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SIT to probe Rohtak gang rape, mutilation

VICIOUS KILLING Victim's kin cry foul, says police refused to act on complaint against jilted lover, associate three months ago

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ROHTAK: The Sonapat police have constituted a special investigation team (SIT) to conduct further probe into the gang-rape and murder of a 20-year-old girl, who was beaten to death with bricks and her private parts mutilated by her jilted lover and his associate.

Rohtak range inspector general (IG) Navdeep Virk said they arrested two men—prime accused Sumit Kumar and his friend Vikas—but the family has given names of six more men who could be involved. "We are interrogating them to find out if more people were involved. Though the accused have confessed during interrogation that they were not accompanied by any one," he said.

"Since there were no eye-witnesses, everything that is being said is a matter of investigation," he maintained, on being asked about the course of events that led to the brutal killing.

He said that a .315 bore pistol and a Santor car that was used in crime has been confiscated from the possession of the two accused. "A case under Sections 302 (punishment for murder), 328 (causing hurt by means of poison) and 376 D (rape) of Indian Penal Code and Sections 25, 54 and 59 of the Arms Act has been registered against the duo," he said.

Earlier on Sunday, state politicians of the governing BJP and opposition Congress made a beeline at the victim's village. They included Haryana BJP chief Subhash Barala, women and child development minister Kavita Jain and former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda. Sonapat deputy commissioner KM Pandurang said they will provide ₹10.5 lakh compensation to family.

FAMILY CLAIMS COPS DIDN'T ACT ON EARLIER COMPLAINT
Meanwhile, the family members of the 20-year-old have said that they had complained about her jilted lover to local police three



Police inspect the scene of crime with the accused, in Rohtak on Sunday. PTI PHOTO

months earlier as well. However, no action was taken against him.

"He would stop my daughter's way many times and intimidate her with his pistol. My daughter had slapped him a few days ago over his act. He had said that he will come back for revenge, which he did. Had the police arrested him when we had lodged a complaint against him three months back, this would not have happened," said the mother of the victim, still in shock over losing her daughter.

The police, however, said they could not recollect the complaint. "The family is saying so. But we can't find any written complaint made by them in our records," Virk said.

The girl's family, who live in a 25-gaj house in the village, said they had educated their daughter till Class 10.

"She worked in a medicine factory and earned around ₹5,000 per month to run the house-hold," her father, a migratory labourer, said.

Unable to cope up with the loss of her daughter, the bereaved mother has now started fearing for her son.

"Since my daughter went missing, I have not let my son stay with me here anymore. They may take him as well," she fears. The police said they have deployed security for the family in the village.

16-YEAR-OLD KOTA STUDENT JOINS BATTLE AGAINST PORN

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KOTA: A Class 12 student from Kota has become party to a petition filed against pornographic websites in the Supreme Court. Aakash Narwala, a 16-year-old student at a private school here, claimed that he had launched a crusade against such websites after seeing his schoolmates get addicted to them—much to the detriment of their academic progress.

Last week, he filed an affidavit seeking permission to join Indore lawyer Kamlesh Vaswan's public interest litigation against internet pornography in the apex court.

The student, who also claims to be a social activist, runs an NGO called Rape-Free India that spreads awareness on sex crimes through street shows and educational programmes. "Pornographic videos and images objectify women, and they are easily accessible through the internet. I have observed children of my age get addicted to pornography, spurring them to commit sexual crimes such as rape and molestation," his affidavit read.

Narwala's affidavit stated that he not only wants to safeguard women from crimes such as rape but also prevent adolescents from committing heinous sexual offences.

"I decided to launch the Rape-Free India movement after meeting a juvenile who had raped a minor about four years ago. He was feeling guilty about it. I even sat on dharna in New Delhi to demand a ban on porn sites a couple of years ago," he said.

Uploading and sharing of porn is outlawed under the Indecent Representation of Women's (Prohibition) Act-1986, Information and Technology Act, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences and several sections of the Indian Penal Code.

