

‘Stalkers’ under lens: 3 attacks in 3 days leave 2 girls dead, 1 critical

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JAN 8

THREE TEENAGED girls from Kerala were brutally attacked in the past three days in separate incidents. Of them, two have been killed and one is battling for her life.

In two of the cases, the girls were allegedly attacked by stalkers after they rejected the advances of the men, according to the police. In one case, the victim was attacked after she parted ways with a man she was in a relationship with, said police, adding that the man later committed suicide.

According to the state women's commission, there have been seven such attacks in Kerala in the past six months.

The body of Eva Antony (17) from Kochi, who went missing Tuesday, was found at a tea plantation in Tamil Nadu the same night with stab injuries, said police. Twenty-year-old Safar Sha has been arrested, and it is alleged that he killed the Class XII student after she rejected his proposal. "For the past eight months, he had been disturbing my daughter even after she rejected his advances. I used to take her to school every day as she feared him. He might have blackmailed her into

making the journey with him," said Eva's father Vinod Antony. At Kakkanad near Kochi, 17-year-old Noorjahan was stabbed Monday allegedly by 20-year-old Amal.

After his arrest, Amal told police that he attacked Noorjahan because she rejected his advances. The girl has sustained 20 stab wounds and is now battling for life.

In another incident, 19-year-old Ashika from Karakkonam in Thiruvananthapuram was attacked in broad daylight Monday. Anu (24) slit her throat with a knife and later attempted to kill himself. Ashika died on the spot and Anu is at a hospital.

According to police, the two were in a relationship, and Ashika walked out of it.

State women's commission chairperson M C Josephine said the commission has come across seven such incidents in the last six months.

"Except in one case, victims in other cases were teenagers or those below the age of 25. In four cases, assailants set the women ablaze and then tried to kill themselves."

She said the situation is alarming when a stranger or a stalker feels he has the right to take away the life of a woman who has rejected a proposal.



People walk on a snow-covered road in Shimla on Wednesday. Pradeep Kumar

Snowfall halts life in Himachal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, JANUARY 8

A SPELL of heavy snow and rain brought life to a standstill in many parts of Himachal Pradesh Wednesday. Snowfall in middle and high hills led to closure of most roads for vehicular traffic, while electricity transformers were disrupted in many areas. Maximum temperature dropped between eight to nine degrees below normal, according to weather officials.

A total of 879 roads in the state are closed, PWD officials said, with 563 roads closed in the Shimla zone. Around 65 roads were closed in the Kullu circle,

while 109 roads in the Mandi circle. In Dalhousie circle, 137 roads were closed. Five National Highways have been closed as well, including four in Shimla and one in Kangra.

Shimla received a total of 47.2 cm of snow from Tuesday morning to Wednesday afternoon. The maximum temperature fell to 1.4 degree Celsius, according to the Indian Meteorological Department.

Narkanda in Shimla district received around four feet of snow, said district officials. Kalpa in Kinnaur has received more than 30 cm of snow since Tuesday, while Kharapathar in Shimla received 60 cm of snow Tuesday. Dalhousie and Kufri

recorded 35 cm snow each Tuesday.

The lower hills were lashed by rain and thundershowers with Ghumarwin in Bilaspur and Dharamshala recording 59 mm and 34 mm of rain respectively. There was 54 mm of rain-fall in Banjar in Kullu, and 49 mm in Nadaun.

In Shimla district, most of the main and link roads were closed Wednesday as the snow spell continued. PWD officials said that snow and rain-induced damage to the roads is to the tune of nearly Rs 84 crore. Around 425 machines, including JCBs, dozers and tipplers have been deployed in snow-clearing operations across the state.

College girl raped at gunpoint in Patna; 3 held, 1 still on the run

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PATNA, JANUARY 8

AN UNDERGRADUATE student was allegedly raped by two men at gunpoint in Patna on Monday evening. The case was registered on Tuesday after the girl recounted the incident to a friend. The victim is pursuing a distance education undergraduate programme from an institute in the state capital. She had been staying with her sister in Patna.

