

CASE FILES - Evidence Documents

Your moderator will release these documents as you progress through each phase.

PHASE 1 RELEASE

Available after completing Phase 1 interviews.

Document	Contents
FIR_001_twin_drowning_1988.md	Police report - original twin drownings
FIR_002_karande_children_1995.md	Police report - Karande siblings
FIR_003_more_children_2003.md	Police report - More children
death_certificate_summary.md	Official cause of death for all victims

PHASE 2 RELEASE

Available after completing Phase 2 interviews.

Document	Contents
medical_examiner_notes.md	PHC doctor's observations on bodies
land_transfer_records.md	Talathi records - mutations, transfers
postmaster_money_order_log.md	Pattern of payments to victim families

PHASE 3 RELEASE

Available after completing Phase 3 interviews.

Document	Contents
raghav_nimkar_survey_report_fragment.md	Survey report documenting encroachment
gadkari_trust_deed_excerpt.md	Trust deed naming twins as beneficiaries
case_closure_memo.md	Official closure justifications

Note: These are reproductions of official documents. Study them carefully - they contain evidence that can help identify the killers.

DEATH CERTIFICATE COMPILATION

Primary Health Centre, Talegaon

Cases Related to Korde Tal Drownings

Compiled from PHC Records by Dr. Leena Shirke Date of Compilation: January 2003

CASE 1: TWIN GIRLS - 1988

Certificate No. 188/1988

Name of Deceased: Ira d/o Gopal Mane **Age at Death:** 8 years **Sex:** Female **Date of Death:** 15th July 1988 **Place of Death:** Korde Tal, Talegaon **Cause of Death:** Drowning (Accidental)

Issued by: Dr. V. R. Kulkarni, Medical Officer **Date of Issue:** 18th July 1988

Certificate No. 189/1988

Name of Deceased: Asha d/o Gopal Mane **Age at Death:** 8 years **Sex:** Female **Date of Death:** 15th July 1988 **Place of Death:** Korde Tal, Talegaon **Cause of Death:** Drowning (Accidental)

Issued by: Dr. V. R. Kulkarni, Medical Officer **Date of Issue:** 18th July 1988

PHC Register Entry (Extract):

Date: 18-07-1988 Bodies brought for death certificate issuance. Visual examination only. Post-mortem not conducted. Police ADR reference attached. Bodies showed water in lungs (confirmed by chest compression), no external trauma. Released to family same day. Note: Twin sisters. Sad case. Zamindar's people came to expedite process.

CASE 2: KARANDE SIBLINGS - 1995

Certificate No. 067/1995

Name of Deceased: Neelam d/o Harish Karande **Age at Death:** 14 years **Sex:** Female **Date of Death:** 6th March 1995 (estimated) **Place of Death:** Korde Tal, Talegaon **Cause of Death:** Drowning

Additional Notes: Eyes found open. Asphyxiation due to water inhalation.

Issued by: Dr. S. P. Deshmukh, Medical Officer **Date of Issue:** 9th March 1995

Certificate No. 068/1995

Name of Deceased: Omkar s/o Harish Karande **Age at Death:** 12 years **Sex:** Male **Date of Death:** 6th March 1995 (estimated) **Place of Death:** Korde Tal, Talegaon **Cause of Death:** Drowning

Additional Notes: Drowning evident from foam at nostrils (Noted during examination).

Issued by: Dr. S. P. Deshmukh, Medical Officer **Date of Issue:** 9th March 1995

PHC Register Entry (Extract):

Date: 09-03-1995 Two bodies - siblings - brought from police custody. Visual examination conducted. Post-mortem declined by family. Drowning confirmed by external signs. Police have ruled suicide.

Note by MO: Second such incident at same location within 7 years. Unusual but not unprecedented in rural areas with water bodies.

CASE 3: MORE CHILDREN - 2002

Certificate No. 412/2002

Name of Deceased: Gauri d/o Raghunath More **Age at Death:** 12 years **Sex:** Female **Date of Death:** 14th September 2002 **Place of Death:** Korde Tal, Talegaon **Cause of Death:** Asphyxia due to Drowning

Issued by: Dr. R. S. Pande, Medical Officer **Date of Issue:** 16th September 2002

PHC Register Entry (Extract):

Date: 16-09-2002 Body of young girl brought for certification. External examination only per family request. Classic drowning indicators present. Police ADR attached.

