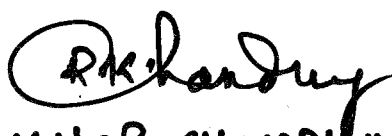


MODIFIED CHECK LIST

1.	(i) Whether SLP ^{W.P} (Civil) has been filed in Form-No. 28 with certificate as per Notification dated 17.6.1997.	Yes/No ✓
	(ii) Whether the prescribed court fee has been paid.	Yes/No ✓
2.	(i) Whether proper and required numbers of paper-books (1+3) have been filed?	Yes/No ✓
	(ii) Whether brief list of dates/ events has been filed?	Yes/No ✓
	(iii) Whether paragraphs and pages of paper books have been numbered consecutively and correctly noted in Index?	Yes/No ✓
3.	Whether the contents of the petition/appeal, applications and accompanying documents are clear, legible and typed in double space on one side of the paper.	Yes/No ✓
4.	Whether the petition and the application bear the signatures of the counsel/In-person.	Yes/No ✓
5.	Whether an affidavit of the petitioner in support of the petition/appeal/ application has been filed, properly attested and identified.	Yes/No ✓
6.	If there are any vernacular documents/portions/lines and translation of such documents are not filed, whether application for exemption from filing Official Translation, with affidavit and court fee, has been filed.	Yes/No/ NA ✓
7.	If a party in the court below has died, whether application for bringing LRs on record indicating the date of death, relationship, age and addresses along with affidavit and court fee has been filed.	Yes/No/ NA ✓
8.	(i) Whether the Vakalatnama has been properly executed by the Petitioners/ appellants and accepted and identified by the Advocate and Memo of Appearance filed.	Yes/No ✓
	(ii) If a petitioner is represented through power of attorney, whether the original power of attorney in English/translated copy has been filed and whether application for permission to appear before the court has also been filed?	Yes/No
	(iii) (a) Whether the petition is filed by a body registered, under any Act or Rules?	Yes/No ✓
	(b) If yes, is copy of the Registration filed?	Yes/No
	(iv) (a) Whether the person filing petition for such incorporated body has authority to file the petition?	Yes/No
	(b) If yes, is proof of such authority filed	Yes/No
9.	Whether the petition/appeal contains a statement in terms of order XVI/XXI of Supreme Court Rules as to whether the petitioner has filed any petition against the impugned order / Judgment earlier, and if so, the result thereof stated in the petition.	Yes/No NA ✓
10.	Whether certified copy of the impugned judgment has been filed and if certified copy is not available, whether an application for exemption from filing certified copy has been filed.	Yes/No NA ✓

11.	Whether the particulars of the impugned judgment passed by the Court(s) below are uniformly written in all the documents.	Yes/No NA
12.	(i) Whether the addresses of the parties and their representation are complete and set out properly and whether detailed cause title has been mentioned in the impugned judgment and if not, whether the memo of parties has been filed, if required?	Yes/No ✓
	(ii) Whether the cause title of the petition/ appeal corresponds to that of the impugned judgment and names of parties therein?	Yes/No NA
13.	Whether in case of appeal by certificate the appeal is accompanied by judgment and decree appealed from and order granting certificate.	Yes/No ✓
14.	If the petition/appeal is time barred, whether application for condonation of delay mentioning the no. of days of delay, with affidavit and court fee has been filed.	Yes/ No /NA ✓
15.	Whether the Annexures referred to in the petition are true copies of the documents before the Court below and are filed in chronological order as per list of dates.	Yes/No NA
16.	Whether the petition/appeal is confined only to the pleadings in the Court/Tribunal below and	Yes/No. NA
	If not whether application for taking additional grounds/ documents with affidavit and court fee has been filed.	Yes/No NA
17.	(i) In SLP/Appeal against the order passed in Second Appeal whether copies of the orders passed by the Trial Court and First Appellate Court have been filed.	Yes/No /NA
	(ii) If required copy of the judgment / order / notification / award etc. is not filed, whether letter of undertaking has been filed in civil matters?	Yes/No /NA
18.	In matters involving conviction whether separate proof of surrender in respect of all convicts or application for exemption from surrendering has been filed (Please see judgment dated 16.6.2006 in CrI. Appeal No.685/2006 entitled Mayuram Subramanian Srinivasan Versus C.B.I) (Copy of surrender proof to be included in the paper books.)	Yes/No /NA
	Whether in case where proof of surrender/ separate certificate from the jail Authority has not been filed, an application for exemption from filing separate proof of surrender has been filed.	Yes/No
19.	In case of quashing of FIR whether a copy of the petition filed before the High Court under section 482 of Cr.P.C. has been filed.	Yes/No NA
20.	In case of anticipatory bail whether a copy of FIR or translated copy has been filed.	Yes/No NA
21.	(i) Whether the complete listing proforma has been filled in, signed and included in the paper-books?	Yes/No ✓
	(ii) If any identical matter is pending/ disposed of by Supreme Court, whether complete particulars of such matters have been given?	Yes/No /NA

Date: 28.05.2021

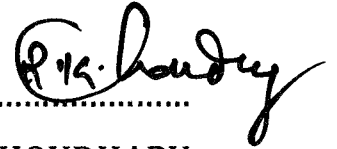

 RAJ KISHOR CHOUDHARY
 AOR
 Code: 2212

DIARY NO. OF 2021

DECLARATION

All defects have been duly cured. Whatever has been added/deleted/modified in the petition is the result of curing defects and nothing else. Except curing the defects, nothing has been done. Paper books are complete in all respects.

Signature.....



Advocate-on-Record : RAJ KISHOR CHOUDHARY

DATE : 28.05.2021

CONTACT NO. 9211006066

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
(CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
WRIT PETITION (PIL) NO. OF 2021

IN THE MATTER OF:

Vineet Jindal

...Petitioner

Versus

Union of India & Ors.

...Respondents

WITH

INTERLOCUTORY APPLICATION NO. OF 2021

*Application for exemption from filing attested
copy of affidavit as well as welfare stamped vakalatnama*

(PAPER-BOOK)

(For Index :: Please See Inside)

ADVOCATE FOR THE PETITIONER : RAJ KISHOR CHOUDHARY

Filed on: 28.05.2021

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		Part I	Part II	
(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)
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2.	Listing Performa	A1	A1	
3.	Cover Page of Paper Book		A3	
4.	Index of Record of Proceedings		A4	
5.	Limitation report Prepared by the Registry		A5	
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PROFORMA FOR FIRST LISTING

SECTION:

The case pertains to (Please tick/check the correct box):

- ☐ Central Act : Constitution of India
 - ☐ Section : Article 32 of the COI
 - ☐ Central Rule : (Title) N/A
 - ☐ Rule No (s) : N/A
 - ☐ State Act : (Title) N/A
 - ☐ Section : N/A
 - ☐ State Rule: (Title) N/A
 - ☐ Rule No (s) : N/A
 - ☐ Impugned Interim Order: (Date) N/A
 - ☐ Impugned Final Order/Decree: N/A
 - ☐ High Court: N/A
 - ☐ Names of Judges : N/A
 - ☐ Tribunal/Authority : (Name) N/A
-

1. Nature of matter: ☒ Civil ☐ Criminal
2. (a) Petitioner/appellant No.1: Vineet Jindal
(b) e-mail ID: N/A
(c) Mobile phone number: N/A
3. (a) Respondent No.1: Union of India & Ors.
(b) e-mail ID: N/A
(c) Mobile phone number: N/A
4. (a) Main category classification: 803
(b) Sub classification: 803
5. Not to be listed before : N/A

6. (a) Similar disposed of matter with citation, if any, & case details
: No

(b) Similar pending matter with case details: No

7. Criminal Matters :-

(a) Whether accused/convict has surrendered: Yes ☐ No ☐

(b) FIR No. N/A

(c) Police Station : N/A

(d) Sentence Awarded : N/A

(e) Sentence Undergone : N/A

8. Land Acquisition Matters :

(a) Date of Section 4 notification : N/A

(b) Date of section 6 notification : N/A

(c) Date of section 17 notification : N/A

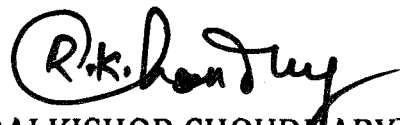
9. Tax matters : State the tax effect : N/A

10. Special Category (first petitioner/appellant only) :

☐ Senior Citizen > 65 years ☐ C/ST ☐ man/child ☐

Disabled ☐ Legal Aid case ☐ In custody

11. Vehicle Number (in case of Motor Accident Claim Matters).



[RAJ KISHOR CHOUDHARY]

AOR for petitioner(s)/appellant(s)

Registration No.2212

Email: crajkishor@yahoo.com

Date :- 28.05.2021

SYNOPSIS

The petitioner is filing the present writ petition in the form of Public Interest Litigation under Article 32 of the Constitution of India being aggrieved by the manner in which the dead bodies of Covid-19 infected persons are disposed of by the concerned authorities of the States near the banks of different rivers leading to devastating effect on drinking water for the people residing in the cities and villages situated on the banks of rivers as well as apprehension of transmission of the diseases to the people through water and animals and various other impact on the societies which the Governments seem unwilling to act upon. The fundamental human rights most affected are "Right to Health" and "Right to life which also includes Right to die with dignity".

