

EXPRESS INVESTIGATION

The Muzaffarnagar whitewash: Like in murder, accused got away in rape, rioting cases too

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
MUZAFFARNAGAR, JULY 19

WITNESS AFTER witness, even police officers, turning hostile; victims openly alleging fear and intimidation; long delays in medical examination in gangrape cases, in one case a delay of three months; no cross-examination of doctors or police — the list goes on.

In 40 of the 41 Muzaffarnagar riot cases, all the accused walked free. An investigation of court records of these cases by *The Indian Express* shows that just as with the 10 cases of murder reported Friday, in the four cases of alleged gangrape and 26 cases

CASE BY CASE
HOW TEN MURDER CASES FELL: 'POLICE TUTORED ME...SIGNED BLANK PAGE'

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Burnt houses of riot victims in Shamli. Gajendra Yadav

of rioting as well, there were glaring gaps in prosecution which resulted in the acquittals

of 168 men. All acquittals are in cases involving attacks on Muslims.

At least 65 people were killed in the 2013 riots, all these cases were registered and investigation began when the Akhilesh Yadav government was in power, the trial spanned both his and the current BJP government.

Consider the key findings in the four gangrape cases that the court used to justify the acquittals:

■ A victim in one case deposed that her medical examination was conducted after three months. The doctor told the court: "We did not find any bodily injuries during the medical

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KARNATAKA FACEOFF DEEPENS

Governor's 2nd deadline passes, Speaker fixes Monday for trust vote

Kumaraswamy moves SC on Raj Bhavan deadline, party whip order

JOHNSON TA & ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
BENGALURU, NEW DELHI, JULY 19

AS KARNATAKA Governor Vajubhai Vala issued a second deadline to Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy, directing him to complete the trust vote by the end of the day, Speaker K R Ramesh Kumar Friday extended confidence motion proceedings until Monday after Congress-JD(S) coalition MLAs and Kumaraswamy sought more time to discuss the motion.

While the Opposition BJP insisted the trust be completed Friday, the Speaker stated that the debate on the trust vote should conclude by July 22 and underscored that the Chief Minister must face the trust vote Monday.

Earlier, in a plea to the Supreme Court, Kumaraswamy questioned Governor Vala's deadlines to the Karnataka Assembly and also sought clarification on the top court's direction that 15 rebel coalition MLAs cannot be "compelled" to attend the proceedings of the House.

In his application through advocate Sunil Fernandes, Kumaraswamy said: "It is respectfully submitted that no such



Ruling and Opposition MLAs in the House on Friday. PTI

direction could have been issued by the Hon'ble Governor when the confidence motion has already been initiated... the Hon'ble Governor cannot dictate to the House the manner in which

the debate of the confidence motion has to be taken up." "However, the Hon'ble Governor has again sent a communication that the trust vote

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Credit agencies bent over backwards for IL&FS: Forensic report

SANDEEP SINGH, KRISHN KAUSHIK & AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, JULY 19

TOP CREDIT rating agencies not only provided IL&FS executives with advance rating reports, they allegedly allowed them to influence these ratings. In some cases, they even went to the extent of letting IL&FS officials re-write portions of their reports before these were made public. IL&FS executives discussed payments to keep negative reports in the private domain; agencies initially didn't give high ratings to IL&FS firms in the absence of strong credentials but then, inexplicably, upgraded them.

These revelations are at the heart of a scathing indictment of top agencies in a draft forensic report on alleged wrongdoing as IL&FS slipped into default.

The report, prepared by tax

EXPLAINED
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The challenge of regulation

THE ALLEGATIONS in the Grant Thornton report highlight issues of corporate governance and raise questions regarding oversight of credit rating agencies. One key issue is their revenue model in which agencies are paid by the companies they rate. RBI and SEBI are working on revising the regulatory framework.

and advisory firm Grant Thornton and commissioned by the new IL&FS board, said:

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SONBHADRA KILLINGS

Before tractors rolled in with guns, pradhan & his men targeted the tillers

MANISH SAHU & AVANEESH MISHRA
LUCKNOW, JULY 19

AS THE UP government drew Opposition fire and suspended a sub-divisional magistrate and four police personnel while announcing probes into the killing of 10 persons over a land dispute in Ghorawal area of Sonbhadra district two days ago, it emerged that gram pradhan Yagya Dutt, the arrested main accused, and his family had been targeting the Gond tillers of the land long

before the incident.

From the time Yagya Dutt and 10 others of his family bought 145 bighas of the disputed land from the wife and daughter of a retired Bihar cadre IAS officer (the daughter is also married to an IAS officer) in 2017, they had been trying to take possession of the land from the Gond tillers. Calling the sale illegal, the tillers complained first to the revenue

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WHY MOON IS STILL TOP DESTINATION

BY SHOBHIT MAHAJAN
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By UNNY



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