Patna Senior Superintendent of Police Upendra Sharma said the two accused — Vikas Kumar and Kush Kumar — who had allegedly assisted the main accused, Vinayak Singh and Sandeep Mukhiya, have been arrested. Vinayak surrendered before a Patna court on Wednesday. Sandeep is absconding. All the accused are from a local gang, police said.

The incident took place around 7.30 pm when the four accused forced the girl at gunpoint to sit in a car near a mall, police said. Two of them allegedly raped her in an apartment behind another mall. The girl told the women's police station in Patna that she was left at a city roundabout with the threat that a video of the incident would be made public if she re-

The victim told the cops that she was left at a city roundabout after the crime, with the threat that a video of the incident would be made public if she approached police.

ported the incident to the police.

A police officer said the victim was known to Sandeep, a resident of Dulhin Bazar near Patna, who had a parking contract business in the state capital. He had also contested panchayat elections unsuccessfully. Vinayak Singh from Hajipur has a previous criminal record.

Kush and Vikas, who were associated with Vinayak, allegedly ran a gang and committed petty crimes. Patna women police station in-charge Aarti Jaiswal said, "The site of the incident has been sealed to preserve forensic evidence. We have booked the accused for rape and under Arms Act provisions."

Bihar Police reported 1,165 cases of rape until September 2019 as against 1,475 in 2018, 1,108 in 2017 and 1,008 in 2016.

Sabarimala Board may change stance on women's entry

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JAN 8

DAYS BEFORE a nine-judge Constitution bench of Supreme Court starts hearing the Sabarimala review petitions from January 13, the Travancore Devaswom Board, which runs the hill shrine in Kerala, is likely to depart from its earlier stand favouring entry for women of all ages.

In February 2019, while the SC considered a batch of petitions seeking review of its earlier order favouring entry of women of menstruating age to Sabarimala, the Devaswom Board vehemently opposed petitions and supported the court's verdict. The Board's president, N Vasu, on Wednesday said that the governing body would decide within a few days the stand to be adopted in SC. "The Board would examine all aspects of the issue, including traditions at the temple, the legal aspects of the verdict and its practical sides," he said.

More than "any dominating sentiments" on the issue, he said, "ground reality" at Sabarimala matters more for the Board. "We want a peaceful atmosphere at the shrine. During the last pilgrim season, many (women and activists) tried to spoil the atmosphere at the temple. That cannot

EXPLAINED

State govt's U-turn on issue

WHILE KERALA'S LDF government had taken a firm stand to allow young women at Sabarimala after the September 2018 SC verdict, and Devaswom Board had backed the move, the government seems to have had a rethink after the Left's rout in 2019 Lok Sabha polls. In November, after SC kept review petitions on hold, the government pointed to "grey areas" in the judgment and indicated that it is "not going to take young women to the temple".

be allowed. The Board's decision would be for ensuring a peaceful pilgrim season," he said.

G Baiju, president of Travancore Devaswom Employees Front, the only organisation of the Board's staff which has impleaded in the issue, said, "The employees' front is of the stand that age-related restrictions for women entry should be maintained. We hope the Board takes a decision to protect the traditions and rituals at Sabarimala."

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 8

THE SUPREME Court issued notice to the Centre Wednesday on a plea seeking Scheduled Caste (SC) status for Dalit Christians.

Appearing for the petitioner, National Council of Dalit Christians, advocates Thomas Franklin Caesar and Gowthaman told a bench of Chief Justice of India S A Bobde and Justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant that change in religion does not change social exclusion, and that there was caste discrimination in Christianity too.

The Chief Justice remarked that the same argument could be raised in the case of the Muslim community as well, and added that the court will therefore have to hear the matter in detail.

The petition wants the court to declare as unconstitutional paragraph (3) of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, which states, "...no person who professes a religion different from Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism shall be deemed to be a member of a scheduled caste."