Survivor sibling (male, 8 yrs) examined separately: - Minor abrasions on forearms (consistent with running through brush) - Shock/trauma evident - No physical injuries of concern - Referred for psychological support

Note: Brother survivor in poor mental state. Keeps talking about shadows. Third incident at this lake. Pattern concerning but outside PHC purview.

SUMMARY TABLE

Year	Victim	Age	Cause Listed	Post-Mortem	Days Until Certificate
1988	Ira Mane	8	Accidental Drowning	No	3 days
1988	Asha Mane	8	Accidental Drowning	No	3 days
1995	Neelam Karande	14	Drowning	No	3 days
1995	Omkar Karande	12	Drowning	No	3 days
2002	Gauri More	12	Asphyxia/ Drowning	No	2 days

OBSERVATIONS (For Internal Review Only)

- 1. Pattern of No Post-Mortems:** In all five cases, post-mortem was waived citing family religious objections. While common in rural areas, the consistent avoidance is notable.
- 2. Time of Death Estimates:**
 - T1 (1988): Estimated 4-6 hours before discovery (evening to early morning)
 - T2 (1995): Estimated 12+ hours before discovery (time unclear)
 - T3 (2002): Estimated 8-12 hours before discovery
- 3. Physical Findings (Limited):**
 - All victims showed standard drowning presentation
 - T2 victim Neelam noted with “eyes open” - can indicate sudden death or fear at time of death
 - No defensive injuries noted in any case (brief examinations)
 - T3 survivor had abrasions - from fleeing, per account

4. Medical Officer Rotation:

- 1988: Dr. Kulkarni (transferred 1990)
- 1995: Dr. Deshmukh (transferred 1999)
- 2002: Dr. Pande (transferred 2002, shortly after this case)
- Current: Dr. Leena Shirke (posted December 2002)

5. Access to Original Records:

- 1988 records: Minimal documentation, handwritten register only
- 1995 records: Slightly more detailed, typed form
- 2002 records: Most complete, but still basic

This compilation prepared for reference purposes only. Original certificates on file at PHC Talegaon and respective families.

Note by Dr. Leena Shirke (January 2003):

I was asked by CID to compile these records. I have done so faithfully from available documentation.

However, I note that none of these deaths received proper medical investigation. Visual examination alone cannot rule out other causes masked as drowning. Without toxicology, without detailed autopsy, we cannot confirm that drowning was the primary cause vs. secondary to some other factor.

The consistency of outcome (drowning) combined with the consistency of process (no post-mortem, quick release) raises procedural questions that fall outside medical scope but may warrant administrative review.

PHC Talegaon District Satara Maharashtra State Health Services

MAHARASHTRA POLICE

FIRST INFORMATION REPORT (PRATHAM Khabar Ahawal)

POLICE STATION: Talegaon Chowki, Taluka Satara **DISTRICT:** Satara **FIR NUMBER:** 47/1988 **DATE OF REGISTRATION:** 17th July 1988 **TIME:** 08:45 hrs

SECTION I - OCCURRENCE OF OFFENCE

Date & Time of Occurrence: 15th July 1988, between 16:00 hrs and 20:00 hrs (approx.)

Date & Time of Information: 16th July 1988, 06:30 hrs

Place of Occurrence: Korde Tal (lake area), Village Talegaon, approx. 1.2 km from village center, direction north-east

Type of Information: Written / Oral

SECTION II - COMPLAINANT DETAILS

Name: Gopal s/o Shankar Mane **Age:** 28 years **Caste:** Schedule Caste (Mahar)
Occupation: Kiln worker (Gokhale Brothers Bricks) **Residence:** Vasti settlement, post Talegaon

SECTION III - DETAILS OF ACCUSED / SUSPECTED

Not applicable. No accused identified. Accidental death suspected.