NARWALA SAYS HE WANTS TO PREVENT ADOLESCENTS FROM COMMITTING HEINOUS SEXUAL OFFENCES

80 girls from Rewari quit school, begin stir after being harassed

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ROHTAK: Around 80 girl students of Gothera Tappa Dahena village in Rewari's Khol block have stopped going to school and are on a hunger strike since Wednesday, demanding the upgrade of the village high school to senior secondary school.

The girls, all students of Class 11 and 12, say that they have to go to school in Kanwali, three kilometres from the village, and routinely face harassment from local boys on the way.

The girls said they complained to the sarpanch, who took the matter with authorities, but to no avail, so they have taken the matter in their own hands. On Friday, four girls' health deteriorated and they had to be hospitalised. "They face problem related to conveyance and street harassment. They have to walk 3 km to go to school. Men wearing helmets on their bikes molest them regularly and get away as their



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identities remain concealed," sarpanch Suresh Chauhan said.

District education officer (DEO) Dharamvir Balodia said the girls were being misled. "There are certain norms that need to be fulfilled before a school is upgraded. The high school in their village has around 150 students that is too less."

SP Sunjeeta Kalia said she personally asked girl students but no one had complained. "No complaint was ever made to us either. I have tried to talk to them and have assured their demands will be discussed," she said.

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MAOIST CARRYING ₹16 LAKH REWARD KILLED IN BASTAR

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JAGDALPUR: Chhattisgarh police gunned down a feared Maoist, Vilash aka Kallash, in an encounter in Bastar region on Sunday. The state government had announced a reward of ₹16 lakh for Vilash's capture.

Vilash, who hailed from Chhota Dongar in Narayanpur district, had been active in Barsoor area of Bastar for more than a decade and was booked in 18 cases, police said.

He had an AK-47 assault rifle, which was recovered near his body, police said.

Aarif H Sheikh, superintendent of police, Jagdalpur, said Maoists attacked a patrol party and this led to an exchange of fire in which Vilash was killed. He had played a key role in the Sulama ambush in which Maoists gunned down 25 CRPF troops earlier this month, the police added.

Traders help Nagaland mom get back son mortgaged for husband's last rites

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AGRA: A young mother of three travelled all the way from Nagaland's Dimapur to Agra with her children to earn ₹2,000—the sum she needed to free her son from a moneylender who had kept her older son as "mortgage" for a loan for her husband's funeral.

Rita didn't land a job in the Uttar Pradesh city, but found herself in a situation that forced her to sleep rough with her three-year-old younger son and daughter, a toddler of two. She rummaged through garbage for discarded food and drank water from public taps, and even drains, to quench her thirst in the searing May heat.

Social activist Naresh Paras has seen many poor, homeless people and even he found the woman's behaviour strange when he saw her drinking water from a filthy drain and feeding spilt food to the children at the Shah market on Saturday.



Rita, along with her two children, interact with social activist Naresh Paras in Agra on Saturday. HT PHOTO

He approached her but couldn't understand a word as she barely spoke Hindi or any language other than her mother tongue. A helpless Paras contacted police and the Lucknow-based charity, Asha Jyoti Kendra, which assigned a local counsellor to communicate with her.

She told her well-wishers that she travelled nearly 2,000 km to Agra with her brother-in-law for

a job but he left her to fend for herself and the young kids soon after reaching the city.

Rita lost her husband about seven months ago and borrowed ₹2,000 for his last rites from a moneylender in Dimapur.

The loan shark kept her son, seven-year-old Sonu, as a "security deposit" and got her a job in a tea garden to help her pay back the dues. But with a meagre sal-

ary of ₹40 a day, she knew she would never be able to secure her son's release.

The desperate and broken mother got Sonu's name tattooed on her hand as the moneylender wouldn't allow her to meet him. Rita discussed her situation with brother-in-law Pappa, who promised to find her a job. "She then left for Agra with her other two kids," Paras said.

The social activist contacted a senior police officer in Kohima, the Nagaland capital, and narrated Rita's story.

"He assigned sub-inspector A Singa in Dimapur to look into the matter. Singa called me and promised help once Rita is back in her hometown." This Mother's Day, she boarded the Brahmaputra Express from Tundla junction.

The shopkeepers at the Shah market pooled and gave her ₹5,500, which included the money she owed to the moneylender. Paras and his associates bought her train ticket.