

Supreme Court asks Rajasthan govt

Why no CCTV cameras in interrogation rooms of police stations?

On September 4, the apex court had taken suo motu cognisance of a media report which stated that 11 lives were lost in police custody in Rajasthan in the first eight months of 2025, of which seven incidents occurred in Udaipur division

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Rajasthan government why no CCTV cameras are installed in the interrogation room of police stations.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta observed that interrogation room of a police station is the “main place” where CCTV cameras have to be there.

“As per your affidavit, there

is no camera in the interrogation room which is the main place where cameras have to be there,” the bench said.

The top court said installing CCTV cameras would entail cost but “it is a question of human rights”.

It also asked the state how it proposes to have an oversight mechanism.

The bench was hearing a suo motu matter concerning lack of functional CCTVs in police stations.

On September 4, the apex

court had taken suo motu cognisance of a media report which stated that 11 lives were lost in police custody in Rajasthan in the first eight months of 2025, of which seven incidents occurred in the Udaipur division.

The apex court had in 2018 ordered installation of CCTV cameras in police stations to check human rights abuses.

During the hearing on Tuesday, the bench observed why an agency cannot be in-

involved in the oversight process.

“The feed has to go to some centralised place or agency where there is an oversight,” the bench said.

It also heard the submissions of senior advocate Sidhartha Dave, who was appointed as an amicus curiae to assist the court in a separate matter in which the top court had passed an order in December 2020.

In that order, the top court had directed the Centre to

install CCTV cameras and recording equipment at the offices of investigating agencies, including the CBI, the Enforcement Directorate and the National Investigation Agency.

Dave told the bench that he has filed an updated report in the matter.

He also stressed that an oversight mechanism was needed.

The bench referred to the affidavit filed by Rajasthan in the suo motu matter and

said no CCTV cameras were there in the interrogation room of police stations.

It asked the Centre and other states to file responses to the report placed by the amicus and posted the matter for hearing on November 24. While hearing the suo motu matter on September 15, the apex court flagged the issue of oversight and said it was thinking of having a control room without any human intervention for monitoring of feeds of CCTV cameras in-



stalled at police stations.

In its order passed in the matter on September 26, the bench posed several queries to the Rajasthan government and directed it to apprise about the number of CCTV

cameras installed in each police station across the state.

The top court had also asked whether any regular audit was conducted to check the functioning of the installed cameras.

AYODHYA NEW HUB OF ‘BLACK CAT’ NSG FORCE: AMIT SHAH

This will be the sixth regional hub of the National Security Guard (NSG) after Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Gandhinagar

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MANESAR

THE government will set up another regional hub of the ‘Black Cat’ commando force NSG in Uttar Pradesh’s temple town Ayodhya, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday.

This will be the sixth regional hub of the National Security Guard (NSG) after the existing hubs of Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Gandhinagar. The force also has a small unit called ‘task force’ in Jammu. NSG hubs in different parts of the country enable its commandos to reach any emergency immediately and effectively.

Addressing the 41st Raising Day of the anti-terror



commando force at its headquarters here, Shah said the Modi government is set to bring about a major change

in the functioning of the NSG in the coming days.

“So far, five hubs of the NSG have been established in

Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad (Gandhinagar). In addition, a new hub is also going to be set up in Ayodhya. Here, the NSG personnel will be deployed and available round the clock,” he said.

The government operationalised four regional hubs of the NSG in Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kolkata on June 30 and July 1, 2009. The decision to set up these hubs was taken following the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks of 2008 to reduce the time for elite commandos to reach an attack site.

Previously, NSG commandos had to be airlifted from Delhi, which caused delays.

In March 2011, the central government gave the nod for setting up another NSG re-

gional hub in Gandhinagar.

The NSG unit serves as a specialised backup force for prolonged, high-risk anti-terror operations. The hubs help in honing the professional acumen of the NSG commandos and also contribute significantly to capacity building of the first responders, police forces of the states.

The NSG, raised in 1984, is a world-class “zero-error” force and can counter any kind of attack with minimum response time. The NSG, which comprises personnel from the Indian Army and the Central Armed Police Forces, has a multi-dimensional responsibility of countering terrorist attacks, hijack attempts and also providing proximate security.