SECTION IV - DESCRIPTION OF THE OCCURRENCE

The complainant Shri Gopal Mane appeared at this police station on morning of 16-07-1988 in distressed condition. He stated that his two daughters namely Ira d/o Gopal Mane (age 8 yrs) and Asha d/o Gopal Mane (age 8 yrs), twin sisters, had gone to play near the lake area in the afternoon of 15-07-1988.

The mother of the deceased, Smt. Kalyani w/o Gopal Mane, was present at residence during the afternoon hours. She states she was not well and was resting. The children left around 16:00 hrs for playing with other village children as was their regular habit.

When children did not return by evening meal time (approx 19:30 hrs), the mother sent word to father at kiln. Search party organized by villagers including: - Shri Tukaram Patil (farmer) - Shri Dagdu Shinde (farmer) - Shri Raghoba Kale (servant, Gadkari Wada) - Three other persons (names not taken)

Search continued through night with lanterns. Bodies discovered by Shri Raghoba Kale at 06:15 hrs on 16-07-1988 in the northern portion of Korde Tal, partially submerged in shallow water area. Both deceased were found together, approximately 15 meters from bank.

Monsoon rains had been heavy in preceding days. Lake level had risen suddenly due to flash flooding from hill runoff. Water which was previously at low level had covered the playing area.

SECTION V - INQUEST OBSERVATIONS

Attending Officer: Constable Mohan Ghadge (Badge No. 1847)

Physical State of Bodies: - Body #1 (Ira): Face-down position, right hand extended, no visible injuries, clothes intact (green frock), bangles present on left wrist - Body #2 (Asha): Face-up position, both hands at sides, no visible injuries, clothes intact (yellow frock), small gold ear studs present

Note: Bodies showed normal drowning presentation. Some bloating observed consistent with water immersion. No ligature marks, no contusions, no defensive wounds observed.

Personal Effects Recovered: - Two cloth frocks (green, yellow) - Two sets of glass bangles - One pair gold ear studs - One rubber ball (red, found 30 meters from bodies)

Witness Statement (Summary): - Shri Raghoba Kale: "I found the bodies in early morning. The lake had risen suddenly. Many children play there. It was terrible accident." - Smt. Parubai Kadam (neighbor): "The mother was sleeping. She was unwell. Children went on their own."

SECTION VI - PRELIMINARY OPINION

Based on inquest and circumstances:

1. Heavy monsoon rainfall caused sudden rise in lake water level
2. Children were playing in area which became submerged
3. Being of young age (8 years), could not escape flash flooding
4. Death appears accidental in nature
5. No foul play suspected at this time

Recommendation: Case to be registered as Accidental Death Report (ADR) No further investigation warranted.

SECTION VII - ACTION TAKEN

Case registered under ADR No. 23/1988

Bodies released to family after completion of formalities.

Post-mortem: Not conducted (Accidental drowning evident, family requested quick release for cremation as per custom)

Case referred to Taluka Magistrate for closure.

INVESTIGATING OFFICER:

Constable Mohan Ghadge Badge No. 1847 Talegaon Chowki

Date: 18th July 1988

STATION HOUSE OFFICER ENDORSEMENT:

Reviewed. Concur with assessment. Case closed as Accidental Death.

Havaladar Kisanrao Bhosle Talegaon Chowki

Date: 20th July 1988

[Stamp: Police Station Talegaon]

ADDITIONAL NOTES (Internal Use):

- Zamindar Shri Gadkari Saheb has requested special pooja at temple for peace of departed souls. Temple committee notified.
 - Family of deceased is from lower settlement (Vasti). Zamindar has offered to bear funeral expenses. Kind gesture noted.
 - Mother of deceased has not spoken since incident. Village elders say this is grief manifestation. Medical attention offered but refused.
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Form XXXIII as per Police Manual Copy retained at station

MAHARASHTRA POLICE

FIRST INFORMATION REPORT (PRATHAM Khabar Ahawal)

POLICE STATION: Talegaon Chowki, Taluka Satara **DISTRICT:** Satara **FIR NUMBER:** 12/1995 **DATE OF REGISTRATION:** 8th March 1995 **TIME:** 10:15 hrs

