

DETAILED REPORT:

South Zone: 25 workers died in illegal sand, stone mining since Dec. 2020

Annually scores of Indian people have been meeting untimely deaths and suffering injuries due to violence and accidents associated with unregulated sand mining activities. Tracking the issue, this year SANDRP has compiled detailed reports on human toll of sand mining in a zone wise manner between December 2020 and March 2022. The reports for [North](#), [East and North East](#) and [West](#) zones have been published. This is fourth and last detailed report based on which a summary has been prepared on the issue for South zone covering Karnataka, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Kerala states. We could not come over any report on the subject from Union Territory of Puducherry in this period.

SOUTH INDIA

Karnataka

District	Month/ Year	River	Detail	Remark
Dharwad	15 Jan. 2021		<p>13 dead as minibus hits sand tipper near Dharwad A school reunion trip to Goa ended in tragedy when 13 persons died and 8 were injured after their minibus collided with a sand-laden tipper on Pune-Bengaluru national highway bypass at Itigatti Cross on the outskirts of Dharwad on Jan. 15, 2021. Dharwad superintendent of police said that former students of Davanagere's Saint Paul Convent School were heading to Goa for a 3-day holiday. 9 among the dead were women and included a professor at a Davanagere medical college.</p> <p>Police said accident occurred around 7.30am. The vehicle was mangled due to the impact of the collision and police took nearly four hours to extricate the bodies and rescue the survivors. https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hubballi/11-dead-as-minibus-hits-tipper-near-dharwad/articleshow/80295444.cms (16 Jan. 2021)</p> <p>Dharwad Sub-urban Police Inspector said the minibus collided into the tipper truck as there was not enough room on the road. The 32-km Hubballi-Dharwad bypass is a single lane located along NH 48 between Bengaluru and Pune. The residents of Dharwad had been complaining of the bypass being dangerous as the stretch is narrow and that it was not being used as a one-way. The road widening work had been delayed for the last few months due to differences between the contractors & govt. Dharwad Rural Police have registered a case & stated that the sand tipper drove on the next lane in a bid to overtake a vehicle, was over-</p>	13 mostly women killed, 08 injured after sand tipper rammed into a minibus.

		<p>speeding and lost control. The drivers of both vehicles have also died, police said. https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/10-women-travelling-go-a-vacation-die-accident-karnataka-141526;</p> <p>https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2021/jan/15/dharwad-road-mishap11-former-students-of-st-pauls-convent-lose-their-lives-in-accident-2250606.html;</p> <p>https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/reunion-plan-of-school-alumni-turns-tragic/article33581484.ece;</p> <p>https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2021/jan/15/dharwad-mishap-deceased-women-were-school-friends-had-planned-day-outing-in-go-a-2250486.html (15 Jan 2021); https://indianexpress.com/article/india/karnataka-13-dead-after-minibus-collides-with-truck-7148199/ (17 Jan. 2021)</p>	
Shiva-mogga	21 Jan. 2021	<p><u>Blast in stone mine leaves 6 dead</u> The Hunasodu village in Abbalagere taluk of Shivamogga district has witnessed a strong blast in a lorry carrying explosive gelatine sticks has killed six people. The incident happened around 10:20 pm on January 21 night near a stone quarry. The explosives is used in stone mining.</p> <p>The Google Earth images show there are several stone quarries in areas in close human habitation. The sites are in Tunga river basin which flows about 7 km away in south of Shivamogga town.</p> <p>Quoting CM, The News Minute report mentions that the mining activity was being carried out <u>illegally</u>. The latest update on the issue says local people for long have been <u>protesting</u> against illegal stone mining there but in vain. As per the report there are more than 50 stone quarries owned by influential people with political back up.</p> <p>The incident has also raised concerns about the safety of Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) reservoir amid the local people and activist who alleged illegal stone mining happening over 100 places around the dam in which explosive are also used extensively. The Raitha Sangha and Dalit activists have urged the government to ban alleged illegal mining in the area. The pollution has threatened farming and feared it would pose a threat to KRS reservoir. https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/shivamogga-blast-killed-many-was-near-illegal-mining-site-141970 (22 Jan. 2021)</p>	Blast at illegal stone mining site killed 6 workers.

