to a hospital. The couple then approached the Parappana Agrahara police and filed a complaint against Kumar who was booked for sexual harassment, assault, words or gestures with intent to outrage modesty of a woman, among other sections. Kumar has filed a counter complaint with the police stating it was the woman who trespassed into his office and talked to him in threatening tones. The police are investigating further.

Villagers thrash woman in Nagaur for 'witchcraft'

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/woman-beaten-for-witchcraft-case-registered/articleshow/80088095.cms>

A 68-year-old woman of Bai Baisar village in Nagaur was beaten by a few people for allegedly practising witchcraft. She was abused and people also threw stones at her. Police took the victim to medical check and registered a case against the accused. The incident came to light after an old woman reached the Kotwali police station bleeding profusely. According to the report, a woman alleged that her husband died five years ago and her son with his family works in Hyderabad. She lives alone in Tausar hamlet of Bai Basar village near Nagaur city. She alleged that the accused threatened her to leave the village and threw stones at her. A case has been registered under Rajasthan Prevention of Witch Hunting Act and under some IPCs.

Shamli man 'beaten to death by cops', probe ordered

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/lucknow/shamli-man-death-police-meerut-7131426/>

A 35-year-old man was allegedly beaten to death by policemen at his house in Shamli's Elam town on Sunday afternoon. Police, however, denied the allegation, saying Omveer died of cardiac arrest after the policemen left his house. Meanwhile, police have ordered an inquiry.

While the Kandhla Superintendent of Police said that policemen visited Omveer's house in connection "with a complaint against him", the local SHO said that he was not aware why the policemen went to his house.

Omveer's 14-year-old daughter, Puja, told the police that when she returned home from the market, she saw three policemen "attacking her father with clubs". "When the policemen left, I rushed to my father and found him lying lifeless on the ground," said Puja.

"We have sent the body for post-mortem. An inquiry has already been ordered. We don't know yet why the policemen had gone to Omveer's house," said Rajan Tyagi, in charge of the area police station in Shamli district.

Following Omveer's death, his family members and the residents of the area had blocked on the Delhi highway demanding immediate action against the "guilty policemen". The roadblock was lifted after senior police officers intervened and assured them of immediate action.

Seven Uttar Pradesh cops suspended for registering 'wrong' human trafficking case

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2021/jan/04/seven-uttar-pradesh-cops-suspended-for-registering-wrong-human-trafficking-case-2244979.html>

A case has been registered against five Uttar Pradesh police personnel for registering a "wrong" human trafficking case against three people, including owner of a vehicle carrying migrant labourers during the lockdown.

Seven police personnel, including these five, have been suspended for dereliction of duty and maligning the image of the force.

Superintendent of Police Ram Badan Singh on Sunday said a truck carrying 42 migrant labourers was intercepted by Inspector Sanjay Rai of Koirauna police station area and other policemen in August this year.

A case of human trafficking was registered against the truck owner Chandan Subhash Chauhan, driver and cleaner on charges of human trafficking.

The driver and cleaner were later sent to jail, police said.

Subsequently, Chauhan moved a petition in the Allahabad High Court, which considered the police action 'wrong', and instructed Additional Director General of Police (Varanasi) to probe the matter.

The ADG handed over the departmental probe to ASP (Protocol) Anurag Darshan, and the investigation did not find the case as that of human trafficking.

The police personnel involved in the matter were found guilty, the SP said.

He said on the orders of ADG, a case was registered against then inspector Sanjay Rai, sub-inspector Ram Ashish Bind, constables Ravindra Kumar, Vishnu Saroj and Pradeep Kumar on Saturday at the Koirauna Police Station. Apart from these five police personnel, Sub-Inspector Nemtullah and head constable Adya Prasad Yadav have also been suspended, the officer added.

Enabling rural populace to fight for Right to Food

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/enabling-rural-populace-to-fight-for-right-to-food.html>

In a State like Jharkhand which is infamous for hunger deaths and rampant poverty and unemployment, access to social security schemes, especially those ensuring the rural masses proper food and nutrition, still remains a distant dream. A large chunk of people belonging to socially excluded communities and those living in far flung areas of the State are yet to manage two square meals for them and get benefits of government schemes due to lack of awareness.

However, winds of change have started flowing in some areas of the State, where rural residents, who were devoid of the government scheme benefits, are gradually becoming aware of their rights and are working towards securing their rights, especially in the field of food security.