The plea sought delinking of religion from consideration of Scheduled Caste status, and making the SC category religion neutral.

Goa: Tigress, 3 cubs poisoned, 3 locals held

SMITA NAIR
PANAJI, JANUARY 8

A ROYAL Bengal tigress and her three cubs were poisoned and their carcass left to rot inside Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary in Goa, forest officials have said. The accused, three residents of the local Golavli village, have been booked under the Wildlife Protection Act and arrested.

Officials privy to the probe said the accused allegedly poisoned the animals because they had killed a cow and a buffalo belonging to them.

One of the accused is a farmer who owned the cow. The other two are siblings who owned the buffalo. While the three accused have denied their role in the tiger deaths, forest and police officials say the circumstantial evidence points at them.

According to forest officials, the tigress and the cubs hunted down the cow on the night of December 22. Soon after, a buffalo was preyed upon and the tigers ate a portion of the carcass and left the rest behind.

"We went on January 1 to lay the night cameras near the half-eaten buffalo carcass to record the tigers' presence, but never captured any visuals as the tigers never returned. We sus-

The last tiger survey by the Wildlife Institute of India had accounted for four adult tigers in Goa. With the tigress dead, the official figure of tigers in the state now stands at three adults

pect the angry farmers sprayed poison on the partly-eaten buffalo carcass and when the tigers returned to finish it on December 30 or 31, they were poisoned," said an official.

The carcass of one of the cubs was recovered on Sunday. The other carcasses were recovered from freshly dug pits on Wednesday and officials suspect they were hidden in the pits after the first carcass was found.

All the four carcasses were in varied stages of decomposition and forensic tests are being conducted. "The stench is how the first carcass were found," said chief wildlife warden Santosh Kumar.

The carcasses were found after villagers from the Dangar community, who were inside the forest for a festival, informed

a local trekker about the stench and the trekker then alerted forest officials.

Rajendra Kerkar, tiger conservationist and wildlife expert in Goa, termed the tiger killings "brutal".

"The manner in which they killed the unsuspecting tiger family is never heard and certainly a first in the Sahayadri region. It's a shameful day for us."

The last tiger survey by the Wildlife Institute of India had accounted for four adult tigers in Goa, says Kumar. "The cubs were spotted by cameras early in 2019. The census done in 2017 couldn't have had them," said Kumar. With the tigress dead, the official figure of tigers in the state now stands at three adults.

Earlier in the day, before the fourth carcass was found, Goa Health Minister Vishwajit Rane, tagged Union Minister Prakash Javadekar in a tweet and sought a detailed investigation under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

"With reference to the two cubs that have been found dead at Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary, Sattari, I would request Union Minister for Forest Shri @PrakashJavdekar to intervene and send a central team to conduct a detailed investigation into the matter," Rane tweeted.

RAKESH ASTHANA CASE

HC to CBI chief: Appear on Feb 10 if probe not over

PRITAM PAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 8

THE CBI Wednesday faced the ire of the Delhi High Court after it failed to specify the time within which it will conclude the probe into the alleged bribery and extortion case against its former special director Rakesh Asthana. The court sought the presence of the agency's director on February 10 if the probe was not completed by then.

Justice Vibhu Bakhru ordered the presence of CBI director Rishi Kumar Shukla if the agency fails to complete the probe and file its final report in the case.

The court's oral observation and order was issued on the CBI's application, which, without specifying the time period for a final report, stated that the analysis has been completed at four of the eight levels of supervision. "It is clarified; if the investigation in the case is completed (by February 10), there is no requirement of any officer (the CBI Director), to assist the court..." it said.

The order calling Shukla was resisted by Additional Solicitor General Vikramjit Banerjee, the CBI's counsel, saying, "At least one month be given to them (CBI), because it has completed the probe in the case and the



Former CBI special director Rakesh Asthana

same is being examined by the supervisory officers."

