# 2yo boy dies of rabies a month after stray dog licked his wound

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**Bareilly:** A two-year-old boy has died of rabies in Budaun, a month after a stray dog licked an open wound on his leg. Mohd Adnan of Sujatganj Bela village in Sahaswan, developed symptoms including hydrophobia on Saturday. His condition worsened the next day, and we took him to the community health centre, but he died on Monday," said his father, Mohd Anees, a farmer. He added, "My son was playing outside when he got injured, and blood started oozing from his leg. A stray dog licked the wound. We never knew it could be lethal."

The incident triggered fear in the village, with about 30 residents taking anti-rabies vaccines. Villagers said the child's life might have been saved if the family had known the risk earlier and given him the vaccine in time.

Dr Prashant Tyagi, medical superintendent of Budaun district hospital, said, "This incident highlights the importance of not taking dog bites or licks lightly, as they can cause rabies. If bitten or licked by a dog, cat, or monkey, one should immediately get a rabies vaccine."

## 3 children die in separate snake bite incidents

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**Agra:** Three children died of snake bites within 24 hours in Muzaffarnagar and Farrukhabad after being bitten in their sleep. In the first incident in Karoda Mahajan village of Muzaffarnagar district's Phugana area, 12-year-old Tamanna was bitten on her finger and her seven-year-old brother Paras on his lips, said their father, Rajesh Singh, a farmer. His wife, Pratima, woke up around 2.30 am on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday and spotted a snake in the room while the children lay unconscious. She alerted her husband, and the couple killed the snake and threw it in the fields nearby. At daybreak, they called a local doctor, who advised immediate hospitalisation. The children were taken to Shamli Hospital, where doctors declared them dead on arrival.

In desperation, Rajesh and Pratima carried the bodies to different villages in Shamli and Muzaffarnagar "seeking exorcism rituals", but gave up when the efforts failed, said officials. SHO of Phugana police station, Vikas Yadav, said, "The family refused to send the bodies for postmortem. They were cremated on Monday evening."

In the second incident, in Farrukhabad's Bhudia Bheda village, 13-year-old Meena was bitten around 4am on Tuesday while sleeping. Police said her family took her to Rajepur CHC, from where doctors referred her to District Lohia Hospital, where she died during treatment.

# Hyd-based law grad held for threat to SDM

## Threat Warned Of 'Same Fate' As DSP Tanzeel Ahmed, Slain In 2016

Harveer Dabas | TNN

**Bijnor:** A 30-year-old "hacker" from Telangana with degrees in law and fashion designing was arrested in the state's Ranga Reddy district for allegedly sending a threatening message with an extortion demand of Rs 15 lakh to a sub divisional magistrate (SDM) in Uttar Pradesh last month, police said on Tuesday.

Dheeraj Reddy, who is from the district's Madhapur area, was picked in a joint operation by police teams from Uttar Pradesh and Telangana on Monday.

In a chilling message to Ritu Rani, the then Dhampur SDM, Dheeraj had allegedly warned her of "meeting the same fate as the murdered DSP Tanzeel Ahmed", a Bijnor native. Though DSP Ahmed— an NIA sleuth probing terror incidents — was killed way back in 2016, Dheeraj chose to mention his name for the Bijnor

Hyderabad to trace the culprit."

In her police complaint, Rani, who started serving as SDM of Bijnor from Tuesday, stated: "On the afternoon of July 24, I received a threat message on my closed user group mobile number. The sender demanded Rs 15 lakh and warned of dire consequences... Barcodes and mobile numbers were shared for transferring the amount. The sender cited DSP Tanzeel Ahmed murder case."

A case was subsequently registered against an unnamed person under BNS sections 308 (2) (extortion) and 351 (4) (criminal intimidation). A police team from Dhampur started a search and surveillance operation, leading to Dheeraj's arrest in Telangana.

After apprehending him, cops found that he was also running an acupressure therapy centre in Hyderabad. During interrogation, he admitted to being addicted to drugs and revealed he wanted to open a showroom, but lacked sufficient funds. To arrange the money, he claimed to have resorted to cybercrime -- sending WhatsApp messages to phone numbers randomly. He also told cops that he was unaware that the number belonged to the SDM.

Dhampur's circle officer (CO) Abhay Kumar Pandey said, "Dheeraj Reddy, a hacker, had sent threatening messages to SDM Rani on her official mobile number. He demanded money and threatened to kill her if she did not comply. On July 24, she filed a complaint at Dhampur thana, and a joint team of cyber and local officers were dispatched to

## 3 days later, gun battle erupted again in market

➤ Continued from P 1

A murder and attempt-to-murder case was registered against 15 men. While three of them died during the trial, the remaining 12 were sentenced to life imprisonment along with a

While three of them died during trial, remaining 12 were sentenced to life imprisonment with penalty

fine of Rs 50,000 each, the DGC said.

He added that judge Manjeet Singh Sheoran found all the 12 accused men — Farid, Asgar, Istkhar, Farukh, Khalil, Chaman, Wahid, Sajid, Lukman, Shahid, Anwar and Ashraf — guilty of Wahid's murder, and punished them for the crime.

Neuria SHO Subhash Mawi said, "All five accused have been charged under relevant BNS sections."

# NHRC seeks action taken report on assault of Army jawan at Meerut toll plaza

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Meerut SSP Vipin Tada said CCTV footage is being scanned to identify more culprits, and a heavy police force remains deployed at the site. So far, seven employees have been arrested

**Meerut:** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken cognisance of the brutal assault on an Army jawan by toll plaza staff in Meerut, and directed the district administration, SSP and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to submit an action taken report within two weeks.