The project named 'Strengthening Rural Governance for Right to adequate Food' launched in March 2020 being implemented by Phia Foundation in association with Welthungerhilfe being implemented with close coordination with the government in 40 villages of Khunti (20) and Latehar (20) districts of Jharkhand has turned out to be the harbinger of change for thousands of villagers of the area. The villagers are now discussing issues related to MGNREGA, NFSA, MDM, ICDS, AWC, FRA and several other schemes meant to benefit them. They are participating in Gram Sabhas, taking help from NREGA Sahayata Kendras, Mobilizing people to facilitate awareness and their active participation, Adhikar Yatra, awareness campaigns, and other community meetings to spread the word among others and also making efforts to secure their rights through various government schemes.

"There has been a marked change among the people of the area since the programme began here. A large number of people from socially excluded communities of the society were devoid of their rights.

However, things have changed now. With the help of awareness programmes run under the project many people have been benefitted with the social security schemes,” said James Herenj, who is associated with the project in Latehar district.

James further said that for the first time people in the area have started getting unemployment allowance under MGNREGA and it became possible only with the help of the MGNREGA help desk established under the project.

Notably, women’s participation in the programme has also increased in the field. “A large number of women are coming forward to claim pension benefits now. Also, they are working towards getting the right amount of food through PDS system they are entitled to. Several people also got their ration cards corrected through the authorities,” said Alice, who works for the project at Karra in Khunti district.

Xavier Hamsay, another member working in Karra said that a positive impact of the project has become visible now as people are getting their ration regularly through PDS shops. “Earlier they used to get tired running from pillar to post due to lack of knowledge about their rights and many PDS dealers used to cheat them. But, today a large number of people are aware and ensure that they got their rights and entitlements. We also organised ‘Ádhikar Yatra’ recently to make people aware of their rights by distributing booklets on social security schemes,” he said.

The project aims at providing regular access to 90 per cent of the targeted households to PDS/MDM and ICDS services, strengthen grievance redressal mechanism of the government, to make functional multi stakeholder engagement with active local governance bodies Gram Sabha/standing committees (Village Assembly), Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committees (VHSNC) in strong collaboration with Panchayati Raj department and other line departments such as - Women and Child Development, Agriculture, etc.

It has also set goals to prepare, implement and assess participatory nutrition sensitive micro-plans in 80 per cent of the villages, make at least 10 Panchayats as Zero Hunger and make active VHSNCs in 75 per cent of the villages and monitor performance of ICDS and health facilities. During the entire project in the duration of four years more than 43000 villagers are aimed to be impacted.

NCW received 23,722 complaints in 2020, highest in six years

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/ncw-received-23-722-complaints-in-2020-highest-in-six-years/story-m2hDa1u7LXex2rBIX6qsHM.html>

The National Commission for Women received 23,722 complaints of crimes committed against women in 2020, the highest in the last six years.

Nearly one-fourth of the total complaints were of domestic violence, according to NCW data.

Among states, the highest number of complaints were received from Uttar Pradesh at 11,872 followed by Delhi 2,635, Haryana 1,266 and Maharashtra 1,188, it added.

Of the 23,722 complaints, 7,708 complaints were received under the right to live with dignity clause.

The right to live with dignity clause takes into account the emotional abuse of women.

According to the NCW data, a total of 5,294 complaints were related to domestic violence.

NCW Chairperson Rekha Sharma said economic insecurity, increased stress levels, anxiety, financial worry, and lack of other such emotional support from parents/family's side may have resulted in domestic violence in many instances in 2020.

"More so, home has become the workplace of both the spouses and as well as schools and colleges for their children. In such situations, women are multitasking being professional at the same time supporting their families from the same space. But the biggest challenge for women this year is not only to adapt but to thrive in this unprecedented situation," she told PTI.

The number of complaints received in 2020 have been the highest in six years. In 2014, a total of 33,906 complaints were received, according to the NCW data.

The NCW was flooded with complaints of domestic violence in March as the lockdown, imposed in view of the coronavirus outbreak, forced women to remain confined to their homes with their abusers.

The number of complaints of domestic violence went on increasing through the months and in July, a record number of 660 such complaints were received.

Sharma underlined how domestic violence remained a serious concern for the commission through the year.

"Victims of domestic violence are distanced from their regular support systems making it difficult for them to call out for help. The series of Covid-19 lockdowns in India reduced the opportunities of reporting of domestic violence cases," she said.