The petitioner is filing the present writ petition for following reliefs-

"(A) Issue a Writ in the nature of mandamus or any other Writ/Order/Direction to the respondent to constitute a **the Three-Tier** committees i.e. **(i)** At Central level **(ii)** At State level: and **(iii)** At Panchayats,

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rural level and municipalities level, to look after the Disposal of bodies with dignity and the right; and

- (B) Issue a Writ in the nature of mandamus or any other Writ/Order/Direction to the respondents to remove dead body, fill up digging etc made so far and restore the ecology of all river beds, and
- (C) Issue an appropriate Writ in and declare that Ganga river bed is an ecologically sensitive area and hence to be protected and preserved; and
- (D) Issue a Writ in the nature of mandamus or any other Writ/Order/Direction to the respondents that any environmental hazardous element/ work or dumping of corpus in the river beds shall permanently destroy the ecology of rivers, their ground water recharge ability and will be violative of public trust doctrine, precautionary principle which are part of article 21 of the Constitution; and
- (E) Issue a writ in the nature of mandamus directing the respondents to take appropriate steps to avail the pure and safe drinking water to the people living near the

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banks of rivers so that they do not drink and use the contaminated river water helplessly; and

- (F) Issue a writ in the nature of mandamus directing the respondents to immediately take appropriate steps to conduct Door to Door COVID-19 Corona Virus Test or to organize Medical Camps for conducting COVID-19 Corona Virus Test in such areas where the dead bodies are found along the river banks of Ganges and other rivers, so that the infection may not spread to others from such respective places; and
- (G) Issue a writ in the nature of mandamus directing the respondents the Respondents to immediately take appropriate steps to vaccinate the people living adjacent to the ghats (river banks) of Ganges through Door-to-Door Vaccination Drive or by organizing the Medical Camps in such respective areas so that the vaccination may help in developing the antibodies in time within themselves; and
- (H) Issue a writ in the nature of mandamus directing the respondents the Respondents to immediately take strict

actions against such persons or officials who charge any amount of money in the name of performing last rites at the crematoriums and the graveyards.”

It is respectfully submitted that the dead bodies of Covid-19 affected persons are being buried on the banks of rivers. Sand covering the bodies is blown away by strong winds, exposing the decomposing bodies. Predatory birds and dogs feast gather and feast on the remains. The people expressed concerns that the corpses will spread more diseases. The government should be more careful, especially during this pandemic, as this can spread more diseases to people and worsen the situation. People are helpless. Many are poor and do not have the resources for a proper burial.

It is respectfully submitted that hundreds of corpses have been found floating in the river or buried in the sand of its banks. Those who live close to where they have washed up, in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, fear they are Covid-19 victims.

India has been overwhelmed by a devastating second wave of the pandemic in recent weeks. It has recorded more than 25 million cases and 275,000 deaths, but experts say the real death toll is several times higher.

The bodies on the river banks, taken together with funeral pyres burning round-the-clock and cremation grounds running out of space, tell the story of a death toll unseen and unacknowledged in official data.

The BBC spoke to local reporters, officials, and eyewitnesses in some of the worst affected districts of Uttar Pradesh and found that behind the story of the floating bodies lies traditional beliefs, poverty, and a pandemic killing people at lightning speed.

It is respectfully submitted that this pandemic has resulted in the infringement of various fundamental human rights, which have been accorded protection in our Constitution, like Right to employment, Right to food, Right to privacy, Right to freedom of speech and expression, Right to health, Right to free movement, etc. The fundamental human rights most affected are "Right to Health" and "Right to life which also includes Right to die with dignity".

In the recent past, various disturbing facts surfaced through the media wherein humans were seen to be treated worse than animals. There were numerous news reports which highlighted the mishandling of dead bodies of COVID-19 patients amount to environmental negligence leads to emission of many hazardous

element/ virus in the water and surroundings which may cause different variant of disease.

There were reported incidents like dumping the body of a COVID-19 positive person in a pit at a burial ground. Several dead bodies are found buried on the banks of river Ganga in several districts of Uttar Pradesh while several of them were also seen floating in the river. Many photographs and videos of the half burnt and decomposed dead bodies have gone viral on social media in last few day, these amounted to a "grave infraction of the citizen's right to die with dignity".

Recently, shocking news have been reported from north to south corners of the country about the dumping of human bodies, affected with Covid-19, into the rivers. In the second wave of the pandemic, people are dying in large numbers in villages and people out of fear are not helping one another. In such a scenario, they are dumping their dead into the rivers.

Bodies were spotted by the villagers in the Ganga and Yamuna rivers in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the States where we perform thousands of rituals near rivers and we worship them for their sacredness. On May 11, several bodies wrapped in plastic bags were

seen floating in Gazipur and Hamirpur districts of Uttar Pradesh. Similar cases were found in Bihar's Buxar district. The biggest fear among locals is that these bodies can be eaten by stray dogs and birds which will further spread corona virus. Now, instead of taking action on people causing these malafide acts, the State authorities are playing blame game against each other.

Moving to the west, act of dumping bodies in Narmada river is reported in Gujarat and in Madhya Pradesh also.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, medical waste generation is increased globally, which is a threat to public health and environment. For sample collection of the suspected COVID-19 patients, diagnosis, treatment of huge number of patients, and disinfection purpose lots of infectious and biomedical wastes are generated from hospitals. In addition the dumping of the Corpus (Body) of COVID -19 is a major threat to environment including mixing up these wastes increases the risk of disease transmission, through Waste Nad street animals.

LEGISLATION WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE PREVENTION OF WATER POLLUTION

Legislations derive their power from the Constitution of India, 1950 where Article 21, 48 and 51 (g) are given a liberal

interpretation by the judiciary to include the right to clean water and environment under its ambit. In the famous case of Narmada Bachao Andolan Vs. The Union of India, [2000] 10 S.C.C. 664, the Supreme Court, ***held that the right to clean water is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.***

The major specific legislation which provides for the prevention of water pollution and to take care and maintain the water bodies is the Water Prevention and Control of Pollution Act, 1974. It also aims for promotion for restoration of water bodies. For better implementation of the Act, the Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Board have been established by the Central and the State Governments. Under the Act, the board has the power to encourage and conduct research and investigation with a view of promoting, the prevention of contamination of water in a significant manner and also to advise the Central Government for the matters relating to environmental issues and for the prevention and control of water pollution.

The second major central legislation is the Indian Penal Code, 1860 where Section 277 lays down the provision to punish person who commits an offence of fouling of a public reservoir or a public

spring voluntarily. He shall be liable to be punished with imprisonment of three months or with a fine of Rs 500 or with both.

Apart from this, under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, robust protection is accorded only to river stretches passing through national parks and sanctuaries. Some States though do have provisions in their revenue laws or rules to protect rivers, Sections 29 and 35(6) of the Wildlife Protection Act prohibit the destruction of wildlife, including aquatic habitat and vegetation, and the diversion of the flow of a water body into or outside such areas.

So, on the legal front, despite numerous legislations at State and central level, civic bodies seem to be helpless to check dumping bodies into the river polluting the life existing under river, and existing laws seem to be inadequate.

LIST OF DATES

15.03.2020	The Union of India issued Guidelines on dead body management of persons who succumbed due to Covid-19 but despite of the guidelines in place, the authority concerned is not following the same and allows the family members to dispose of in their own without any restrictions.
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- 11.05.2021 Bodies were spotted by the villagers in the Ganga and Yamuna rivers in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the States where we perform thousands of rituals near rivers and we worship them for their sacredness. On May 11, several bodies wrapped in plastic bags were seen floating in Gazipur and Hamirpur districts of Uttar Pradesh. Similar cases were found in Bihar's Buxar district. The biggest fear among locals is that these bodies can be eaten by stray dogs and birds which will further spread corona virus. Now, instead of taking action on people causing these malafide acts, the State authorities are playing blame game against each other.
- 12.05.2021 It is respectfully submitted that nearly 100 bodies found floating in Ganga in Buxar district of Bihar and Ghazipur district of Uttar Pradesh triggering fears among the local residents of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.
- 13.05.2021 It is respectfully submitted the daily news paper the Business Today reported that after Uttar

Pradesh, dead body were found floating in Ganga near Patna's Gulabi Ghat.

14.05.2021 The Indian Exxpress reported in its addition dated 14.05.2021 that the 7 dead bodies were found floating in Ganga near Varanasi.

15.05.2021 The Wire in its addition dated 15.05.2021 reported that rains have exposed mass shallow graves along the Ganga river leaving devastating impact on the ecology.

28.05.2021 Hence the present writ petition

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
[CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION]
(UNDER ARTICLE 32 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA)
WRIT PETITION (PIL) NO. _____ OF 2021

BETWEEN

Vineet Jindal, Advocate
S/o Dr. Vijay Jindal
R/o E-24, Shushila Road,
Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-33

.....Petitioner

Versus

1. Union of India
Through the Principal Secretary
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources, River Development
And Ganga Rejuvenation
2nd Floor, Block-III, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi-110003
2. National Mission for Clean Ganga
(Registered Society, Under Act, 1860)
Through its Director General
1st Floor, Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium,
India Gate, New Delhi-110 002
3. The State of U.P.
Through Chief Secretary
1st Floor, Room No. 110,
Lalbahadur Sastri Bhawan,
Uttar Pradesh Secretariat,
Lucknow-226001
4. Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board
Through its Chairman
Building No. TC-12 V,
Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar,
Lucknow-226 010

5. The State of Bihar
Through Chief Secretary
4, Deshratna Marg, Patna, Bihar
6. Bihar State Pollution Control Board
Through its Chairman
Mall Rd, Patliputra Industrial Area,
Digha, Patna, Bihar 800010

Respondent

To,
The Hon'ble Chief Justice of India,
And His Companion Judges of the
Hon'ble Supreme Court of India

The humble petition of the
Petitioner above-named

**PETITION UNDER ARTICLE 32 OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION
R/W ORDER XXXVIII OF THE SUPREME COURT RULES, 2013 IN
THE NATURE OF PUBLIC INTEREST IS BEING FILED FOR
ISSUANCE OF APPROPRIATE WRITS IN THE NATURE OF
MANDAMUS**

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. The petitioner, a practicing advocate and a public spirited person, has been compelled to file the present writ petition in the public interest under Article 32 of the Constitution of India being aggrieved by the manner in which the dead bodies of Covid-19 infected persons are disposed of by the concerned authorities of the States near the banks of different rivers leading to devastating effect on drinking water for the people

residing in the cities and villages situated on the banks of rivers as well as apprehension of transmission of the diseases to the people through water and animals and various other impact on the societies which the Governments seem unwilling to act upon. The fundamental human rights most affected are "Right to Health" and "Right to life which also includes Right to die with dignity".

2. That petitioner states that this is the first writ petition in the form of Public Interest Litigation for the relief as prayed for in the present petition filed by the petitioner under Article 32 of the Constitution of India. He has neither filed any other writ petition for the similar relief in this Hon'ble Court or nor is pending.
3. That the petitioner is a Citizen of India and a practicing advocate before the courts at Delhi and he has no personal interest in the matter.
4. That on 15.03.2020 the Union of India issued Guidelines on dead body management of persons who succumbed due to Covid-19 but despite of the guidelines in place, the authority concerned is not following the same and allows the family

members to dispose of in their own without any restrictions. True copy of the guidelines on dead body management of Covid 19 infected persons dated 15.03.2020 is being annexed herewith and marked as Annexure P-1 (Page 16 to 22).