To which, the court said it would pass an appropriate order if the CBI officer concerned was willing to give an undertaking on the definite time within which the probe would be completed.

Taking note of the previous orders in the matter, including the January 2019 direction to complete the investigation within 10 weeks, the court said, "it (the delay) is blatant violation of the order."

"You can't take your sweet time to complete it. There are eight stages of the investigation; doesn't mean you take eight years. If we give you (CBI) time to complete the investigation, it must have some meaning," Justice Bakhru said.

It noted that the agency had approached the court with several applications for extensions of time, all of which were allowed. Saying that ASG Banerjee is unable to tell the court how much longer the investigation would take, the court added,

"Whoever is the person, has to complete the investigation in time-bound manner. Despite the time frame being specified, investigation has not been completed. Moreover, it was clarified by the court in the last hearing that no further time will be provided to the agency. However, the investigation is still not completed by the agency."

This was the third application filed by the CBI since January 2019.

At Wednesday's hearing, opposing the CBI demand, senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi, Dayan Krishnan, N Hariharan and advocate Amit Anand Tiwari, appearing for the accused, submitted that the agency must be given 10 days time to conclude the probe. Rohatgi, however, said in case the agency fails to file their final report in the case, a person not less than the CBI director should be present in the court.

The Indian Express had reported in October that Asthana is likely to be absolved of all charges of corruption in the FIR registered by former CBI director Alok Verma. The CBI's investigating officer (IO) in the case has prepared a report exonerating Asthana and it has been submitted to superiors, according to sources.

Pardoned by victim kin, convict goes on Narmada yatra

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, JANUARY 8



Samandar Singh Dangi

BEARDED, SPORTING white and saffron alternatively and carrying minimal belongings, Samandar Singh Dangi could easily pass off as one of the innumerable people who undertake the Narmada Parikrama — the circumambulation of the river on foot.

But the 52-year-old resident of Semlya Raymal village in Dewas district has had a very different past. In 1995, Dangi dragged Franciscan Clarist Sister

Rani Maria out of a bus travelling from Udaingar to Indore, stabbed her more than 50 times and fled. Sister Maria succumbed to her injuries.

Singh was later arrested, convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. The case hit the headlines in 2002 when the slain nurse's family pardoned him. He was eventu-

ally released from prison in 2006.

Sister Maria was beatified in November 2017 in Indore, not very far from where she was killed. Singh's story was the subject of an award-winning documentary — 'The heart of a murderer'.

Speaking about his decision to embark on the spiritual journey, Dangi told The Indian Express, "I want to atone for what I did. I want to undergo purification." "I believe that the Narmada washes sins committed by the body and the Ganga gives one moksha (salvation)," he says.

32-year-old lawyer killed in Lucknow, one arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 8

A 32-YEAR-OLD lawyer was allegedly killed by a group of people in Krishnanagar area of Lucknow on Tuesday night, triggering protests by lawyers who demonstrated at the Collectorate office with his body. Police said that they have arrested one person and are looking for four others named in the FIR.

According to police, Shishir Tripathi was killed over personal enmity with a person who had fallen out with him around a week ago. Lucknow ASP (East) Suresh Chandra Rawat said the victim and the arrested accused — 30-year-old Vinayak Thakur — "knew each other very well and the murder took place over a personal dispute".

On a complaint lodged by Tripathi's brother, police booked five persons — Upendra Tiwari, Vinayak Thakur, Dheeraj Kumar, Mustafa, Shubham Yadav, all residents of the same locality, for murder.

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD
(Power Wing)
Notice Inviting E-tender
Corrigendum
ENIT -2/2019-20/BLB
Name of Office: Addl. Superintending Engineer, B.B.M.B., Opposite Plot No. 141, Sector-25, Ballabgarh, (Faridabad)-121004.
Name of work: For Repair of A, C, AE & Sr. Xen. quarters at 220KV S/Stn. BBMB, Ballabgarh.