The NCW chairperson said the lockdown incapacitated women by preventing them from moving to safer places in cases of violence and abuse, reduced contact with the natal family which is usually the first point of contact for the victim.

"The machinery under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act had not been identified as an essential service during the lockdown. Hence, protection officers and NGOs were not able to visit households of victims and police officers being at the frontline to tackle Covid-19 were overstretched to help victims effectively," she said.

After the right to live with dignity and domestic violence, the third highest number of complaints have been of harassment of married women or dowry harassment at 3,784 followed by that of molestation at 1,679.

According to the data, 1,276 complaints of police apathy towards women and 704 complaints of cyber crime were received by the commission. As many as 1,234 complaints of rape and attempt to rape were received while 376 complaints of sexual harassment were received by the commission in 2020, the data showed.

Sharma encouraged women to reach out to the NCW whenever they want.

In 2021, she said the commission will continue to work with commitment to ensure justice and empowerment to even the last woman standing at periphery and will continue with its endeavours.

Women rights activist Yogita Bhayana, who heads the People Against Rape in India (PARI), the high rate might also be because of high awareness among women to talk about such incidents and report them.

“There has been an increase because there is also an increase in awareness because women are getting more proactive reporting it and talking about it. Earlier they used to suppress their grievances and the government is also spreading awareness and women get motivated by other women reporting it,” she said. “Because of social media the reporting of domestic violence has increased. Women have become more vocal and they have less tolerance which is very good,” Bhayana added.

Another women rights activist Shamina Shafiq said the government needs to talk strongly about domestic violence.

“Unfortunately a man feels it is his right to beat a woman and he enjoys the fact that I am the one in control of the life of another person. There should be writing on the wall that spousal violence is wrong,” she said.

Newly married Dalit youth attacked with metal pipes, murdered in Andhra Pradesh

<https://www.timesnownews.com/hyderabad/article/newly-married-dalit-youth-attacked-with-metal-pipes-murdered-in-andhra-pradesh-kurnool/702426>

A Dalit man was allegedly murdered by unidentified persons seven weeks after he got married. The man got married to a woman against the wishes of her family. The man was attacked and brutally murdered in Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool district on Thursday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Adam Smith. Smith got married to Maheshwari even as her family opposed to the same. On the day of the incident, two men allegedly attacked Smith on the head with metal pipes and dropped a boulder on his head.

Smith was a member of the Madiga community, categorised as Scheduled Caste (SC), while Maheshwari is from the Kuruba BC (Backward Class) community. The two met in their hometown Gurazala, Nadavaram mandal.

Couple fled from Kurnool to get married

As per Maheshwari, her family opposed to her marriage with Smith and the two left their hometown to get married in Hyderabad. The couple also sought protection from the cops as they were aware of the family's approach towards them, The News Minute reported.

Maheshwari said that her family opposed to the marriage as the two of them were from different castes. She added that they tied a knot at an Arya Samaj temple on November 12 in Hyderabad. From there, they went to Kurnool, seeking protection. The police told Maheshwari's family to stay away from them but the threats kept coming through phone calls. Maheshwari alleged, "My father and uncle killed my husband, because of caste."

A case was registered under r Section 302 (Murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), as well as the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. No arrest has been made yet.

'Honour killing' in Haryana: 23-year-old man murdered over inter-caste marriage; second incident in 3 days

https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/honour-killing-in-haryana-23-year-old-man-murdered-over-inter-caste-marriage-second-incident-in-3-days/702229?utm_source=relatedarticles&utm_medium=widget&utm_campaign=related

In a suspected case of honour killing, a 23-year-old man was murdered allegedly by his brother-in-law and a relative of the latter in Panipat city of Haryana on Friday night. This is the second such case reported from the state in three days.

The now-deceased man, identified as Neeraj, fell in love with Komal, who lived near his house. In November 2020, the two got married, but Komal's family was unhappy with their marital union as Neeraj belonged to a different caste.

How it happened

Late Friday night, Komal's brother and one of their relatives stabbed Neeraj multiple times in the market area of Bhavna chowk in the city, leading to serious injuries that resulted in his immediate death, and fled. His body bore at least 12 stab injuries. The entire episode of crime was captured on CCTV cameras installed in the area.

"We have registered the FIR on charges of murder. Preliminary investigations revealed that two men had attacked Neeraj that resulted in his death. Both are yet absconding. We shall soon arrest the accused," a report by The Indian Express quoted a police officer as saying.