5. That on 11.05.2021 the dead bodies were spotted by the villagers in the Ganga and Yamuna rivers in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the States where we perform thousands of rituals near rivers and we worship them for their sacredness. On May 11, several bodies wrapped in plastic bags were seen floating in Gazipur and Hamirpur districts of Uttar Pradesh. Similar cases were found in Bihar's Buxar district. The biggest fear among locals is that these bodies can be eaten by stray dogs and birds which will further spread corona virus. Now, instead of taking action on people causing these malafide acts, the State authorities are playing blame game against each other. True copy of the new report dated 11.05.2021 is being annexed herewith and marked as Annexure P-2 (Page 23 to 25).

6. That it is respectfully submitted that nearly 100 bodies found floating in Ganga in Buxar district of Bihar and Ghazipur district of Uttar Pradesh triggering fears among the local

residents of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. True copy of the news report dated 12.05.2021 published in the Indian Express is being annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure P-3 (Page 26 to 29)**.

7. That it is respectfully submitted the daily news paper the Business Today reported that after Uttar Pradesh, dead body were found floating in Ganga near Patna's Gulabi Ghat. True copy of the news report dated 13.05.2021 published in the Business Today is being annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure P-4 (Page 30 to 31)**.

8. That the Indian Exxxpress reported in its edition dated 14.05.2021 that the 7 dead bodies were found floating in Ganga near Varanasi. True copy of the news report dated 14.05.2021 is being annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure P-5 (Page 32 to 39)**.

9. That the Wire in its edition dated 15.05.2021 reported that rains have exposed mass shallow graves along the Ganga river leaving devastating impact on the ecology. True copy of the news report published in the Wire in its edition dated 15.05.2021 is being annexed herewith and marked as

Annexure P-6 (Page 40 to 45). True copy of the news report published in India Today in its edition dated 15.05.2021 is being annexed herewith and marked as Annexure P-7 (Page 46 to 48).

10. That there are no specific laws in India to protect the rights of the dead. However there were several international covenants, Supreme Court and High Court rulings and guidelines issued by various governments to highlight the need to maintain coronavirus-related protocol and give a decent burial or cremations based on the religious customs and practices of those who died.
11. That the petitioner begs to move this petition *inter-alia* on the following-

GROUND

- a) Because in Subhash Kumar Vs State of Bihar (AIR 1991 SC 420), it was held that the right to live is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution and it includes the right to the enjoyment of pollution free water and air for full enjoyment of life. If anything impairs the quality of life in derogation of

laws, a citizen has a right to have recourse to Article 32 of the Constitution of the Constitution for the prevention of pollution.

- b) Because the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Research Foundation for Science Technology and Ecology Vs Union of India and ors it was held that the right to information and community participation for protection of the environment and human health is a right that flows from Article 21. The Government and authorities have to motivate the public participation. Further the Hon'ble Court relying on the decision in A.P Pollution Control Board Vs Prof M. V Nayudu (Retd) and ors (1996 5 SCC 718) held that principles of good governance is an accepted principle of international and domestic law. It comprises of the rule of law, effective state institution, transparency and accountability, respect for human rights and the meaningful participation of citizens in the political process of their countries and the decisions affecting their lives.
- c) Because Article 48-A of the Constitution relating to Directive Principles of State Policy provides the State shall endeavour to

protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.

- d) Because Article 51-A. (g) states that it is a fundamental duty of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures." The Petitioners are acting under their fundamental duty under the Constitution as stated.
- e) Because there are no specific laws in India to protect the rights of the dead. However there were several international covenants, Supreme Court and High Court rulings and guidelines issued by various governments to highlight the need to maintain coronavirus-related protocol and give a decent burial or cremations based on the religious customs and practices of those who died.
- f) Because in order to ensure that dignity is upheld during handling of bodies, the cremation/burial ground staff must be sensitised about proper handling of the body. Further, they need to be provided necessary safety equipment and facilities so that they may perform their duty efficiently without any fear or risk.

- g) Because Horrific scenes had emerged from these states since the beginning of the week. Many bodies were found floating in Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi district and multiple bodies were found buried in sand in at least two locations along the Ganga river in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao district.
- h) Because various unidentified bodies, suspected to be of coronavirus patients, were found floating in river Ganga in Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur district. Later that day, a similar incident was reported from Madhya Pradesh's Panna district.
- i) Because floating bodies in the Ganga in Buxar district of Bihar had caused panic among the residents. While some reports said there were around 10 to 12 bodies, others said there were 40-45 corpses. Some reports placed the number even higher, at 150 bodies.
- j) Because the sight was ghastly, corpses were floating from all directions and were getting stuck on the ghats. People were getting really terrified and the smell is getting worse. After looking at the condition of the bodies, it seemed like they have been floating for a while, maybe four to five days. Incidents such as these have sparked fears about the scale of the Covid

crisis in the country, especially in rural areas. Authorities believe the relatives of those who succumbed to the virus, may not have been able to find space for the last rites.

MAIN PRAYER :

It is therefore most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Court may graciously be pleased to:-

- (A) Issue a Writ in the nature of mandamus or any other Writ/Order/Direction to the respondent to constitute a **the Three-Tier** committees i.e. (i) At Central level (ii) At State level: and (iii) At Panchayats, rural level and municipalities level, to look after the Disposal of bodies with dignity and the right; and
- (B) Issue a Writ in the nature of mandamus or any other Writ/Order/Direction to the respondents to remove dead body, fill up digging etc made so far and restore the ecology of all river beds, and
- (C) Issue an appropriate Writ in and declare that Ganga river bed is an ecologically sensitive area and hence to be protected and preserved; and

- (D) Issue a Writ in the nature of mandamus or any other Writ/Order/Direction to the respondents that any environmental hazardous element/ work or dumping of corpus in the river beds shall permanently destroy the ecology of rivers, their ground water recharge ability and will be violative of public trust doctrine, precautionary principle which are part of article 21 of the Constitution; and
- (E) Issue a writ in the nature of mandamus directing the respondents to take appropriate steps to avail the pure and safe drinking water to the people living near the banks of rivers so that they do not drink and use the contaminated river water helplessly; and
- (F) Issue a writ in the nature of mandamus directing the respondents to immediately take appropriate steps to conduct Door to Door COVID-19 Corona Virus Test or to organize Medical Camps for conducting COVID-19 Corona Virus Test in such areas where the dead bodies are found along the river banks of Ganges and other rivers, so that the infection may not spread to others from such respective places; and

12

- (G) Issue a writ in the nature of mandamus directing the respondents the Respondents to immediately take appropriate steps to vaccinate the people living adjacent to the ghats (river banks) of Ganges through Door-to-Door Vaccination Drive or by organizing the Medical Camps in such respective areas so that the vaccination may help in developing the antibodies in time within themselves; and
- (H) Issue a writ in the nature of mandamus directing the respondents the Respondents to immediately take strict actions against such persons or officials who charge any amount of money in the name of performing last rites at the crematoriums and the graveyards; or
- (I) pass such other orders and further order / directions as are deemed just and proper in the facts and the circumstances of the present case.

FILED BY:


(RAJ KISHOR CHOUDHARY)
ADVOCATE FOR PETITIONER

Filed on: 28.05.2021

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION (PIL) NO. OF 2021

IN THE MATTER OF:

Vineet Jindal

...Petitioner

Versus

Union of India & Anr.

...Respondents

AFFIDAVIT

I, Vineet Jindal, Advocate, S/o Dr. Vijay Jindal, Aged about 32 years, R/o E-24, Shushila Road, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-33, do hereby solemnly affirm as under

1. That I am the elder brother of the petitioner in the above mentioned writ petition and as such I am fully conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case and able to depose the same.
2. That I have read and understood the accompanying Writ Petition paras 1 to 11 at pages 1 to 12 List of dates and facts at pages B to L and Interlocutory Applications and I say that the contents thereof are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and I believe the same to be true.
3. That the Annexures P-1 to P-7 and some part of the impugned order are true and correct copies of their respective originals.



Deponent

VERIFICATION:

I, the deponent above named do hereby verify that the contents of above affidavit are true to my knowledge and belief and no part of the same is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Verified at New Delhi on this 27TH Day of MAY, 2020



Deponent

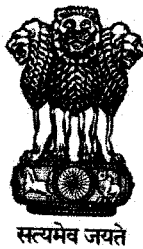
CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

Article 32. Remedies for enforcement of rights conferred by this Part

- (1) The right to move the Supreme Court by appropriate proceedings for the enforcement of the rights conferred by this Part is guaranteed
- (2) The Supreme Court shall have power to issue directions or orders or writs, including writs in the nature of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto and certiorari, whichever may be appropriate, for the enforcement of any of the rights conferred by this Part
- (3) Without prejudice to the powers conferred on the Supreme Court by clause (1) and (2), Parliament may by law empower any other court to exercise within the local limits of its jurisdiction all or any of the powers exercisable by the Supreme Court under clause (2)
- (4) The right guaranteed by this article shall not be suspended except as otherwise provided for by this Constitution.

//True copy//





**Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Directorate General of Health Services
(EMR Division)**

COVID-19: GUIDELINES ON DEAD BODY MANAGEMENT

15.03.2020

1. Scope of the document

- There are currently over 100 laboratory confirmed cases and two deaths due to Novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in India. Being a new disease there is knowledge gap on how to dispose of dead body of a suspect or confirmed case of COVID-19.
- This guideline is based on the current epidemiological knowledge about the COVID-19. India is currently having travel related cases and few cases of local transmission. At this stage, all suspect/ confirmed cases will be isolated in a health care facility. Hence the document is limited in scope to hospital deaths.

2. Key Facts

- The main driver of transmission of COVID-19 is through droplets. There is unlikely to be an increased risk of COVID infection from a dead body to health workers or family members who follow standard precautions while handling body.
- Only the lungs of dead COVID patients, if handled during an autopsy, can be infectious.

