Petlawad explosion

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| **2015 Petlawad explosion** | |
| **Date** | 12 September 2015 |
| **Time** | 08:30 [IST](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Standard_Time) (03:00 [UTC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UTC)) |
| **Location** | [Petlawad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petlawad), [Jhabua](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jhabua" \o "Jhabua), [Madhya Pradesh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madhya_Pradesh), [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India) |
| **Type** | Explosions, building collapse |
| **Cause** | [Gas explosion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gas_explosion), [Gelignite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gelignite) explosion |
| **Deaths** | 104 |
| **Non-fatal injuries** | 150+ |
| **Accused** | Rajendra Kasawa |

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Madhya_Pradesh_districts_location_map_big.svg)

Petlawad

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Location of Petlawad in Madhya Pradesh state.

On the morning of 12 September 2015, an explosion in the town of [Petlawad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petlawad" \o "Petlawad) of the [Jhabua district](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jhabua_district" \o "Jhabua district) in the state of [Madhya Pradesh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madhya_Pradesh) of India killed 104 people.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petlawad_explosion#cite_note-htimes-1) The cause of the explosion was attributed to illegally stored explosives that detonated, along with a [cooking gas cylinder](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LPG_cylinder).[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petlawad_explosion#cite_note-explosionkills-2)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petlawad_explosion#cite_note-3)

Explosions[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Petlawad_explosion&action=edit&section=1" \o "Edit section: Explosions)]

A police report stated that there were two explosions. Initially, it was suspected that the first explosion occurred in a crowded restaurant, triggering the second explosion where stored sticks of [gelignite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gelignite) exploded in the warehouse.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petlawad_explosion#cite_note-restaurant-4) However, following further investigation, police believe the initial explosion was in the warehouse.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petlawad_explosion#cite_note-5) The impact of the explosion damaged the building in which the restaurant was located as well as the building where the explosive material was located.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petlawad_explosion#cite_note-massiveexplosion-6) The explosion also caused deaths at a crowded bus stop nearby.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petlawad_explosion#cite_note-htimes-1)

The state police began performing [autopsies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autopsy) on the bodies, while State Home Minister [Babulal Gaur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babulal_Gaur" \o "Babulal Gaur) stated that an inquiry would be conducted. Chief Minister [Shivraj Singh Chouhan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shivraj_Singh_Chouhan" \o "Shivraj Singh Chouhan) announced compensation of ₹200,000 [rupees](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_rupee) (about 3,000 USD) to the kin of the deceased and ₹50,000 (about 750 USD) to the injured.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petlawad_explosion#cite_note-tollrises-7)

The President of India, [Pranab Mukherjee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pranab_Mukherjee" \o "Pranab Mukherjee), expressed condolences in a message to Madhya Pradesh Governor [Ram Naresh Yadav](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ram_Naresh_Yadav),[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petlawad_explosion#cite_note-explosionkills-2) while Prime Minister [Narendra Modi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narendra_Modi" \o "Narendra Modi) expressed his grief over the deaths on [Twitter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twitter).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petlawad_explosion#cite_note-htimes-1)

Investigation[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Petlawad_explosion&action=edit&section=2)]

In the course of their [investigation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Criminal_investigation), [Madhya Pradesh Police](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madhya_Pradesh_Police) found that Rajendra Kasawa rented space in the warehouse where the explosion occurred, and stored gelignite sticks there that triggered the blasts in the building. It is illegal to store those explosives in a residential area.

The [Bharatiya Janata Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bharatiya_Janata_Party" \o "Bharatiya Janata Party) (BJP) linked Kasawa, the main accused, to former Union Minister [Kantilal Bhuria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kantilal_Bhuria" \o "Kantilal Bhuria)’s son Vikrant Bhuria.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petlawad_explosion#cite_note-8) Meanwhile, the [Indian National Congress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_National_Congress) party alleged that Kasawa was a [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rashtriya_Swayamsevak_Sangh" \o "Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) (RSS) activist. The Madhya Pradesh State Congress Committee released a poster stating that Kasawa's brother Narendra Kasawa had been identified as a member of Petlawad BJP Traders Cell. These allegations were dismissed by both the BJP and the RSS.[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petlawad_explosion#cite_note-9)

Kasawa was booked under Section 304A of the [Indian Penal Code](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Penal_Code) (IPC) and Section 34 of the Explosives Act. The deaths were registered under Section 174 of the [Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Code_of_Criminal_Procedure,_1973).[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petlawad_explosion#cite_note-10) Police sealed Kasawa's residence and the godowns (warehouses) owned by his brothers. More gelignite rods and blasting materials were found during the search.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petlawad_explosion#cite_note-11) On 15 September 2015, Kasawa was arrested.