

# Girl's body found in Kheri, kin alleges rape, murder

Three minor girls have been 'raped and murdered' in Lakhimpur Kheri district between Aug 14 and September 3

**HT Correspondent**  
letters@htlive.com

**LUCKNOW:** The body of a 13-year-old Dalit girl was found hanging from a hutment in a Lakhimpur Kheri village on Sunday morning, police said.

Family members alleged that it was a case of rape and murder and demanded thorough investigation.

Police however said it appeared to be a case of suicide but added they would prefer to wait for the postmortem report.

The family's insistence that

**THE COMPLAINANT ALLEGED THE ACCUSED HANGED THE GIRL'S BODY AFTER MURDERING HER WHILE THE GIRL'S FATHER ADDED THE RAPE CHARGE AGAINST THE ACCUSED.**

it was a case of rape and murder is significant as three minor girls have been 'raped and murdered' in Lakhimpur Kheri district between August 14 and September 3.

In the latest incident, the body was found hanging in a hutment near the girl's house in Gulaula village under Neemgaon police station limits.

Police said the family members informed them that that

the girl had gone to bed on Saturday night and was inside the house till 2 am but her body was found hanging at around 7 am on Sunday.

The girl's uncle has submitted a written complaint against a local youth Saurabh, his father Pramod Kumar, uncle Anupam and grandfather Om Prakash of kidnapping the girl when she was sleeping in the verandah outside her house at around 2.30 am.

The complainant alleged the accused hanged the girl's body after murdering her while the girl's father added the rape charge against the accused.

Lakhimpur Kheri Superintendent of Police (SP) Satendra Kumar said a police team has been constituted to investigate the case.

He said the picture will be clearer after the post-mortem examination report is received.

## PREVIOUS CASES

On September 3, a three-year-old girl was raped and murdered in a village under Singhai police station limits.

The accused was arrested in a police encounter and sent to jail.

Similarly, body of a 17-year-old Dalit girl was found in a pond outside her village under Neemgaon police station limits on August 25.

On August 14, a 13-year-old girl was allegedly raped and murdered in Isanagar police station area of the district. Police had arrested two men and invoked the National Security Act (NSA) against them.

HTC

## RAIN DRIVES UP VEGETABLES, FRUITS PRICES ACROSS STATE

**HT Correspondent**

letters@htlive.com

**LUCKNOW:** Rain across the state the last three weeks or so coupled with rising labour cost has led to hike in the prices of vegetables and fruits much to the dismay of the common man.

Traders also attribute the price rise to reduction in production of vegetables and fruits due to rain. Besides, farmers have to spend more in protecting their crops of vegetables in the rainy season and this also causes price rise, they add.

Prices of almost all vegetables, which are brought from outside the state, have nearly doubled in the last fortnight, say traders.

"The price of tomatoes has increased from ₹40 to ₹80 per kilogram in the past two weeks. The price of onions has also gone up from ₹20 to ₹40," said a vegetable trader in the state capital.

Like tubers, prices of gourds have also soared. For instance, price of bottle gourd has increased from ₹20 to ₹30 per kg while price of bitter melon has witnessed a hike of around ₹20. Price of pumpkin has also gone up in the past two weeks to ₹40 a kg.

Along with vegetables, prices of fruits have also seen an upward trend with apple reaching up to ₹160 a kg from ₹100 two weeks ago while pear is being sold for ₹100 a kg from ₹60 a kg earlier. Bananas are being sold for ₹50 per dozen with a rise of ₹10 since last month.

"The demand for vegetables has gone up because there is a reduction in the supply," said Surendra Kumar, a local agricultural economist. "Price of several vegetables are likely to keep soaring till October," added Kumar.

The skyrocketing vegetable prices have worried people. "Tomatoes and onions are the pre-requisites in every kitchen and their prices increase manifold for a few months every year," said Reema Singh, a homemaker who lives in Gomti Nagar. "The government should take measures to ensure that the basic vegetables are available to public at nominal rates throughout the country," she added.

# Ex-SP MLA dies in altercation over land dispute

**HT Correspondent**

letters@htlive.com

**LAKHIMPUR KHERI/ LUCKNOW:** Former Samajwadi Party (SP) MLA Nirvendra Kumar Mishra, popularly known as Munna Vidhayak, 75, died after being attacked by a group of assailants in a dispute over possession of land in Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh on Sunday afternoon, his family members alleged. His son Sanjiv Kumar Mishra was reportedly injured in the incident and is undergoing treatment in district hospital.