3. Standard Precautions to be followed by health care workers while handling dead bodies of COVID.

Standard infection prevention control practices should be followed at all times.

These include:

1. Hand hygiene.
2. Use of personal protective equipment (e.g., water resistant apron, gloves, masks, eyewear).
3. Safe handling of sharps.

4. Disinfect bag housing dead body; instruments and devices used on the patient.
5. Disinfect linen. Clean and disinfect environmental surfaces.

4. Training in infection and prevention control practices

All staff identified to handle dead bodies in the isolation area, mortuary, ambulance and those workers in the crematorium / burial ground should be trained in the infection prevention control practices.

5. Removal of the body from the isolation room or area

- The health worker attending to the dead body should perform hand hygiene, ensure proper use of PPE (water resistant apron, goggles, N95 mask, gloves).
- All tubes, drains and catheters on the dead body should be removed.
- Any puncture holes or wounds (resulting from removal of catheter, drains, tubes, or otherwise) should be disinfected with 1% hypochlorite and dressed with impermeable material.
- Apply caution while handling sharps such as intravenous catheters and other sharp devices. They should be disposed into a sharps container.
- Plug Oral, nasal orifices of the dead body to prevent leakage of body fluids.
- If the family of the patient wishes to view the body at the time of removal from the isolation room or area, they may be allowed to do so with the application of Standard Precautions.
- Place the dead body in leak-proof plastic body bag. The exterior of the body bag can be decontaminated with 1% hypochlorite. The body bag can be wrapped with a mortuary sheet or sheet provided by the family members.

- The body will be either handed over to the relatives or taken to mortuary.
- All used/ soiled linen should be handled with standard precautions, put in bio-hazard bag and the outer surface of the bag disinfected with hypochlorite solution.
- Used equipment should be autoclaved or decontaminated with disinfectant solutions in accordance with established infection prevention control practices.
- All medical waste must be handled and disposed of in accordance with Bio-medical waste management rules.
- The health staff who handled the body will remove personal protective equipment and will perform hand hygiene.
- Provide counseling to the family members and respect their sentiments.

6. Environmental cleaning and disinfection

All surfaces of the isolation area (floors, bed, railings, side tables, IV stand, etc.) should be wiped with 1% Sodium Hypochlorite solution; allow a contact time of 30 minutes, and then allowed to air dry.

7. Handling of dead body in Mortuary

- Mortuary staff handling COVID dead body should observe standard precautions.
- Dead bodies should be stored in cold chambers maintained at approximately 4°C.
- The mortuary must be kept clean. Environmental surfaces, instruments and transport trolleys should be properly disinfected with 1% Hypochlorite solution.
- After removing the body, the chamber door, handles and floor should be cleaned with sodium hypochlorite 1% solution.

8. Embalming

- Embalming of dead body should not be allowed.

9. Autopsies on COVID-19 dead bodies

Autopsies should be avoided. If autopsy is to be performed for special reasons, the following infection prevention control practices should be adopted:

- The Team should be well trained in infection prevention control practices.
- The number of forensic experts and support staff in the autopsy room should be limited.
- The Team should use full complement of PPE (coveralls, head cover, shoe cover, N 95 mask, goggles / face shield).
- Round ended scissors should be used
- PM40 or any other heavy duty blades with blunted points to be used to reduce prick injuries
- Only one body cavity at a time should be dissected
- Unfixed organs must be held firm on the table and sliced with a sponge – care should be taken to protect the hand
- Negative pressure to be maintained in mortuary. An oscillator saw with suction extraction of the bone aerosol into a removable chamber should be used for sawing skull, otherwise a hand saw with a chain-mail glove may be used
- Needles should not be re-sheathed after fluid sampling – needles and syringes should be placed in a sharps bucket.
- Reduce aerosol generation during autopsy using appropriate techniques especially while handling lung tissue.

- After the procedure, body should be disinfected with 1% Sodium Hypochlorite and placed in a body bag, the exterior of which will again be decontaminated with 1% Sodium Hypochlorite solution.
- The body thereafter can be handed over to the relatives.
- Autopsy table to be disinfected as per standard protocol.

10. Transportation

- The body, secured in a body bag, exterior of which is decontaminated poses no additional risk to the staff transporting the dead body.
- The personnel handling the body may follow standard precautions (surgical mask, gloves).
- The vehicle, after the transfer of the body to cremation/ burial staff, will be decontaminated with 1% Sodium Hypochlorite.

11. At the crematorium/ Burial Ground

- The Crematorium/ burial Ground staff should be sensitized that COVID 19 does not pose additional risk.
- The staff will practice standard precautions of hand hygiene, use of masks and gloves.
- Viewing of the dead body by unzipping the face end of the body bag (by the staff using standard precautions) may be allowed, for the relatives to see the body for one last time.
- Religious rituals such as reading from religious scripts, sprinkling holy water and any other last rites that does not require touching of the body can be allowed.
- Bathing, kissing, hugging, etc. of the dead body should not be allowed.

- The funeral/ burial staff and family members should perform hand hygiene after cremation/ burial.
- The ash does not pose any risk and can be collected to perform the last rites.
- Large gathering at the crematorium/ burial ground should be avoided as a social distancing measure as it is possible that close family contacts may be symptomatic and/ or shedding the virus.



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After Bihar's Buxar, bodies found floating in Ganga in UP's Ghazipur

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Annexure P-2

Day after dozens of bodies, bloated and in various stages of decay, washed up on Monday on the banks of the Ganga in Chausa block of Bihar's Buxar district, similar sightings were reported on the banks of the river in Ghazipur district of Uttar Pradesh.



Vinay Kumar Singh

Ghaziabad/Buxar May 11, 2021 UPDATED: May 11, 2021 11:10 IST



Few unidentified bodies found floating in river Ganga in Ghazipur, UP (Photo: ANI)

Day after dozens of bodies, bloated and in various stages of decay, washed up on Monday on the banks of the Ganga in Chausa block of Bihar's Buxar district, similar sightings were reported on the banks of the river in Ghazipur district of Uttar Pradesh.

The bodies are suspected to be those of Covid-19 patients who were dumped in the river, revealing the scale of Covid emergency in India.

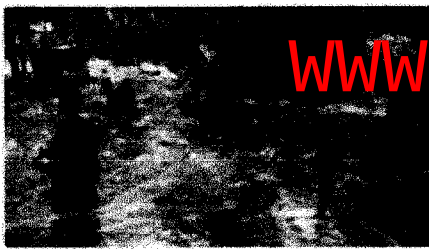
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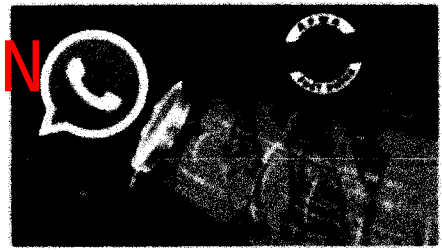
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RECOMMENDED



RECOMMENDED



TRENDING

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Ghazipur District Magistrate MP Singh said an investigation has been initiated to figure out where the bodies have come from. "We got the information, our officers are present on the spot and an investigation is underway. We are trying to find out where they came from," Ghazipur DM MP Singh said.

In Bihar's Buxar, dozens of bodies, all decomposed, washed up on the banks of the Ganga, triggering panic among the locals.

The locals have said that it is a common sight nowadays as people have started immersing the bodies of their relatives into the river as the overwhelmed crematoriums, handling a number of bodies every day, are running out of firewood.

Speaking with India Today TV, locals said following the Hindu cremation rituals, people either burn their dead or immerse the bodies in the river. Due to the lack of firewood at the crematoriums owing to the rise in Covid-related deaths, the people immersed them in the river.



While there is no certainty where the bodies were dumped into the river -- Bihar or Uttar Pradesh -- the local administration believes the bodies floated down from Uttar Pradesh. Many local residents claimed that the district administration was "in denial over many such unfortunate incidents involving residents of Buxar".

Buxar SDO KK Upadhyay told the media that they need to investigate where they are from, "which town in UP - Bahraich or Varanasi or Allahabad."

They alleged that those manning cremation ghats were charging a fortune whenever people reached there with the body of a near and dear one who died of the coronavirus. "So many bereaved family members are impelled to immerse the bodies of their departed relatives in the river," one of the villagers was quoted as saying by PTI.

Similar sightings at a border village in Ghazipur district were reported. Ghazipur DM Mangla Prasad Singh confirmed the finding of the bodies and said this matter had come to his notice. He said he has sent an investigation team to probe the matter.

The river separates Bihar from UP. Geographically, there are dozens of villages in the Sevrai and Zamania tehsils of Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh. While there is Bara and Gahmar in Ghazipur (UP) on one bank, Chausa (Bihar) is on the other.

People immerse the bodies in the middle stream of the river and due to the low current in the river, the decomposed bodies have washed up on the banks.

Meanwhile, local residents in Hamirpur district spotted five bodies floating in the Yamuna, creating a scare that these were of Covid patients, an apprehension dismissed by the authorities. The resident had spotted the bodies, including a half-burnt corpse, under a bridge on the Yamuna on May 6.

"After speaking to people and looking at the bodies, prima facie, it can be said these were not of Covid-19 patients as these were draped in a traditional manner and no body was wrapped as done in the case of Covid-19 victims," District Magistrate Gyaneshwar Tripathi said in a statement.

