



e-ISSN: 2319-8753 | p-ISSN: 2347-6710

IJIRSET

International Journal of Innovative Research in
SCIENCE | ENGINEERING | TECHNOLOGY

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

IN SCIENCE | ENGINEERING | TECHNOLOGY

Volume 12, Issue 3, March 2023

ISSN INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD
SERIAL
NUMBER
INDIA

Impact Factor: 8.423

9940 572 462

6381 907 438

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Forensic Study and Crime Scene Investigation of a Road Accident Case

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ABSTRACT: Road accidents are major, socio-economic and felonious problem in all developing and developed countries. The dynamics of road accidents are always different from another. Indian roads are fully crowded with motorbikes where 47% population is using the motorbikes. Present study analyzes a motorbike accident case in which the rider falls near the road drain pipe along with motorbike. The relatives of the deceased said that the deceased was at some other place at the time of the incident, so how did he reach the spot? According to them the deceased has been murdered and given the form of an accident. The crime scene was investigated and it was found that the incident was not a murder but a road accident.

KEYWORDS: Crime Scene, Murder, Deceased.

I. INTRODUCTION

Road Accident is one of the major causes of deaths worldwide. According to World Health Organization report of June-2022 Approximately 1.3 million people die each year as a result of road traffic crashes. Road accident is 10th leading cause of death in countries like India [1]. According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) 4,03,116 road accidents caused injuries to 3,71,884 persons and 1,55,622 deaths during 2021. 44.5% of the total road accident deaths were caused on two-wheeler vehicles [2-5].

Table-1 : Number of Road Accidents and Deaths in India (2017–2021)

Sr. No.	Year	Road Accidents (in thousand)	Persons Injured (in thousand)	Persons died (in Nos.)
1	2017	445.7	456.2	1,50,093
2	2018	445.5	446.5	1,52,780
3	2019	437.4	439.2	1,54,732
4	2020	354.8	335	1,33,201
5	2021	403.1	371.9	1,55,622

Source: NCRB Records

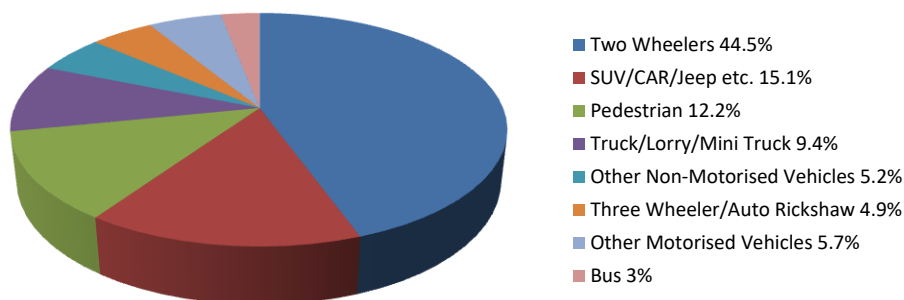


Fig. 1. Vehicle wise Road Accident Deaths During 2021

In Chhattisgarh 12,395 road accident cases caused 5413 deaths during 2021 According to accident severity report across the state/UTs during 2021, Chhattisgarh was having 43 deaths per 100 accidents which is higher than all India average (37 deaths per 100 accidents) [6,7].

II. CASE HISTORY

In Present study we analyze a road incident case of Taregaon Jungle Police Station of Kabirdham District, Chhattisgarh, India. A 33-year-old youth was found dead on the side of the road and his motorbike was found nearby. The relatives of the deceased believed that it was not a road accident and a fake crime scene has been created by killing the deceased. Crime scene was investigated after 15 days of the incident.

III. AUTOPSY REPORT FINDINGS

Autopsy report states that cause of death was due to sudden hemorrhagic shock & coma caused due to head injury (bleeding) and no any other injury seen except the head injury on the body of the diseased. The manner of death was accidental in nature.

IV. CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION

Drawing of the crime scene is shown in Fig. 2. A 33 years old male was found dead besides the road along with his motorbike (Figs. 3, 4, 5). The spot was told to be near the drain pipe on the side of the road. It was said by the witnesses present on the date of the incident that the deceased was found at the place marked “A” and the motorbike was found at the place marked “B” in the Fig. 6.