Raebareli Dalit lynching case: Two more arrested



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RAEBARELI

TWO more people were arrested on Tuesday in connection with the lynching of a Dalit man earlier this month in Raebareli district after being mistaken for a thief, police said.

According to a statement issued by the Raebareli police, the two arrested have been identified as Chhotu alias Sujeet Agrahari and Avinash Singh alias Saurabh Singh Baghel, both residents of Baniyan ka Purwa in Pachkhara village.

The arrests were made on Monday and Tuesday, taking the total number of people held

in the case to 14, the statement said. “The investigation is being conducted by Circle Officer (Dalmau) Girija Shankar Tripathi. Efforts are on to trace others involved in the incident, including those who may have fled to other districts or states. Strict legal action will be taken against all the accused,” the police said.

Officials said the main accused, who had allegedly beaten the victim, Hariom Valmiki, to death, was arrested following an encounter with the police on October 10. Earlier, nine people were arrested immediately after the case was registered, and two more were held on October 8.

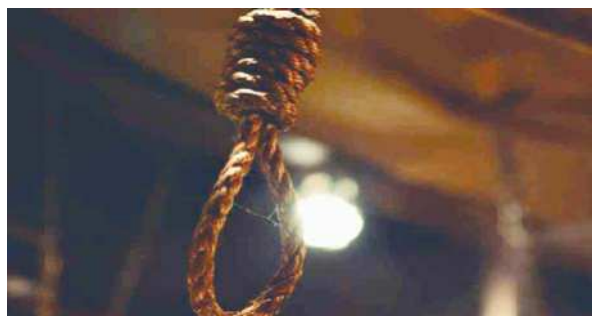
Police also said that account-

ability has been fixed on the law enforcement side, with five policemen, including two sub-inspectors, suspended. Social media videos related to the incident are also being examined.

The police said among those accused in the case are people belonging to various castes, including Dalits and backward communities, and appealed to the public not to give the incident a caste colour.

Valmiki, a Dalit resident of Fatehpur district, was lynched on the night of October 2 near Jamunapur in Rae Bareilly’s Unchahar area after being mistaken for a thief. Following the incident, the police registered a case and arrested several accused. The incident also raised a political furore with Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Raebareli MP Rahul Gandhi expressing concern over it and speaking to the family, assuring them justice even even as opposition Samajwadi Party in UP slammed the BJP-led government over law and order issues, particularly crimes against Dalits.

Student found hanging in his room in UP’s Hamirpur



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HAMIRPUR

A 21-year-old Bachelor of Arts (BA) student allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself in his room in Maudaha town of Uttar Pradesh’s Hamirpur district, police said on Tuesday.

The deceased, identified as Ankit alias Hariom, was the

elder son of Chandrashekhar, a ration dealer and resident of Marathipura locality, they said. According to the youth’s uncle, Milan, Ankit was good at studies and had topped his high school examinations.

“He once said he would top the district in his intermediate exams, but when he could not, he became withdrawn,” Milan said. After completing

intermediate, Ankit enrolled in the government college in Maudaha for a BA course and was in his final year, his uncle said. “He used to talk about pursuing a B.Tech degree from Delhi.”

His father, Chandrashekhar, said that after having dinner on Monday evening, Ankit went to the terrace for a walk.

“When he did not return for a long time, we went upstairs and were shocked to find him hanging from a saree tied to the ceiling,” he said.

The family took him to the local government hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead.

Maudaha SHO Umesh Kumar Singh said the body has been taken into custody and sent for post-mortem.

Ayodhya Deepotsav: 15 temporary hospitals ready

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AYODHYA

THE Uttar Pradesh health department on Tuesday said 15 temporary hospitals are being established for Deepotsav to ensure the health and well-being of devotees and tourists attending the festival. “In addition, ambulances will be stationed round-the-clock at 10 key locations across the entire fair area,” it said in a statement. Ayodhya’s Chief Medical Officer Dr. Sushil Kumar Baniyan, said that complete



vigilance will be maintained regarding health services throughout Deepotsav.