SECTION I - OCCURRENCE OF OFFENCE

Date & Time of Occurrence: 6th March 1995, after sunset (exact time unknown)

Date & Time of Information: 7th March 1995, 07:00 hrs

Place of Occurrence: Korde Tal (lake area), Village Talegaon

Type of Information: Oral complaint by Shri Harish Karande

SECTION II - COMPLAINANT DETAILS

Name: Harish s/o Ramchandra Karande **Age:** 42 years **Caste:** Maratha
Occupation: Agricultural laborer / mason work **Residence:** Talegaon village, House No. 47

SECTION III - DETAILS OF ACCUSED / SUSPECTED

None. Suicide suspected.

SECTION IV - DESCRIPTION OF THE OCCURRENCE

Shri Harish Karande appeared at police station in morning of 07-03-1995 to report his two children missing since evening of 06-03-1995.

Deceased children: 1. Neelam d/o Harish Karande, age 14 years, student Std. VIII 2. Omkar s/o Harish Karande, age 12 years, student Std. VI

Per complainant, children left home on afternoon of 06-03-1995 stating they were going for "walking" and to "look at some place in forest." Mother Smt. Nirmala Karande asked where but children did not give clear answer. This was unusual behavior noted by mother.

Children did not return by nightfall. Family searched village area. Next morning search expanded to forest and lake area.

Bodies discovered at 09:30 hrs on 07-03-1995 by Shri Bhau Patil (farmer) in Korde Tal. Both bodies found in water near eastern bank, approximately 8 meters from shore.

SECTION V - INQUEST OBSERVATIONS

Attending Officer: Constable Mohan Ghadge (Badge No. 1847) **Date of Inquest:** 07-03-1995

Physical State of Bodies:

Body #1 (Neelam): - Female, approx 14 yrs age - Wearing school uniform (white shirt, blue pinafore) - No visible external injuries - Eyes open (noted) - Position: floating face-up

Body #2 (Omkar): - Male, approx 12 yrs age - Wearing shorts and half-sleeve shirt - No visible external injuries - Small scratch on right knee (appears old) - Position: face-down, approx 2 meters from sister

Personal Effects: - School uniform (incomplete - no shoes found) - One paper packet in deceased boy's pocket (contents: unknown papers, very wet, could not read) - Cotton string (sacred thread) on deceased boy

Note regarding papers: Attempting to recover and preserve. Paper appears to be old documents or newspaper. No clear identification possible due to water damage.

SECTION VI - WITNESS STATEMENTS (SUMMARY)

Shri Harish Karande (father): “My children were good children. They studied well. I don’t know why they went to that cursed lake. Everyone knows twin ghosts are there. Maybe they wanted to see. Maybe ghosts took them.”

Smt. Nirmala Karande (mother): “Neelam was excited about something few days before. She said she and Omkar found something important. I asked what but she said it was secret. Now they are dead and I will never know what secret killed my children.”

Shri Bhau Patil (discovered bodies): “I was checking my field. I saw something in water. When I got close I saw it was bodies. Children from village. I ran to tell. That lake has always been bad. After the twins died there, it became worse. Now more children.”

Smt. Shaila Jore (school teacher): “These children were curious. Bright. Neelam especially asked many questions. Last week she asked about forest boundaries and government papers. I told her such things are not for children. She laughed and said she already knew secrets. I didn’t think...”

SECTION VII - CIRCUMSTANCES ANALYSIS

The following factors indicate suicide:

1. Children went to lake voluntarily (no forced movement evidence)
2. No external injuries suggesting violence
3. Lake has history of similar incident (1988 twin drowning)
4. Village-wide belief in curse may have influenced children mentally
5. No robbery (belongings intact)
6. Both entered water together (mutual decision)
7. No known enemies or disputes involving children

Alternative considered: Accidental drowning - However, water level was not unusually high - Children were old enough to swim away from shallow bank area - Deliberate entry into deep water more consistent

Recommendation: Case to be registered as Suicide (Section 309 IPC not applicable to deceased). Register as Unnatural Death requiring Inquest only.