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Friday, May 28, 2021

Annexure P-3

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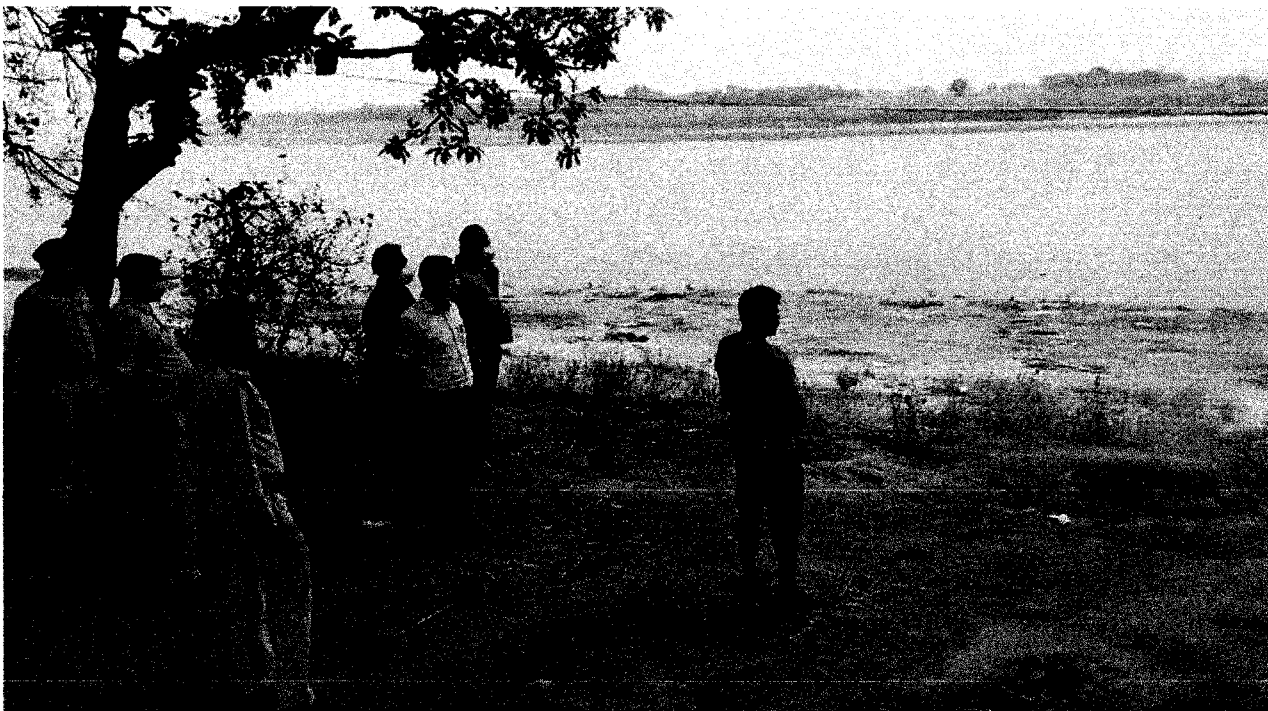
HomeIndiaNearly 100 bodies found floating in Ganga, spark panic in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh

Nearly 100 bodies found floating in Ganga, spark panic in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh

While 71 of the bodies have been fished out in Bihar's Buxar district, at least 25 bodies were found in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur district.

Written by Santosh Singh, Asad Rehman | Lucknow, Patna |

Updated: May 12, 2021 7:34:41 pm



Police personnel oversee the burial of bodies that washed up on the banks of the Ganga in Buxar's Chausa village. (PTI)

At least 96 unidentified bodies – many of them decomposed and bloated – have been found floating in the Ganga over the past couple of days, triggering fears among local residents in Bihar and Uttar

Pradesh that bodies of Covid victims were being dumped in the river. While 71 of the bodies have been fished out in Bihar's Buxar district, at least 25 bodies were found in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur district.

While authorities in both districts are yet to confirm if the bodies were of Covid victims, saying samples have been sent for tests, police in Buxar said they suspected the bodies may have floated in from Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh.

Also Read |Corpses in Ganga: Buxar locals more worried about water contamination than where bodies came from

The central government has taken serious note of the issue, with Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Tuesday seeking an investigation by both states. "Floating bodies in Ganga in Buxar, Bihar is unfortunate. It is surely a matter of investigation. [Narendra] Modi government is committed to maintaining piety and continuity of mother Ganga. States [Bihar and UP] concerned must take cognizance of the matter immediately," he tweeted.

Buxar SP Neeraj Kumar told *The Indian Express*: "We have so far fished out 71 bodies from the Ganga. We conducted postmortem of all bodies and have also taken DNA and Covid samples." He said the bodies were disposed of as per government Covid protocols.

He said the police had been carrying out an inspection in the area to find out if the bodies could be of local residents. "Some bodies could have floated in from UP. It is subject of investigation for Bihar and UP police," he said.

Explained |When corpses of influenza victims were dumped in Narmada river in 1918

Uttar Pradesh's ADG (Law and order) Prashant Kumar told *The Indian Express*: "The bodies have been found in Bihar, and it is the responsibility of the Bihar government to investigate them and take further action. It is not right to blame UP."

Buxar District Magistrate Aman Sameer said the local administration has been keeping a close watch on Ganga ghats to ensure that bodies are not allowed to be dumped in the river. Buxar has so far 1,172 active Covid cases. The district recorded 26 Covid deaths till Monday.

The Uttar Pradesh government has already passed an order directing people to stop Jal Samadhi – a ritual followed by some communities in which bodies are disposed by putting them in the river.

"This order is being followed strictly in the state," ADG Kumar said.

The bodies in Buxar were first noticed by villagers near Mahadeva cremation ground along the river in Buxar's Chousa village on Monday. They then alerted the district authorities.

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In Ghazipur, authorities said at least 25 unidentified bodies were found floating in the Ganga over the past two days. Varanasi (range) IG Suvendra K Bhagat said on Tuesday he can't give the exact number" but at least 25 bodies have been recovered. "We have gotten a review done. It has come to our knowledge that two types of bodies were found floating in the river," he said. Some communities follow Jal Samadhi or "Jal Pravah", which means disposing the bodies in the river, he said. The other type was half-burnt bodies being dumped in the river by people carrying out cremations.

The IG said all measures have been taken to stop these practices along the Ganga. "We have increased patrolling in villages along the river to ensure that bodies are not dumped in the river," he said.

On the possibility of whether the bodies could have floated in from other districts, Bhagat said, "It is difficult to ascertain where the bodies came from. But they could have come from upstream. These bodies are badly decomposed."

In Uttar Pradesh, the Ganga flows through Kanpur, Hamirpur, Prayagraj, Chandauli, Varanasi, Ghazipur and then enters Bihar's Buxar district.

"The bodies are being disposed of using Covid protocol," said Bhagat, although it was not yet clear if they were of Covid victims.

Varanasi Divisional Commissioner Deepak Agarwal said the bodies were recovered at different places in Ghazipur district along the Ganga. "There is no way to ascertain if these deaths were due to Covid. None of the bodies could be identified," he said.

Circle Officer (Jamania) Hitendra Krishna said 23 bodies were found under Jamania circle of Ghazipur.

According to state government data, in the past 15 days, 59 people have died in Ghazipur district due to Covid, taking the toll in the district to 178.

District Ganga panels told to address issue of disposal of bodies

Taking cognizance of reports regarding the dumping of dead bodies in the Ganga river and its tributaries, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) on Tuesday asked all District Ganga

Committees to take “necessary action” to address the issue and submit an “action taken report” within 14 days.

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NMCG Director General Rajiv Ranjan Mishra asked the panels to “immediately stop dumping of dead bodies, partially burnt bodies/ unclaimed or unidentified corpses in the river Ganga and its tributaries”. He also asked them to ensure that all unidentified bodies are “properly disposed-off in accordance with the Covid-safety protocols”. — *Express News Service*



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After UP, dead bodies found floating in Ganga near Patna's Gulabi Ghat

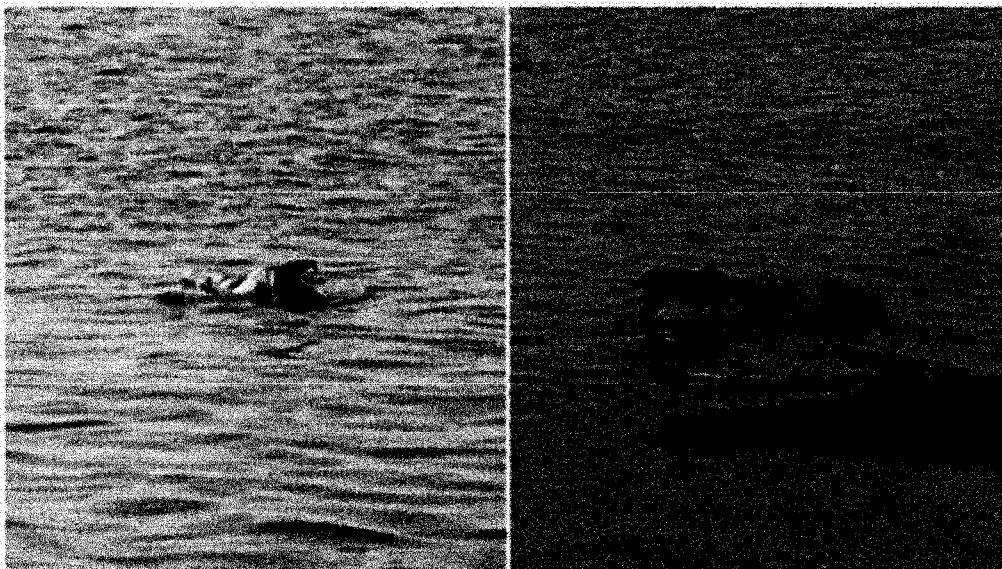
BusinessToday.In May 13, 2021

The frightful sight of floating bodies in the Ganga river was seen in Patna on Thursday, May 13. Two days after the Bihar government fished out 71 dead bodies from the river in Bihar's Buxar district, residents spotted many bodies floating near the Gulabi Ghat in Patna.

"A number of bodies, including a body of a child, have been found floating in the river Ganga. We are keeping a check to ensure that corpses are not dumped in the river in our district," Patna District Magistrate Chandrashekhar Singh told India Today.

Also Read: **45 dead bodies seen floating in Ganga river in UP's Ballia, Ghazipur**

The Gulabi Ghat on the Ganga river is used for carrying out cremation of bodies in Patna. Singh further stated that his office is ascertaining if the bodies were discarded in the river in Patna or someplace else. He also appealed to people not to dump bodies in the river. The district magistrate further informed that the bodies will be fished out and cremated.



Click here to Enlarge

The Bihar government had on May 11 fished out 71 bodies from the Ganges in Buxar, eliciting doubt that the deserted corpses could be

those of the coronavirus patients.

As per the Ballia residents in UP, at least 52 bodies were seen floating at the Bharauli, Ujiyar, and Kulhadia ghats in the Narahi area. However, the district administration did not divulge the precise number of corpses found there.