“All hospitals will be equipped with essential medicines, paramedical staff, and

specialist doctors,” he said. Ambulances will be stationed at all times at the fol-

lowing locations: Control Room, Shri Ram Jannabhooni Complex, Shri Hanumangarhi, Shri Kanak Bhavan Temple Complex, Pakka Ghat, Bandha Tiraha (Veena Crossing), Hanuman Gufa (Shri Ram Katha Museum), Saket Petrol Pump, Ayodhya Dham Railway Station, and Shri Nageshwar Nath Temple, according to the statement. Additionally, 50 beds have been reserved across three major hospitals to ensure emergency preparedness during the event, it said.

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BALLIA

A cattle smuggler carrying a reward of Rs 25,000 on his head was arrested following an encounter in the Dubharh area here, the police said on

Wanted cattle smuggler held after encounter with police

Tuesday. Ashok Kumar Yadav (40), a resident of Darapur village in the Phephna area, was nabbed while he was trying to flee to Bihar. He sustained a bullet injury in his

leg during the operation, they said. During checking near the road leading to Janeshwar Mishra Setu on the Green Field Expressway, police signalled a man coming on a

motorcycle to stop. However, the motorcyclist started fleeing in the oppo-site direction while firing at the police team with the intention to kill, Additional Superintendent of

Police Kripa Shankar said.

The police chased the man, who again opened fire after finding himself surrounded by the team. The police personnel retaliated in self-defence and arrested the accused, the officer said.

Tourism dept gears up for paragliding in Jammu by next year

TARIQ SOFI
AITHAM

THE Jammu Tourism Department is preparing to give the region’s skies a new identity by introducing commercial paragliding near here by early next year.

The project is also a story of personal courage and empowerment led by Dolly Sharma, the only woman pilot among the 20 trainees preparing to fly professionally. Aitham is a paragliding location near Jammu that has undergone trials and is being developed by the tourism department to boost adventure tourism. The take-off point is about 19 km from Jammu city and

the landing zone is the sand bed of the Sardhan stream. The trial flight is approximately four minutes.

“This is the only site that is recommended for paragliding and we want to operationalise it in the next five to six months before the end of the current financial year,” Joint Director, Jammu Tourism, Aijaz Qaiser told PTI on the concluding day of the six-day refresher course for the 20 paragliding pilots here. The refresher course is part of advanced training for the pilots who have already completed their P1, P2 and P3 courses from the National Institute of Mountaineering and allied sports. They will be undergoing P4

The project is also a story of personal courage and empowerment led by Dolly Sharma, the only woman pilot among the 20 trainees preparing to fly professionally

training courses at Bilaspur (Govind Sagar lake) and Bir-Billing (Himachal Pradesh) which is considered Asia’s best-in-class institute for paragliding and related activities. “These 20 pilots have just completed their SIV course from Himachal Pradesh and will be leaving in two batches for Bir-Billing for P4 shortly.

“We have collaborated with the A B Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports, Manali, and have one instructor

from there with a two-member technical team from Himachal Pradesh that supervised the training schedule,” Qaiser said.

On the completion of the pilots’ advance training, he said, the department plans to make them fly regularly so that they can complete their mandatory flying hours to conduct solo and tandem flights with passengers.

“This is a 190 sq km area with ideal take-off slopes, consistent wind conditions, and panoramic views.



We are in the process of taking over this land to raise necessary infrastructure,

including an uphill track, multi-cuisine restaurants, a sunset point and a yoga plat-

form,” he added.

The officer said the initiative is part of a broader push to develop adventure tourism in the region and make Jammu a year-round destination for visitors seeking more than pilgrimages and heritage trails.

Sharma, the only woman among the trainees, who has been pursuing adventure sports for the past five years, said this opportunity represents both professional growth and a step forward for women in the region.

“The experience has been very good. Being a woman is not a weakness — there is nothing that a woman cannot do,” she said, brimming with confidence before taking flight and making a perfect landing.

For Sharma, the project represents something deeper than tourism or business.

“This is about confidence. Adventure tourism will attract visitors, yes, but it will also give local youths, especially women, a chance to learn new skills and see themselves in a new light.”

Qaiser said the mandate of his department is to promote adventure tourism and create opportunities that also benefit local youths.

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