Approx. cost of work	27.49 Lacs
Earnest Money	27490/-
Tender Document Cost	2000+18%GST Extra= (2360)
Last date of submission of Pre-Qualification documents	17.02.2020 upto 16:00 Hrs.
Last date of receipt of tender	24.02.2020 upto 13:00 Hrs.

The detailed NIT may be downloaded from website www.bbmb.gov.in & <https://bbmbeproc.abcpocure.com>.

1141-PR-TS-4 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
TRICHY (H) NABARD AND RURAL ROADS, CIRCLE
TENDER NOTICE (online only)
Tender Notice No.34/2019-20/SDO/Dated 06.01.2020
For and on behalf of Governor of Tamilnadu percentage tender (Two Cover System) will be received by the **Superintending Engineer (H) NABARD and Rural Roads, Circle Trichy for Package No.12, Package No.19 and Package No.35 under Upgradation of Panchayat / Panchayat Union Roads (Additional list - Phase-II - 2018-2019 and 2019-20) works in respect of Thanjavur, Trichy and Nagapattinam (H) NABARD & Rural Roads Division upto 14.00 hours on 27.01.2020 through online only.**
Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from **13.01.2020** onwards in the Government website <http://Tntenders.gov.in>. If any changes / corrections etc to the tender, it will be published on the above website(s) only.
Superintending Engineer (H)
NABARD and Rural Roads Circle, Trichy.
DIPR/193/TENDER/2020

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
TRICHY (CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE) CIRCLE
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No.30/2019-20/HDO/Dated:07.01.2020
For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu, **Percentage tender through online only will be received up to 27.01.2020, 15.00 hours** by the Superintending Engineer (H) C&M Trichy Circle, TVS Tollgate, Pudukkottai Road, Trichy-20 for **CRIDP Scheme Package No.46, 57 and Construction of one Minor Bridge work pertaining Nagapattinam and Tiruvavur (H) C&M Divisions.**
Details of Works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from **10.01.2020** onwards in the Government website <https://Tntenders.gov.in>. If any Changes / Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H)
C&M CIRCLE, TRICHY-20
DIPR/191/TENDER/2020

SALEM CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS
Rec. No. ,SSCL/ 13266 /2018
Date : 07.01.2020

I	1.	Implementation of Optimising and revamping of the Existing Distribution Network with SCADA system Water Supply System (24/7) in ABD area Estimate Cost Rs. 6884.00 Lakhs.
	2.	Redevelopment of Nehru kalaiarangam in Salem City Municipal Corporation, Estimate Cost Rs. 3592.00 Lakhs.
II		Bid document and other information available at www.tntenders.gov.in , www.tenders.tn.gov.in , www.salemcorporation.gov.in tender document can be downloaded from the above website.
III		Date, Time and Venue for Tender Procedures. Submission of bids - 12.02.2020 upto 3.00 P.M Opening of bids - 12.02.2020 at 3.30 P.M

Commissioner, Salem Corporation
DIPR/204/TENDER/2020

Government of Odisha
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
CUTTACK (R&B) CIRCLE, CUTTACK
(e'-PROCUREMENT NOTICE)
E-mail- ID- sectrb_2008@yahoo.co.in
Tel/Fax - 0671-2301751/2302751
Bid Identification No. S.E.Ctc. (R&B) 9/2019-20
1. The Superintending Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road and Building work as mentioned below.
2. No. of work :- 2 Nos
3. Nature of work :- Road and Building work.
4. Class of contractor :- 'B', 'A', Special & Super Class
5. Tender paper cost :- Rs. 10000/- (online)
6. Available of bid documents:- From 16.01.2020 to 16.00 Hours of in the website 31.01.2020
7. Date of opening of Bid :- Dt. 01.02.2020 at 11.00 Hours.
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/- T.P. Mishra
34012/11/0010/1920
Superintending Engineer Cuttack (R&B) Circle