Also Read: **Shocking! Dead bodies found floating in Ganga in Bihar's Buxar**

Hamirpur district residents, on May 10, spotted five bodies floating in Yamuna river, creating a panic situation in the area that these were the corpses of the coronavirus patients.

The corpses were later fished out and cremated. The Centre, subsequent to this, asked the states along the Ganga river to ensure stringent vigilance and check future incidences of people disposing bodies in the Ganga and its tributaries.

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<https://www.businesstoday.in/current/economy-politics/after-up-dead-bodies-found-floating-in-ganga-near-patnas-gulabi-ghat/story/438999.html>

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Dead bodies found floating in Ganga in PM Modi's Varanasi constituency

The Sujabad village neighbours Domri village, which has been adopted by PM Modi in 2018 under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana.



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Published: 14th May 2021 12:48 AM | Last Updated: 14th May 2021 12:48 AM

🔒 | A+ A A-



Bodies of suspected Covid patients found in Ganga cremated by the administration, in Unnao. (Photo | ANI)

By Anuraag Singh

Express News Service

LUCKNOW: After dead bodies were seen floating in river Ganga in East Uttar Pradesh districts, shallow graves have been reported on the banks of the sacred river in the central parts of the state since the last few days. Meanwhile, the Yogi Adityanath government maintains that the **COVID-19 cases** and positivity rate in the state is declining fast.

Just a few days after dozens of dead bodies found floating on the banks of river Ganga in eastern districts of Ghazipur, Ballia and Chandauli, at least seven bodies (five males and two females) were found floating near Sujabad village in Prime

Minister Narendra Modi's parliamentary constituency Varanasi on Thursday. **33**
Confirming the development, Ved Prakash Rai, the station officer of Ramnagar police station of Varanasi district, said "there were a total seven bodies, many of which were partially decomposed, that were found floating near Sujabad village. All the bodies were retrieved from the river and buried safely by following all safety protocols by the local administration."

The Sujabad village neighbours Domri village, which has been adopted by PM Modi in 2018 under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana.

Meanwhile, as per informed sources in Ghazipur, Ballia and Chandauli districts of East UP, several dozen bodies (numbering possibly between 70-100) have been found floating in river Ganga on UP-Bihar border in the last few days.

According to Banwari Lal, a guard deployed near the new bridge coming over the Ganga river between Ballia and Buxar claimed that around 70 bodies have been found floating near the under construction bridge at Bharauli Ghat and adjoining villages in Ballia district (Bihar's Buxar district located on the opposite banks)."The local administration got them buried with the help of JCB machines," he said.

The Ballia district magistrate Aditi Singh, while confirming that many bodies were found floating in the river said, "village pradhans of nearby villages were called to identify the bodies, but as the bodies were badly decomposed, they failed to identify them. Subsequently, the last rites of the bodies were performed by following all safety protocols and the local SDM is looking into the entire matter."

Around 450 km away in Central UP's Unnao district, dozens of shallow graves have been found in the last few days. Videos of the stray dogs invading and digging the shallow graves too have gone viral.

READ HERE | COVID-19 cases continue to decline fast in UP, active tally declined by 1.06 lakh in 12 days

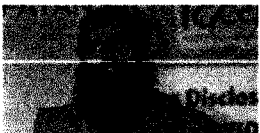
According to Unnao district collector Ravindra Kumar, the graves found in Buxar Ghat (Bighapur) is located in Unnao district, but is very close to Rae Bareilly and Fatehpur district also. "Traditionally Buxar Ghat has had a long tradition of people from all three districts not cremating, but burying the human corpses on the

riverbank. We're ensuring that all the bodies being buried are buried deeply and also ensuring that bodies which have been buried in shallow graves be covered properly, to prevent stray animals from invading the graves." 34

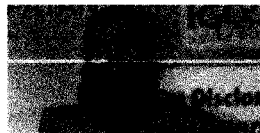
Meanwhile, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to the Union Jal Shakti Ministry, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, after receiving complaints about several bodies found floating in the Ganga river in UP and Bihar. "It (NHRC) has issued notices to the chief secretaries of both the states and the secretary, Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, today calling for an action taken report within four weeks," NHRC statement mentioned.

Tweeting about the bodies in river Ganga and graves on the riverbanks, Congress national general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said, "Bodies are floating in the Ganga in Ballia and Ghazipur. Reports are coming in of mass burials on the banks of the river in Unnao. Official numbers from cities like Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Jhansi and Kanpur appear to be grossly under-reported." The Congress leader demanded judicial enquiry headed by a High Court Judge into these events.

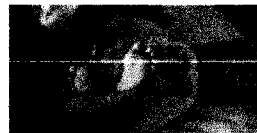
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floating dead bodies

Horrrifying! Over 2,000 bodies found within 1,140 kms on banks of River Ganga in Uttar Pradesh

By FPJ Web Desk

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More than 300 bodies found buried near Ganga in Shivrajpur, Kanpur, Friday, May 14, 2021. PTI

People living near the banks of the Ganga in Uttar Pradesh have been witnessing the ghastly sight of dead bodies washing up on the ghats of the river.

Over 2,000 bodies were found in 1,140 kms on the bank of River Ganga which is spread across several districts in Uttar Pradesh, reported Hindi Daily Dainik Bhaskar.

Ganga flows across 1,140 kms in UP and then enters Bihar.

As per the report, 350 bodies were found buried near Mahadevi Ganga Ghat in Kannauj. Sources said that the administration is covering up the bodies by putting soil on them.

ALSO READ



District admin cremates 2 more bodies found near Ganga in UP after video of dogs mauling them goes viral



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In Kanpur, which is UP's one of the most populated states, 400 corpses were buried near Sherreshwar Ghat. As per Dainik Bhaskar's report, the police covered the bodies with soil.

Amid the pandemic, Unnao has become one of the largest crematoriums on river banks with as many as 900 bodies found buried on the banks of River Ganga. Bodies were buried near Shuklaganj and Buxar Ghats. As per Dainik Bhaskar's report, human organs were seen at the site. In some instances, dogs were seen nibbling and lurking around the bodies.



Bodies buried in the sand on the banks of Ganga river, as coronavirus cases surge, in Unnao district PTI

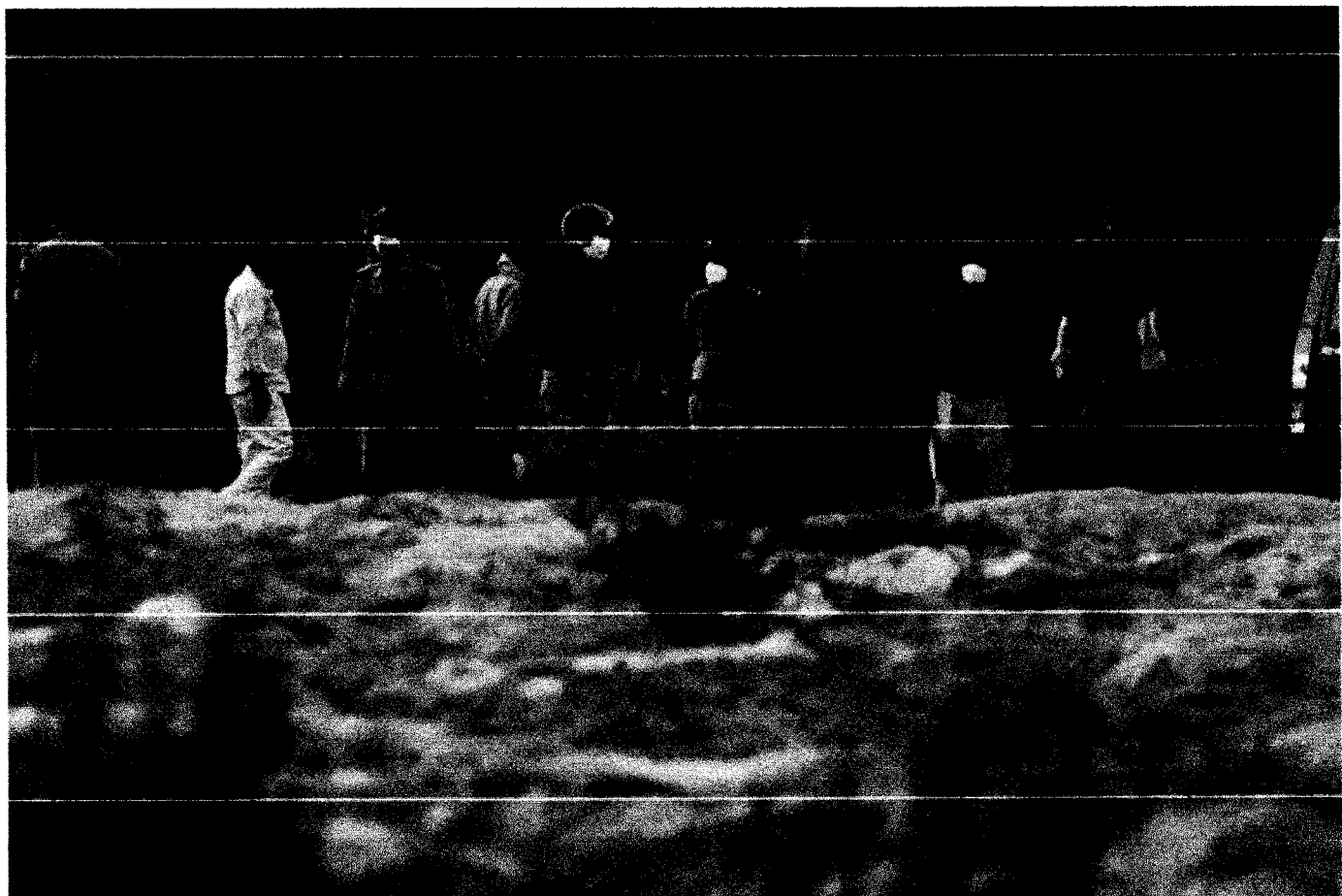


Bodies of suspected Covid patients found in Ganga cremated by the administration, in Unnao ANI



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Bodies of suspected Covid-19 coronavirus victims are seen partially buried in the sand near a cremation ground on the banks of Ganges River in Rautapur Ganga Ghat, in Unnao AFP



Police and administrative officials (background) inspect a cremation ground on the banks of Ganges River, where suspected bodies (foreground) of Covid-19 coronavirus victims appeared

partially buried, at Rautapur Ganga Ghat in Unnao on May 13, 2021. AFP

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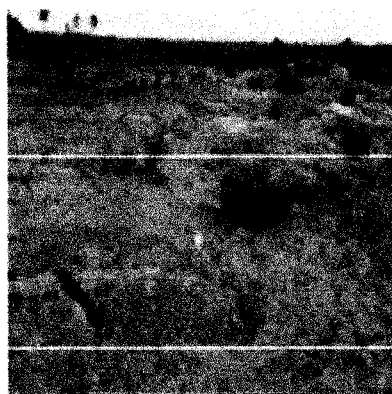
A view of the bank of river Ganga after district administration clean drive as dozens of decomposing bodies found, amid ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, at Chausa in Buxar ANI

About 20 bodies in Fatehpur and 50 in Prayagraj, Varanasi, Chandauli, Bhadohi and Mirzapur were found, said the report.