SECTION VIII - ACTION TAKEN

Case registered as Unnatural Death - Suicide ADR No. 08/1995

Post-mortem: Recommended but family requested waiver citing religious reasons. Taluka Medical Officer consulted. Given clear drowning indication and no foul play markers, post-mortem waived.

Case referred to Magistrate for closure.

INVESTIGATING OFFICER:

Constable Mohan Ghadge Badge No. 1847 Talegaon Chowki

Date: 10th March 1995

STATION HOUSE OFFICER ENDORSEMENT:

Case reviewed. No suspicious circumstances. Children may have been influenced by local superstition regarding lake curse. Tragic incident.

Case closed.

Sub-Inspector Rajendra More Taluka Headquarters

Date: 15th March 1995

[Stamp: Police Station Talegaon]

ADDITIONAL NOTES (For File):

- Village atmosphere very disturbed. People claiming to see ghost children at night. Temple has increased pooja schedule.
 - The wet papers recovered from deceased boy's pocket have been disposed as damaged beyond recovery. Contents unidentifiable. Likely school papers or old newspaper.
 - Father Shri Harish Karande has become very religious since incident. Spends all day at temple. Not cooperative for follow-up questions.
 - Elder son Ritesh Karande (working in Pune) came for cremation. He asked many questions about investigation. Told him case is clear - suicide. He seemed unsatisfied but returned to city.
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Note: This is third incident of child drowning at Korde Tal in seven years. Local MLA office has been informed for awareness regarding lake safety.

Form XXXIII as per Police Manual Copy retained at station

MAHARASHTRA POLICE

FIRST INFORMATION REPORT (PRATHAM Khabar Ahawal)

POLICE STATION: Talegaon Chowki, Taluka Satara **DISTRICT:** Satara **FIR NUMBER:** 31/2002 **DATE OF REGISTRATION:** 15th September 2002 **TIME:** 11:30 hrs

SECTION I - OCCURRENCE OF OFFENCE

Date & Time of Occurrence: 14th September 2002, approximately 18:30 - 21:00 hrs

Date & Time of Information: 15th September 2002, 08:15 hrs

Place of Occurrence: Korde Tal and surrounding area (Dhuke section), Village Talegaon

Type of Information: Oral information by Shri Raghunath More

SECTION II - COMPLAINANT DETAILS

Name: Raghunath s/o Maruti More **Age:** 48 years **Caste:** OBC (Mali) **Occupation:** Agricultural laborer, occasional kiln work **Residence:** Talegaon village, House near temple road

SECTION III - DETAILS OF DECEASED / MISSING

- Gauri d/o Raghunath More** - Age 12 years - DECEASED
- Aarav s/o Raghunath More** - Age 8 years - SURVIVED (found)

SECTION IV - DESCRIPTION OF THE OCCURRENCE

On evening of 14-09-2002, children Gauri (12) and Aarav (8) of complainant Shri Raghunath More left home approximately 17:00 hrs. Mother Smt. Meena More states children said they were going to play near the common grazing ground.

When children did not return by dark (approx. 19:30 hrs), parents became worried. Search was organized with help of neighbors.

Search continued through night. Due to heavy fog (dhuke) in low-lying areas, visibility was poor.

Morning of 15-09-2002: - At 06:45 hrs, young boy Aarav was discovered by Shri Tukaram Bhatkar (farmer) in the fog area (dhuke), approximately 2 km from lake. Boy was in state of shock, unable to speak coherently, clothes muddy, minor scratches on arms. - At 08:00 hrs, body of Gauri More discovered in Korde Tal by search party. Body floating near western bank.

SECTION V - INQUEST OBSERVATIONS

Attending Officer: Constable Mohan Ghadge (Badge No. 1847) **Date of Inquest:** 15-09-2002

Body of Gauri More: - Female, approx 12 years age - Wearing salwar kameez (pink color) - Position: face-down in water, approx 12 meters from bank - No visible external injuries on exposed areas - Standard drowning presentation observed - Eyes: open - Hands: clenched (rigor may have set in)

Personal Effects: - Clothing as described - One black rubber hair band - No shoes (feet bare)

Survivor Aarav More - Preliminary Statement:

Child was extremely disturbed. Kept repeating “bhoot aale, bhoot aale” (ghosts came). When asked what happened, child stated:

“We were near the big water. Tai said something smells. Then two big shadows came. They had cloth on face. They took Tai. I ran. In the fog I ran. I heard Tai screaming. Then no sound. I hid all night.”