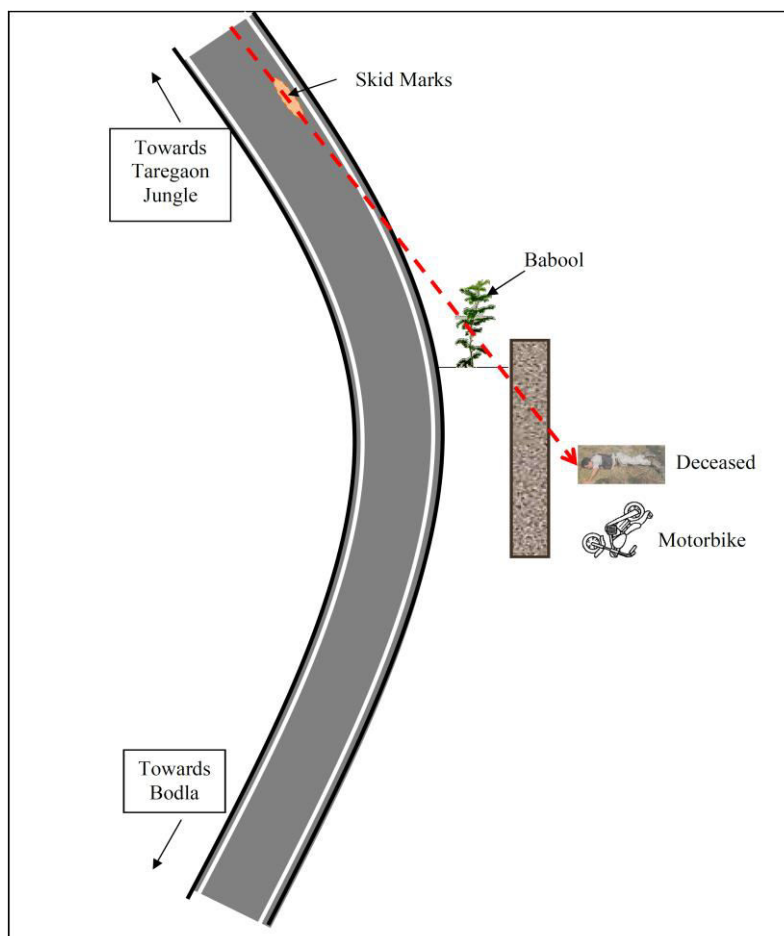


Fig. 2. Drawing of the Crime Scene

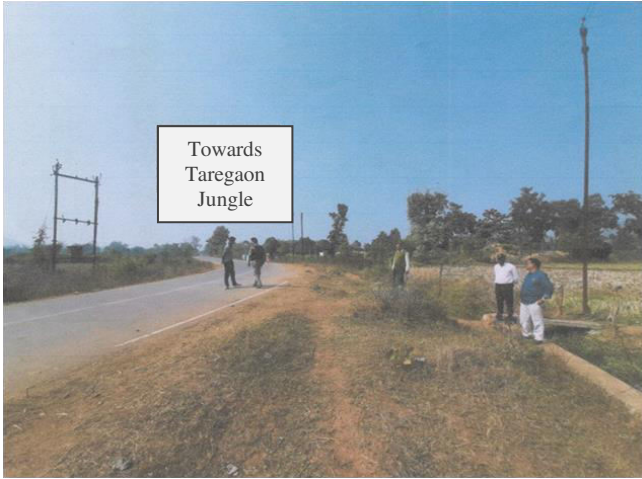


Fig. 3. Crime Scene – View-1

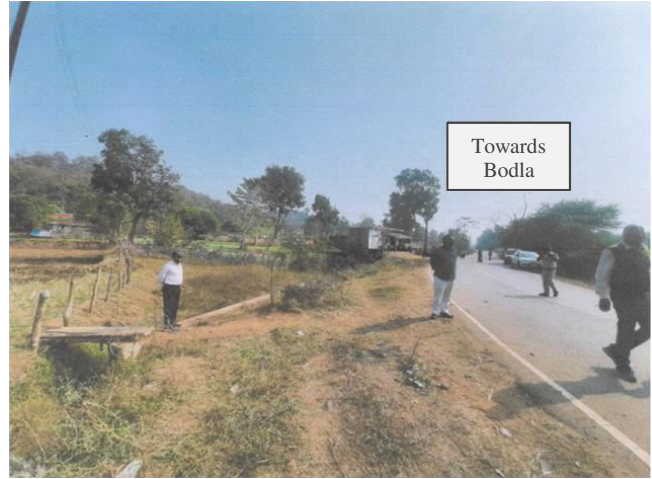


Fig. 4. Crime Scene – View-2

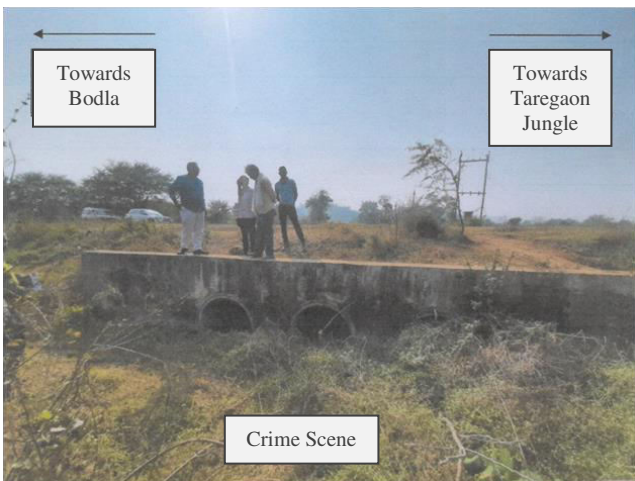


Fig. 5. Crime Scene – View-3



Fig. 6. Position of the Diseased "A" and Motorbike "B" after the Incident

In the presence of the witnesses present on the spot, on the date of the incident; the scene was reconstructed to know about the situation of the deceased and the motorbike (Fig. 7). In the reconstruction of the scene, the height of the drain pipe was found to be 54 inches, the deceased from drain pipe was 93 inches and the distance of the motorbike from the deceased was 88 inches (Fig. 8). On the date of the incident, a stone was said to be found at the place of the fall of the deceased, which was said to be seized by the police and a pit was found to have been formed at that place due to the release of the stone (Fig. 9). There were no blood stains were present on the spot on the date of the incident. A 'babool' plant was found at the crime scene in the direction of the movement of the deceased, on which it was said to have been scratched by the motorbike of the deceased on the date of the incident. Scratch mark were present on the 'babool' plant even on the date of spot inspection (Fig. 10). The stone buried on the ground near the 'babool' plant was also found taken aback by the motorbike (Fig. 11). It was said to be a skid mark was present by braking the motorbike on the road (marked as "C"). The position of skid mark, the direction of movement of the motorbike, position of the diseased and the motorbike after the incident were all estimated