280 carcasses were found in Ghazipur. In Purvanchal district, Dainik Bhaskar reported that 110 bodies were found and video of 52 bodies also went viral. It is reported that every day over a dozen of bodies are found in Ghazipur. Adjacent to Ghazipur, in Ballia district, 15 corpses were found. Now, police forces have been deployed along the ghat. The administration has ordered that bodies will not be allowed to bury bodies there.

Residents of Ghazipur, mortified over the incident, have expressed concerns over the spread of diseases and the stench coming from the bloated bodies.

ALSO READ



Bodies found buried in sand near Ganga in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao, district administration orders inquiry

"The sight was ghastly, corpses were floating from all directions and were getting stuck on the ghats. People were getting really terrified and the smell is getting worse," said Akhand, a local.

"After looking at the condition of the bodies, it seemed like they have been floating for a while, maybe four to five days. It is possible that they came from the Chandauli side," he added.



Incidents such as these have sparked fears about the scale of the Covid crisis in the country, especially in rural areas. Authorities believe the relatives of those who succumbed to the virus, may not have been able to find space for the last rites.


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HEALTH

Uttar Pradesh: Rains Expose Mass Shallow Graves Along the Ganga as COVID-19 Rages

More than 900 dead bodies have reportedly been buried along the river in Unnao alone last week.



Bodies buried in the sand on the banks of Ganga river, as coronavirus cases surge, in Unnao district, Thursday, May 13, 2021. Photo: PTI



The Wire Staff

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GOVERNMENT HEALTH 15/MAY/2021

New Delhi: The devastating second wave of the coronavirus pandemic is slowly turning into a horror story in India's most populous state, Uttar Pradesh.

Days after Bihar's Buxar district authorities said that at least 71 bodies of suspected COVID-19 victims from the neighbouring eastern UP were washed ashore at the banks of the river Ganga in the downstream Chausa village, several English and Hindi dailies reported that over 2,000

dead bodies in various UP districts were found to be hastily buried or abandoned along the banks of Ganga.

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Similar ghastly sights were recorded in Ghaziabad, Kanpur, Unnao, Ghazipur, Kannauj and Ballia regions – reported to be worst-affected by the pandemic. According to one report by the Hindi daily *Dainik Bhaskar*, more than 900 dead bodies had been buried along the river in Unnao alone last week. It pegged the numbers to be 350 in Kannauj, 400 in Kanpur, and 280 in Ghazipur, even as it reported that such deaths have been shooting up in different districts of central and eastern UP.

When the *Indian Express* interviewed family members of some of the victims, they revealed that they either didn't have enough financial resources or felt stigmatised to offer respectful cremations to the dead.

Also read: India's COVID-19 Crisis Is an Injustice, Not a Misfortune

In Unnao, at least 200 such dead bodies were laid bare by shifting sand along the Ganga after heavy downpour this week. In Ghaziabad, at least five unclaimed bodies were found at the Gehmar ghat in Ghazipur after their barely three-feet burial pits were washed out by the river. Many dead bodies, possibly abandoned, were also found to be floating in the river.

"It was a sight that I have never seen before. We used boats to pull the bodies to the shore. The whole air was filled with the stench of death. The Gangaji turns here at Gahmar, so the bodies flowing downstream accumulate here. There could not have been fewer than 80 bodies," a cremation ground worker Kamla Devi Dom told the daily.

The *Hindustan Times* reported that hundreds of shallow graves were discovered on the banks of Ganga in Unnao, Ballia and Ghazipur over the last few days.

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“At least 150 corpses have been found floating in the Ganga in Ballia and Ghazipur districts of Uttar Pradesh and Buxar and Patna districts of Bihar, prompting the central government and the National Human Rights Commission to take serious note of the matter,” the daily said.

“There is a tradition of people being buried here but I have never seen so many graves before,” said Ajay Deep Singh Bais, a resident of Kannauj.



More than 300 bodies found buried near Ganga in Shivrajpur, Kanpur, Friday, May 14, 2021. Photo: PTI

The district administrations, since Friday, have been having a hard time to dispose of the bodies “either by cremating them, or by burying them deep in the sand”, the *Indian Express* reported. The Adityanath-led BJP state government has ordered its home department to deploy the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and the Jal Police of PAC for patrolling all the rivers to prevent the dumping of bodies.

Speaking to the *Indian Express*, Unnao district magistrate Ravindra Kumar said that the state administration is trying its best to “convince people to go for cremation”. However, many complained that amidst the rising casualties of the pandemic, the cost of cremations has gone up several fold.

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“A pyre that earlier used to cost around Rs 500 now costs around Rs 1,500-Rs 2,000, and the entire process of cremation costs around Rs 10,000,” said Pradeep Kumar, who works as a barber in one such cremation grounds.

“Only around 15 days ago, a local resident was buried in the sand. He was an alcoholic. After the recent rains, the sand got washed away and dogs dug up his body. I see that a lot of people are burying bodies here as they cannot afford to cremate them,” he said.

“How will I have money to buy wood, pay the priest and cremate the body,” asked one Motu Kashyap, a lowly-paid agricultural worker who buried his 87-year-old father Pyare Lal on Friday

There is panic among people in many parts of the state where such sights of dead bodies have become common, with hundreds of such burial spots lying exposed after a heavy downpour on Friday.

Also read: Narmada, Modi's Showpiece Tourist Centre, Is Reeling Under a Terrifying Second Wave of COVID

At the Baskar ghat of Unnao, where people from all adjoining districts also come to cremate the dead, the numbers of dead bodies has gone up in the last few weeks, but not all have been able to afford the cost of cremation, forcing them to opt for a rushed burial. A family of daily wagers looking to cremate their mother were in a similar position. “We asked how much it would cost. Normally wood at the ghats is for Rs 600 a quintal, and three quintals are needed to burn a body. Now, we were quoted Rs 1,000 a quintal. On top of that, the money for the Dom, and the ghee, and the rites would have meant Rs 4,500. It is money we did not have. We can only do this because the administration arranged for the wood,” says one among them.

A police official, Hari Narayan Shukla told the *Indian Express* that his teams are patrolling a 25-km stretch to ensure that dead bodies are not dumped into the river. He pointed out another problem that may have led to the tragedy. "People are afraid of Covid, and don't want to touch the bodies. There is a shortage of wood, too."

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Eastward of UP in Bihar, the state administration has begun retrieving the dead bodies flowing into the state through the river Ganga by taking a drastic step. It has placed a big net in the river at Ranighat, bordering UP and Bihar to recover bodies. Bihar's water resources minister Sanjay Jha tweeted to inform about the move, and added that all the recovered bodies were cremated "as per protocols". Buxar civil surgeon Jitendra Nath advised people not to use river water for bathing and other purposes to avoid risks of getting infected from the decomposed bodies.

However, none of the state officials confirmed whether the bodies which were found floating in the river were COVID-19 positive. Yet, they have been in touch with their UP counterparts to prevent dead bodies from flowing into the state. The Patna high court has also asked the Bihar government to file an affidavit regarding the matter by Thursday to push the UP government to take some action.



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NewsIndiaUP: Stench of unclaimed bodies buried along banks of river Ganga haunts villagers

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VIDEOS

UP: Stench of unclaimed bodies buried along banks of river Ganga haunts villagers

CORONA

MALAYALAM

Stench emanating from unclaimed bodies of suspected Covid victims buried in the sand along the banks of river Ganga is haunting villagers, said a man who lives near the Nanamau ghat in UP's Kanpur.