A bench of NHRC, presided by member Priyank Kanoongo, noted that the allegations made in the complaint "prima facie seem to be serious violation of human rights" of the victim. Notices have been issued to the Meerut DM, SSP and NHAI chairman to conduct an inquiry and place their findings before the commission. The complainant alleged that the jawan, 25-year-old Kapil Kavad of Rajput Regiment, was tied to a pole and beaten by toll plaza staff at Bhuni on Meerut-Karnal highway on Aug 17, while he was on his way to Delhi airport to rejoin duty in J&K.

The assault was said to have followed a verbal altercation after Kavad urged staff to clear a traffic jam quickly so that he could reach in time for his flight. A video of the attack, showing him tied and thrashed, triggered outrage and led to protests by villagers the next day.

Following the incident, NHAI imposed a penalty of Rs 20 lakh on the private toll collecting agency and initiated the process of debarring it from future contracts.

Police held seven employees, including Sachin Kumar, Suresh Rana, Ankit Sharma, Vijay Singh, Anuj Kumar and Ankit Singh, on charges of attempt to murder, rioting and breach of peace. Meerut SSP Vipin Tada said CCTV footage is being scanned to identify more culprits, and a heavy police force remains deployed at the site.

Family of the jawan said he was subjected to "public humiliation" after being tied to a pole and repeatedly kicked and beaten despite showing his service ID. Kavad's cousin, Pradeep Panwar, alleged that the staff "ignored his urgency and instead began abusing and thrashing him."

## Priest drowns in water tank while saving granddaughter

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Agra:** A 62-year-old priest drowned while rescuing his eight-year-old granddaughter from a water tank inside his house in Goverdhan area of Mathura district on Monday evening, police said on Tuesday.

According to police, the incident took place when Hari Om Sharma returned home and saw his granddaughter Purnima falling into the tank while playing, prompting him to jump in and rescue her. The girl was safely brought out but the elderly man was unable to get out. By the time family members and neighbours arrived, he had already died. "The body was handed over to the family after a postmortem examination. No complaint has been filed. The girl's health is fine," a police officer told TOI. Sharma had been serving as the priest of a Hanuman temple in Goverdhan area for the past 32 years.

Earlier in Feb, a 17-year-old boy from West Bengal drowned while bathing in Radhakund in Goverdhan.

## Agra man steals ₹11L from finance co; held

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Agra:** A 55-year-old man was arrested within 24 hours of stealing nearly Rs 11 lakh from the branch of Bharat Financial Inclusion Limited operating from a part of his house on rent , police said on Tuesday.

On Monday, branch manager Abhishek Dasani reported to Malpura police that the office lock had been broken and Rs 10.98 lakh was missing from the locker and cash room. An FIR was filed under sections 331 (4) (house trespass) and 305(A) (theft in protected premises) of the BNS.

Acting on a tip-off, police arrested accused Harish Goyal near Siroli crossing on Tuesday. The stolen money was later recovered from a freezer at his dairy shop, located on the ground floor of his house.

According to DCP (West) Atul Sharma, Harish Goyal had taken a Rs 30 lakh loan for house construction and was under severe financial pressure.

The accused Harish Goyal was produced in the court on Tuesday and sent to judicial custody..

# 5 booked for misappropriating funds

Keshav Agarwal | TNN

**Pilibhit:** An FIR has been lodged against a panchayat secretary, a village development officer, the woman pradhan of Harkishanpur village, her husband and a woman rozgar sevak (contractual worker under MGNREGA scheme) for their alleged involvement in fraudulent transactions from the village development fund. The FIR was registered at Neuria police station on Monday evening following the order of the chief judicial magistrate.

The complainant, Raju Lal (59), a resident of the same village, said he and other locals first reported the misappropriation of funds to the district magistrate in Nov last year. Following their complaint, district panchayat raj adhikari conducted an inquiry, which was completed around May this year, and confirmed financial irregularities worth Rs 1,32,165 in the excavation of two village ponds.

According to the complaint, pradhan Reshamwati and her husband, Deepak Kumar, further misappropriated Rs 59,870 by showing purchase of a diesel pumping set for the village panchayat. Instead of buying new equipment, they passed off old machinery already in use by villagers as newly purchased. Raju

also alleged that Reshamwati, in collusion with panchayat secretary Mewa Lal, village development officer Rakesh Kumar and rozgar sevak Mamta Devi made several fictitious payments under MGNREGA. However, the inquiry officer did not include these transactions in his report.

Despite confirmation of irregularities, the administration only ordered recovery of the misappropriated amount, without taking punitive action, Raju claimed. "After my written complaints to police were ignored, I approached the court," he said.

Neuria SHO Subhash Mawi said, "All five accused have been charged under relevant BNS sections."

## Man films PTR core area using drone, fined ₹1L

**Pilibhit:** Authorities at Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR) on Tuesday slapped a fine of Rs 1 lakh on a man and seized his drone, worth around Rs 1.4 lakh, after he was found using the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) to film the core forest area of Mala range without permission. Arbaz Ansari, a resident of Pilibhit city and in his mid 20s had uploaded the clips on Instagram on Sunday.

Officials said a departmental case was lodged against him under provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act. "He breached the secrecy of the core forest area and habitats of scheduled wildlife, especially tigers," said PTR divisional forest officer Manish Singh.

Forest officials stressed that entry into the core area of a tiger reserve, national park or wildlife sanctuary without clearance from is strictly prohibited. "By filming tiger habitats from a drone, Ansari conducted surveillance of the protected forest region," Singh said. Keshav Agarwal