Couple shot dead in Rohtak

On Wednesday, a young man and woman, who planned to marry, were shot dead in broad daylight in Rohtak

According to the police, the parents of the man, aged nearly 25 years, and the woman, who was around 27 years old, were to meet for working out some modalities for a court marriage, but the woman's family didn't turn up. It is suspected that the woman's family is involved in the crime. Police said that based on a complaint filed by the deceased man's family, a case has been registered for murder and other relevant provisions of the law against some members of the woman's family.

3 men framed in false 'love jihad' case: Cops

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/3-men-framed-in-false-love-jihad-case-cops/story-gBADOEGjox4MqJeUo7OaHK.html>

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/lucknow/love-jihad-anti-conversion-law-up-7131562/>

Two days after a case was lodged against three Muslim men for allegedly intimidating a 24-year-old married woman in Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh to convert her religion, the police on Sunday said the men had been framed and it had begun proceedings to overturn the case.

A first information report (FIR) accusing the men of intimidation and threatening the woman to convert her religion had been lodged at Faridpur police station of Bareilly on December 31. The FIR was lodged on a complaint by the woman's maternal uncle.

The three Muslim men had been booked under the controversial Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020 and sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC)

“According to the complainant, on December 1 last year, when the girl was returning home from college, one Abrar, along with his cousins Maisur and Irshad, tried to forcibly convert her religion and threatened her for marriage,” said Bareilly’s senior superintendent of police (SSP) Rohit Singh Sajwan.

Preliminary investigation by the police found that the claim was false.

“We came to know that the accused were not present at the crime spot at the time of the incident as mentioned in the complaint. It was further corroborated by the mobile phone location of the accused,” said the SSP, adding that the complaint seems to have been lodged because of a personal grudge.

Child trafficking: NHRC directs personal appearance of Home Secretary and SP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhubaneswar

THE National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has summoned the Home Secretary and SP of Crime Branch-CID, Cuttack seeking their personal appearance with detailed report in connection with rising human trafficking and sexual exploitation of children in Odisha.

Acting on a petition and subsequent submissions filed by rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy, the apex human rights panel has served conditional summons directing the two officers to appear before the Commission on March 17.

As per the petition, one Narayan Dash of Ganjam district had kidnapped an eight-year-old girl from her village while she was witnessing a festival on the occasion of Kartika Purnima in 2015.

Narayan took the girl to Burupada and allegedly exploited her sexually.

Next day, he engaged her for begging at different places after selling her ear-ring for ₹2000 to buy a cell phone.

"A former model was spotted while engaging minors from a Bhubaneswar-based slum in begging and extorting money from them. It is failure of the State government in dealing with children being used for begging, sexual abuse and drugs trade," the petition stated.

The NHRC had earlier sought action taken reports from the DGP Pursuant to the direction of the NHRC, the city DCP had informed that one eight-year-old boy was rescued by the volunteers of an NGO while he was begging at Bhubaneswar Railway Station pretending as physically challenged.

The minor boy had admitted before the CWC that his father, mother and their associates had been kidnapping children and using them for

begging.

A chargesheet was then submitted against eight persons. The Ganjam SP had also submitted that the minor girl was rescued by GRP, Berhampur and the accused had confessed to the crime.

The NHRC had asked the government to take preventive measures and submit a comprehensive report by September last year. Since the report has not been submitted yet, the rights panel in its December 28 order asked for personal appearance of Home Secretary and SP of Crime Branch. "If the the report is received by March 10, their personal appearance shall stand dispensed with," the order added.



Trafficking of poor children

NHRC summons Home Secy, CB SP

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued conditional summons to the Odisha Home Secretary and the CB-CID Superintendent of Police (SP) to appear in person before it on March 17 with a detailed report regarding trafficking of poor children. Human rights activist and lawyer Radhakant Tripathy in a petition has alleged that poor children are being trafficked, exploited sexually, physically and mentally in Bhubaneswar and other parts of Odisha. Tripathy alleged

that one Narayan Dash of Bariguda in Ganjam district had kidnapped an eight-year-old girl from her village while she was witnessing a festival on the occasion of Kartika Purnima.

Narayan took the girl to Burupada and sexually exploited her. Next day, he engaged her for begging at different places after selling her ear ring for Rs 2,000 to buy a mobile phone. Tripathy also alleged that it was the Government's failure in dealing with incidences of children being used for begging and subjected to sexual and drug abuse.