The police, however, said the former MLA suffered a heart attack during a verbal confrontation with a group of people over possession of land and died while he was being rushed to hospital. They said the body was sent for a post-mortem examination and further investigation in the matter was on.

Nirvendra Kumar Mishra was elected from Nighasan assembly constituency in Lakhimpur Kheri thrice — twice as an Independent MLA and once on the Samajwadi Party ticket.

His son alleged that a group of assailants armed with rods and sticks attacked him and his father when they opposed illegal possession of the piece of land near his house at Trikaulia village under the Sampoornanagar police station limits. He said his father suffered shock and injuries in the attack following which he died while being taken to hospital.

In a written complaint to the police, the MLA's son said the attack was part of a larger conspiracy by Radhey Shyam Gupta and his son Anurag Gupta. He said the assailants battered his father to death when he opposed them taking possession of the land. He also accused the Pallia circle officer (CO) of being in league with the Gupta duo.

Following the written complaint, the Lakhimpur Kheri district police said a first informa-

## AKHILESH, UPCC CHIEF VOICE CONCERN OVER LAW, ORDER

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav tweeted that the state was rocked by the 'daylight murder' of the former MLA. He said the public was not only concerned over the 'worsening law and order situation in the state' but also living in fear.

Meanwhile, Pallia BJP legislator Harvinder Kumar aka Romi Sahni has condoled Nirvendra Kumar Mishra's death. He said a thorough investigation would be carried out and the guilty would not be spared.

In a video message, Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee (UPCC) chief Ajay Kumar Lallu expressed grief over the death of the former legislator and termed it as another proof of the "deteriorating law and order" situation.

tiated into the allegations against the circle officer, the police said.

In a media release, Lakhimpur Kheri's superintendent of police (SP) Satendra Kumar stated that the former MLA and his family had a dispute over possession of a piece of land with two brothers Sameer Gupta and Radhey Shyam Gupta for many years. He said the two groups entered into an altercation over the same issue when the Gupta brothers tried to plough the land.

He said the former MLA was present at the disputed land and fell down on the ground during the altercation after which he was rushed for treatment to Pallia area where he was declared 'brought dead'.

The SP said no apparent injuries were noticed on his body and he apparently died to a heart attack. He added that heavy police force was deployed at the spot to ensure law and order after the incident.

Nirvendra Kumar Mishra first contested the election from the Nighasan assembly constituency as an independent candidate in 1989 and defeated the then Congress stalwart Satish Ajmani.

He was again elected from the same seat as an independent candidate in 1991. In 1993, he won the seat on the Samajwadi Party ticket. He avoided electoral politics since 1996 when he did not file his nomination as an SP candidate.

tion report (FIR) was being lodged under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and teams were being formed to track down the assailants. A probe was also being ini-

## SC SEEKS UP GOVT RESPONSE ON TEACHERS' APPOINTMENT

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court has sought a response from the UP government on a plea challenging orders amending the state law regarding the appointment of teaching staff in minority aided institutions.

The bench of Justice Ashok Bhushan issued a notice to the UP government and asked it to respond within 8 weeks.

The top court was hearing an appeal of the management committee of National Inter College in Bulandshahr against an Allahabad high court order which had upheld the government's action.

The bench has also refused to stay the Allahabad high court order, saying "The prayer for interim relief to stay the judgment dated April 22, 2020, is rejected."

"The state government order interferes with its right of management guaranteed under Article 30 of the Constitution and the amendment must, therefore, be declared ultra vires," the petition stated.

The Uttar Pradesh government had, on March 12, 2018, issued an order stating that the governor had approved an amendment under the UP Intermediate Education Act and now the selection of teaching staff would be monitored by a private recruitment agency, through the joint director of education or the district inspector of schools, which would recommend five names for each vacancy to the college management, who would then conduct an interview and accordingly make the appointment.

## THE BENCH OF JUSTICE ASHOK BHUSHAN ISSUED A NOTICE TO THE UP GOVERNMENT AND ASKED IT TO RESPOND WITHIN 8 WEEKS.

## Metro set to be back on track



Lucknow Metro will resume operation from Monday. MD Keshav Kumar inspecting preparations for the service.

DHEERAJ DHAWAN/HT

## Covid slows down registration of new projects with UPRERA

**HT Correspondent**

letters@hindustantimes.com

**LUCKNOW:** The UP Real Estate Regulatory Authority (UPRERA) has witnessed a slowdown in registration of new projects after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. "In the ongoing year till date, UPRERA has registered 111 new projects with a monthly average of 12 projects," said UPRERA chairman Rajive Kumar.