using a thread (Figs. 12, 13). The direction of motion of the motorbike, the skid mark, the 'babool' plant, the stone dislodged by the motorbike and the direction of the fall of the motorbike were all found to be in a straight line. No dent mark or damage was reported on the motorbike due to the incident (Fig. 14).



Fig. 7. Crime Scene Reconstruction

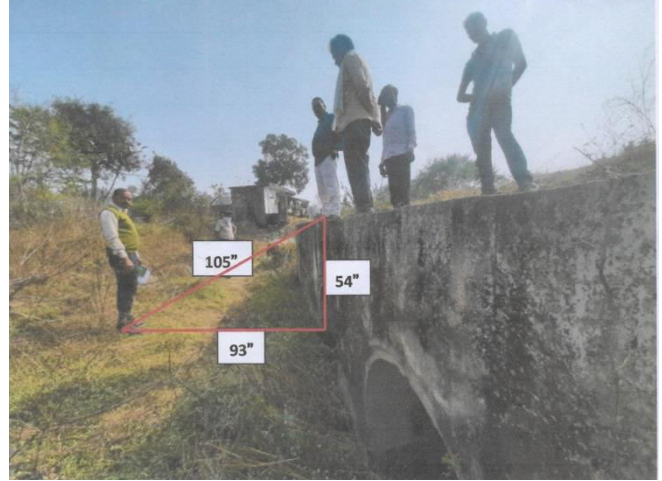


Fig. 8. Distance of the Motorbike from the Drain Pipe



Fig. 9. Pit of the Stone Found on Spot



Fig. 10. 'Babool' Tree in the Direction of the Movement of the Motorbike



Fig. 11. Stone Taken Aback by the Motorbike



Fig. 12. Estimation of the Direction of Movement-I



Fig. 13. Estimation of the Direction of Movement-II



Fig. 14. Motorbike after the Incident

V. CONCLUSION

From the spot inspection, the evidence found at the spot, the statements of witnesses on the date of incident and the reconstruction of the spot, the incident does not appear to be a murder. The skid marks found at the spot, direction of movement of the motorbike, position of the motorbike and the rider after incident also confirm the same. The autopsy report states that only one bleeding injury was found on the body and its nature was accidental. In a murder case, there is a possibility of more than one injury on the body. Blood stain should have been found at the spot when the deceased was murdered and planted on the spot. From the inspection of the spot, reconstruction of the scene, statements of the witnesses on the date of incident and autopsy reports, the incident appears to be a road accident and not a murder.

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Impact Factor: 8.118



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