Child was unable to give further coherent statement. Medical examination recommended for trauma assessment.

Interpretation: Child clearly traumatized. His description of “two big shadows with cloth on face” is consistent with ghost legends in village. The “cloth on face” matches traditional depiction of spirits. Child has absorbed local superstition and interpreted whatever he saw through that lens.

SECTION VI - SCENE OBSERVATIONS

- Lake area showed signs of recent activity (tire marks on far bank - likely farmers or forest workers)
 - Some burnt material observed near water edge (ash, possibly village waste burning as is common)
 - Fog (dhuke) was particularly dense on night of incident - reduced visibility to few meters
 - No signs of struggle at immediate water edge
 - No other witnesses present at time of incident
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SECTION VII - WITNESS STATEMENTS (SUMMARY)

Shri Raghunath More (father): “The curse has taken my daughter. Same lake. Same way. Third time children have died. This lake is evil. Please, just give me my daughter’s body. I want to perform rites.”

Smt. Meena More (mother): “I told them not to go that side. Everyone knows. But children don’t listen. Now my Gauri is gone. My Aarav is alive but his mind is broken. What have we done to deserve this?”

Shri Mahesh More (uncle of deceased): “My brother and I had some disputes before. About ancestral land. Some people are saying I had something to do with this. This is lie. I was at my house whole evening. My wife and children can confirm. This is ghost curse, not human work.”

Sarpanch Vilas Patre: “This tragedy has happened again. Village is living in fear. We need temple protection, not police investigation. The spirits are angry. We must do special pooja.”

SECTION VIII - ANALYSIS

Cause of Death: Drowning (consistent with previous incidents at same location)

Circumstances: - Two children went to lake area - One child drowned - One child escaped and was found next day - Survivor’s account references supernatural elements (ghosts, shadows) - Village history shows pattern of similar incidents (1988, 1995) - No evidence of third party involvement - Child survivor’s testimony unreliable due to trauma and supernatural interpretation

Conclusion: Death by drowning. Ruled as Suicide/Accidental Death under influence of local curse belief. Children may have been attempting to “see the ghosts” as has been known to happen with village children.

SECTION IX - ACTION TAKEN

Case registered as Unnatural Death - Suicide ADR No. 19/2002

Body released to family after inquest formalities.

Post-mortem: Not conducted (family objection, no foul play indicators)

Survivor Aarav More: Referred to PHC for trauma counseling. Family taking child to relative’s house for recovery.

Case Status: CLOSED

INVESTIGATING OFFICER:

Constable Mohan Ghadge Badge No. 1847 Talegaon Chowki

Date: 18th September 2002

ENDORSEMENT:

This is the third such incident at Korde Tal. All cases show similar pattern. Investigation not warranted as supernatural/psychological factors are primary cause. Village beliefs and lake access are the issues, not criminal activity.

Recommending: Notice to Sarpanch regarding restricting children from lake area.

Constable Mohan Ghadge

[Stamp: Police Station Talegaon]

INTERNAL FILE NOTE (Not for Public Record):

Survivor child Aarav More has been taken by family. Current whereabouts: believed to be with mother's relatives but exact location not confirmed with this office.

Child's testimony regarding "two big shadows with cloth on face" noted. Given the age of child (8 years) and traumatic circumstances, testimony is unreliable for evidentiary purposes. The description matches local legend of twin ghost girls.

However, child also mentioned "smell like clinic" - this detail is unexplained but may be hallucination from shock.

No follow-up deemed necessary.

Form XXXIII as per Police Manual Copy retained at station

SUBSEQUENT NOTE (Added 20-09-2002):

Shri Gadkari Saheb (zamindar) has requested information on this case for arranging Shantipath at temple. Information shared regarding date and circumstances only.

Zamindar mentioned that his household will contribute for victim family support as was done in 1988 incident.