According to UPRERA, it registered 242 projects in 2018 and 240 in 2019 at a monthly average of around 20 projects in both the years.

The Confederation of Real Estate Developers Association of India (CREDAI) attributes this slowdown to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The real estate sector is the worst affected by the pandemic. Very few new projects are coming up. Most of the ongoing projects are stuck," said Ramanand Singh, general secretary,

**In the ongoing year till date, UPRERA has registered 111 new projects with a monthly average of 12 projects**

**RAJIVE KUMAR, UPRERA chairman**

CREDAI, Uttar Pradesh. "This slowdown in the real estate sector is not going to be over soon," Singh added.

Projects outside LDA limits verified UPRERA, in collaboration with Remote Sensing Application Centre, has verified projects outside Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) limits within a radius of 10 km outside the planning area in Lucknow, Barabanki and Unnao.

To safeguard the interests of

homebuyers, 49 projects have been granted registration outside the planning area.

The registration of 43 projects of Amrapali group and 16 projects at Shahberri in Gautam Buddha Nagar have been cancelled by the regulatory authority. Registration of 12 projects has been withdrawn after the promoters dropped these projects. The sectors worst affected by Covid-19 include tourism, automobile, entertainment, electronics, hospitality, banking, jewellery, real estate, small and medium business.

UPRERA implemented e-Courts from February. All complaints filed under e-Courts and old complaints are being heard via virtual conferences. During the Covid-19 pandemic, 2,860 complaints were filed. Out of these, 2,781 complaints were decided through virtual hearings.

UPRERA is also setting up an Internal Audit Cell for verification and supervision of projects.

{ AUG 11 BLACKOUT }

## PCL issues showcase notice to EESL

**HT Correspondent**

lkoreportersdesi@hindustantimes.com

**LUCKNOW:** Twenty days after bulk disconnection of smart meters occurred, the UP Power Corporation Ltd (UPPCL) management on Sunday issued a show-cause notice to the Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL), leveling serious allegations against it, sources said.

Working under the Union power ministry, the EESL is the company that purchases and installs smart meters and maintains their operation through command and control centre. Around 1.60 lakh smart meters stopped working, causing a blackout at users' residences on August 11, reportedly due to a wrong command sent from the control room.

Referring to its earlier letters, the UPPCL in its show cause notice said that the EESL was slow in the preparation of master date management (MDM) and also the Vodafone SIMs that were used in the smart meters did not function satisfactorily in

several areas. "The disposal of consumers' complaints by the EESL is also unsatisfactory and the company is not able to achieve more than 95% target of meter reading against the 98% agreed upon in the contract," the UPPCL said.

"A large number of consumers whose smart meters were disconnected on August 11 could not get electricity even after the reverse command was given the control and command centre," it added.

Welcoming the show cause notice, UP Rajya Vidut Ubbhokta Parishad chairman Avadhesh Kumar Verma said "UPPCL management must also act against the manufacturer of the smart meters." He alleged that the private company that was manufacturing smart meters had a poor record of quality.

In the meantime, the UP police's special task force (STF) is probing if the bulk disconnection of smart meters was intentional or due to technical reasons.

**UP Cong bid to woo young voters**  
**LUCKNOW:** The Uttar Pradesh unit of the Congress has decided to rope in young voters as its followers through a quiz competition on former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, a party spokesperson said on Sunday. The quiz competition on Gandhi's personality and achievements will be held online on September 13 and 14, he said. "The competition is meant for youngsters in the age group of 16-22 years. Till now, over 5 lakh aspirants have registered themselves for the competition," said UP Congress spokesperson Ashok Singh.

**Light rain at a few places**  
**LUCKNOW:** Light to moderate rain and thundershower occurred at few places in Uttar Pradesh, the meteorological department said on Sunday. Thunderstorm

AGENCY

**htSchool**  
Bringing the world to classrooms

**cuemath**  
THE MATH EXPERT

PRESENTS

**Hindustan Times**  
**CODE-A-THON**  
Learn. Participate. Win.

CODING FOR CAUSE PARTNER

**IBM**

**INTRODUCING ONE OF INDIA'S BIGGEST CODING OLYMPIADS**

For students from classes VI - IX

**How does it work?**

- Learn coding modules on the platform
- Appear for HT Codeathon Qualifiers
- Top 100 compete in the Finale

**Rs. 499\***  
\*GST applicable

**www.htcodeathon.com**  
For school registrations, please write to support@htcodeathon.com

QR Code

\*T&C