FACT CHECK



Samarth Srivastava

Kanpur | Kannauj May 15, 2021 UPDATED: May 18, 2021 22:04 IST

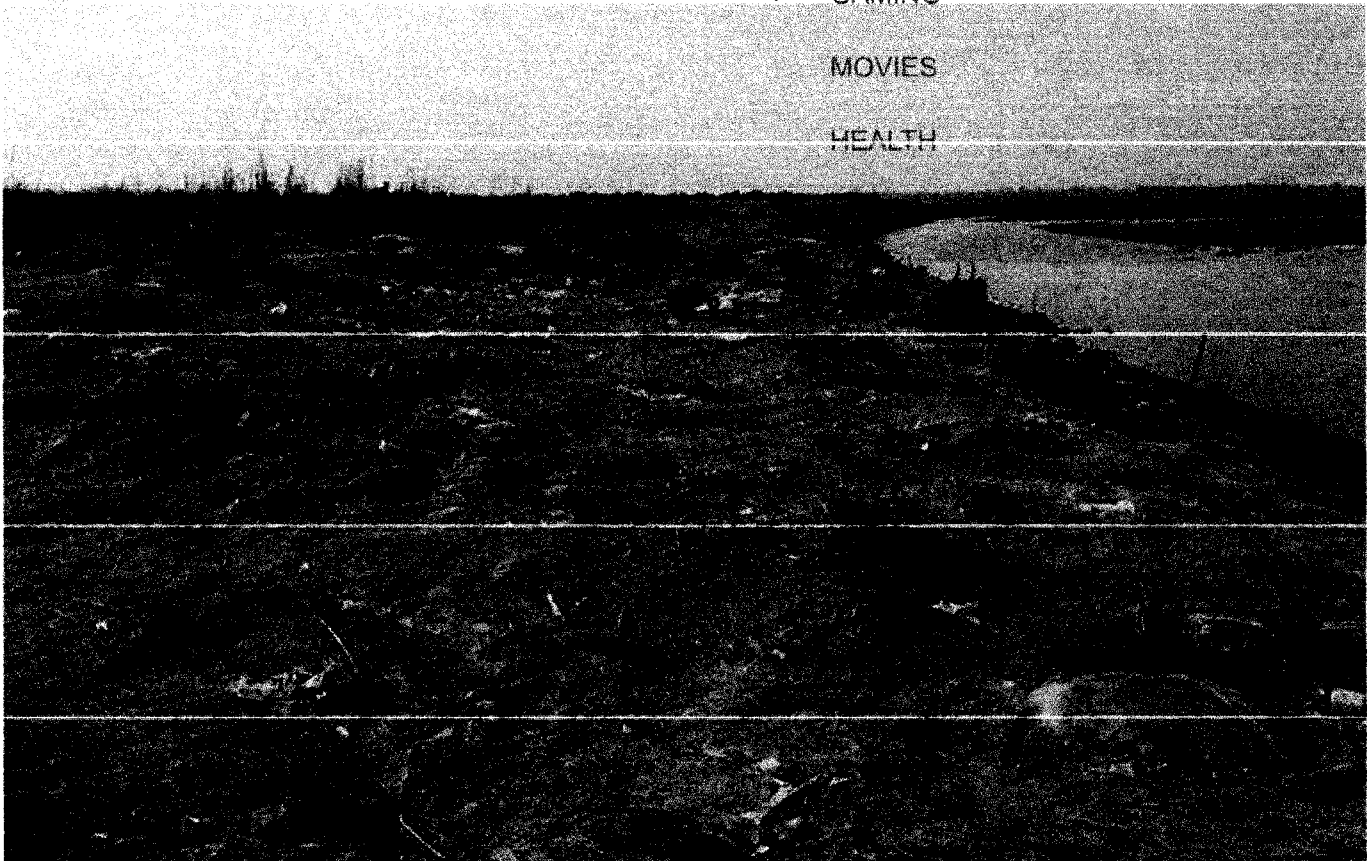
QUIZ



GAMING

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Bodies buried in the sand on the banks of river Ganga in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao district photographed on May 13, 2021 (Photo Credits: PTI)

HIGHLIGHTS

Neither NDRF nor PAC were seen patrolling at Namamau and Mehndi ghats in UP

Number of bodies buried along the riverbank has shot up, says a man who lives near Namamau ghat

Kannauj SDM has ordered a probe into the burial of unclaimed dead bodies along the banks of river Ganga

Days after the dead bodies of suspected Covid-19 victims were spotted floating on the river Ganga, multiple bodies have now been seen buried in the sand at two locations along the riverbank near Kanpur city and Kannauj in Uttar Pradesh.

The Uttar Pradesh government has directed the National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF) and water battalions of the Pradeshik Armed Constabulary (PAC) to ensure that no bodies are buried in the sand along the banks of river Ganga.

However, at the time of filing this report, no officials were found conducting any inspections at either of the two ghats.

People living near the banks of Ganga are witnessing the ghastly sight of dead bodies buried on the ghats of the river, while others are buried near its sand.

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RECOMMENDED



RECOMMENDED

A villager, Vijay Kumar Misra, who stays near Nanamau ghat in Kanpur city, told Aaj Tak and India Today that the number of bodies buried along the riverbank has shot up ever since the death toll in the ongoing pandemic began to rise.

Dead bodies can be seen buried in the sand at Nanamau ghat in UP's Kanpur city (Video Credits: Samarth Srivastava/India Today)

He said local officials have made no arrangements for the last rites of those who succumbed to Covid-19 in these areas. The stench of dead bodies continues to haunt the villages nearby and is triggering public health concerns, said Misra.

One can see dead bodies draped in saffron cloth buried in the sand at the Nanamau ghat.

In Unnao, locals have claimed that in the absence of proper medical facilities, arrangements for cremation are leaving locals no other choice. Some even said animals like dogs maul the dead bodies buried in the sand.

DM Unnao Ravindra Kumar has denied such claims, saying efforts are being made to ensure swift cremation around ghats.

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In Prayagraj, more than 100 dead bodies were found buried on the banks of Ganga. Some 40 kms away from Prayagraj, Shrangver Dham witnessed the burial of thousands of bodies.

As per the locals, they are not sound financially and with firewood being sold at higher prices they had no choice but to bury the bodies in sand.

SDM orders probe into burial of bodies

A similar scenario prevailed in UP's Kannauj where more than 150-200 bodies were found buried in the sand in Mehndi ghat on the banks of river Ganga. Some people were seen digging the sand to bury the bodies inside.

Just yesterday, some people in PPE kits were also seen digging out the bodies buried in the sand at the Mehndi ghat.

SDM Kannauj, Gaurav Shukla, told Aaj Tak and India Today that a three-member committee has been formed to probe these incidents. The sub-divisional magistrate insisted that the bodies buried in the sand could be old. They are part of the investigation though, he added.

(With inputs from Shivendra Srivastava from Unnao, Pankaj Srivastava in Prayagraj)

READ | [NHRC issues notice to Centre and UP, Bihar govts over bodies found floating in Ganga](#)

ALSO READ | [Unnao district admin orders probe into reports of bodies buried on riverbank](#)

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

(CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)

INTERLOCUTORY APPLICATION NO. OF 2021

IN

WRIT PETITION (PIL) NO. OF 2021

IN THE MATTER OF:

Vineet Jindal ...Petitioner

Versus.

Union of India & Ors. ...Respondents

**Application for exemption from filing attested copy of affidavit
as well as welfare stamped vakalatnama**

To

The Hon'ble Chief Justice of India,
and His Companion Judges of the
Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

The humble petition of the
Petitioner above-named

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. The petitioner, a practicing advocate and a public spirited person, has been compelled to file the present writ petition in the public interest under Article 32 of the Constitution of India being aggrieved by the manner in which the dead bodies of Covid-19 infected persons are disposed of by the concerned

authorities of the States near the banks of different rivers leading to devastating effect on drinking water for the people residing in the cities and villages situated on the banks of rivers as well as apprehension of transmission of the diseases to the people through water and animals and various other impact on the societies which the Governments seem unwilling to act upon. The fundamental human rights most affected are "Right to Health" and "Right to life which also includes Right to die with dignity".

2. The facts and circumstances of the present petition are clearly stated in the transfer petition and the same are not reproduced here for the sake of brevity.
3. That it is respectfully submitted that due to the lockdown the petitioner is unable to get the affidavit attested by the notary and even obtain the welfare stamp.
4. That it is respectfully submitted that as and when the Hon'ble Court opens for physical filing the petitioner would submit the attested copy of the affidavit and the welfare stamped vakalatnama.

5. That it would be in the interest of justice that this Hon'ble Court may deem it fit to exempt the petitioner from filing the attested copy of the affidavit.

PRAAYER

In the premises, it is most humbly and respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Court may graciously be pleased to:-

- a) allow the present application and exempt the petitioner from filing attested copy of the affidavit and welfare stamped vakalatnama;and
- b) pass such further or other order(s) as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case.

Filed by



(RA) KISHOR CHOUDHARY
Advocate for the Petitioner

Filed on: 28.05.2021

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
(CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
WRIT PETITION (PIL) NO. OF 2021

52

IN THE MATTER OF:

Vineet Jindal

...Petitioner

Versus

Union of India & Ors.

...Respondents

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6.	Vakalatnama	1	
7.	PAN Card	1	
8.	Aadhar Card	1	
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Filed on 28.05.2021

Filed by



RAJ KISHOR CHOUDHARY

Advocate for the petitioner (Code : 2212)

Office at 436, Mathura Road,

Jangpura, New Delhi-14

(M) : 9211006066

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

CIVIL/CRIMINAL APPELLATE/ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

S.L.P./R.P./W.P./C.P./C.A (CIVIL/CRIMINAL) NO.

OF 2020

IN THE MATTER OF:

Vineet Jindal

...Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

Union of India and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

I, the undersigned, do hereby appoint and retain MR. RAJ KISHOR CHOUDHARY, Advocate-on-record, Supreme Court of India, to act and appear for us in the aforesaid matter and to conduct and prosecute or defend the same and to take all proceedings that may be required to be taken by any application connected therewith or any decree or passed therein including the proceedings in taxation and application for REVIEW, to file and obtain return of documents and to deposit and receive money on our behalf in the said matter and to represent us and take all steps necessary therein for and our behalf, We agree to ratify all acts done by him in pursuance of this authority.

Dated this the 27th day of May, 2020

Accepted, Identified and certified the signature of the petitioner which is signed before me.

(R.K. Choudhary)
(RAJ KISHOR CHOUDHARY)

Advocate-on-Record, Supreme Court of India

(VINEET JINDAL)

Petitioners/Plaintiff(s)/Appellant(s)/Respondent(s)

Defendant(s)/Caveator(s)/Intervener(s)

MEMO OF APPEARANCE

To
The Registrar
Supreme Court of India
New Delhi

Sir,

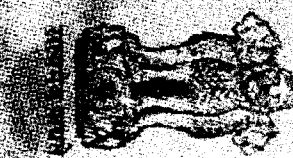
Please enter my appearance for the above named Petitioners / Plaintiff(s) / Appellant(s) / Respondent(s) / Defendant(s) / Caveator(s) / Intervener(s) in the above mentioned Petition / Appeal / Suit / Reference.

Thanking you

Dated 28.5.2021

(R.K. Choudhary)
RAJ KISHOR CHOUDHARY
AOR

आयकर विभाग
INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT



भारत सरकार
GOVT. OF INDIA

VINEET JINDAL

VIJAY JINDAL

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भारत सरकार

नामांकन क्रम / Enrollment No 1211/50260/00581

28/08/2011
To,
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Ref: 11 / 17E / 19999 / 21945 / P



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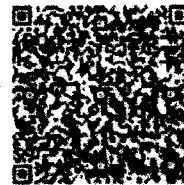


भारत सरकार



विनीत जिंदल
Vineet Jindal

जन्म वर्ष / Year of Birth : 1983
पुरुष / Male



8510 8015 3609

आधार — आम आदमी का अधिकार

[Signature]