		<p>Pointing out that the blast had occurred at an illegal stone mining site, BJP MLC Aynur Manjunath accused officials of colluding with owners of many such units. “Many illegal mining units are operational in the area. Corrupt officials are to blame for the tragedy. Politicians are among those involved in this illegal business. CM needs to initiate stringent action against those responsible for the tragedy. I will write to the PM seeking his intervention,” Manjunath said.</p> <p>Shivamogga district in-charge minister KS Eshwarappa said illegal quarries were operating in and around the vicinity of the site where the blast happened. “Explosives are transported illegally from these sites. I have received complaints about illegal quarries,” he said. KPCC spokesperson KB Prasanna Kumar demanded Eshwarappa’s resignation. He alleged the involvement of politicians and senior government officials in the illegal mining business. https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/mlc-claims-officials-colluding-with-owners-of-illegal-mines/articleshow/80412621.cms (23 Jan. 2021)</p>	
Chikka-ballapur	23 Feb. 2021	<p>6 dead after gelatin sticks explode in Chikkaballapur At least six people were killed in a blast at a quarry site at Hiremagavali village, Chikkaballapur district, after a bunch of gelatin sticks exploded in the wee hours of Tuesday (Feb. 23). Two people have been arrested in connection with the incident.</p> <p>As per the reports, the blast occurred when gelatin sticks were being transported in a vehicle. A case has been registered in Peresandra police station and police are investigating. According to police, an FSL team is at the spot. A police official from the Peresandra police station told indianexpress.com that the blast was so powerful that it completely damaged the vehicle and the dead bodies cannot be identified as well.</p> <p>-In January last month in a similar kind of incident six people were killed after a massive explosion that took place near a gravel and boulder crushing facility in Shivamogga district. Following the incident, the quarry owner and a person who allegedly supplied dynamite to him were arrested by the police. https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/bangalore/chikkaballapur-gelatin-sticks-blast-karnataka-7200615/ (24 Feb. 2021)</p> <p>Apart from the glaring environmental degradation, news reports state that mining and quarrying activities have also caused cultural erosion. The explosions threaten to destroy the precariously perched ruins of Hampi, 330 km from Chikkaballapur, dating back to the 14th</p>	Explosion at quarry site killed 6 workers.

			<p>century. The stone quarry nearest to the Hampi ruins is 15 km away. https://en.gaonconnection.com/powder-keg-in-karnataka-the-chikkaballapur-and-shivamogga-gelatin-blasts-tip-of-the-icebergchikkaballapur-gelatin-blast-powder-keg-in-karnataka-hinterland-pays-price-for-bengaluru-construction-boom/ (26 Feb. 2021)</p>	
Shiva-mogga	08 March 2021		<p><u>Activist fighting forest encroachment, mining assaulted</u> Social activist Girish Achar, on whose petition the HC recently quashed the denotification of 260 acres of forest area in Shivamogga district, was allegedly assaulted by some unidentified people near Mattimane in Hosanagar taluk on Monday (March 8).</p> <p>Girish Achar, 41, has been fighting against forest encroachment, illegal stone quarrying, and sand mining for more than 15 years. While he was on his way to Byndoor from Hosanagar on Monday, some people stopped him and forcibly took him in their two-wheeler. After travelling for about 2 km, they assaulted him. "I don't know who they were or why they beat me up. This is the third time I have been assaulted in the last two years," Mr. Achar told The Hindu. He is now undergoing treatment at Sagar. https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/activist-fighting-forest-encroachment-mining-assaulted-in-shivamogga-district/article34031835.ece (10 March 2021)</p>	Social activist attacked
Bengaluru	21 April 2021		<p><u>Alert railway keyman averts possible train accident</u> A potential accident was averted in the Bengaluru Railway Division between Channarayanaapatna and Shravanabelagola stations on Wednesday (April 21) morning after an alert keyman alerted a Station Master about a sand tipper that had fallen on the tracks. A localite had tipped him off about the incident, said an official release. According to railway sources, the driver Dharmaraj had parked the sand tipper on a road near the tracks. 'He had switched off the engine and applied hand brakes of the vehicle before leaving it. When he returned after some time, he found his truck had rolled down a slope leading from the road to the tracks and fallen fully upturned on it. The driver had no clue how the brake got released," the source said. https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/bengaluru/2021/apr/21/alert-railway-keyman-averts-possible-train-accident-in-bengalurudivision-after-truck-rolls-onto-tra-2293024.html (21 April 2021)</p>	Sand tipper fell on railway tracks.

Udupi	26 Nov. 2021		<u>Truck, driver, owner surrender to police</u> The truck which had not reported to the city police station after being intercepted for carrying a load of sand illegally on Thursday November 25, surrendered to the police on Friday November 26. On checking, it was noticed that the truck carried two different registration number plates in front and back of the vehicle bearing KA 19 D 1684 and KA 19 D 1685. The vehicle was carrying sand. On inquiry, the driver said that his name is Yallappa Jalapura of Bagalkot origin. When the public were having altercation with the truck driver, the police constable asked the driver to bring the tipper to the police station. However, the driver pushed the constable and pulled his collar and took the vehicle to Padu Alevoor and escaped. https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=897772 (26 Nov. 2021)	Before surrender the sand truck driver man- handled a policeman.
Ballari	01 Dec. 2021	Vedavati	<u>Revenue officer attacked by sand mafia</u> A day after he ordered seizure of a tractor for illegally transporting sand, revenue inspector Venkataswamy was attacked by four miscreants at his house in Ballari town late Wednesday (Dec 1, 2021) night. His wife and son also suffered injuries in the attack. Police said Venkataswamy, 48, and his wife sustained fractures and were treated at VIMS Hospital. His son is also injured. On Tuesday (Nov. 30, 2021), Venkataswamy seized a tractor near Tolamamidi village for illegally transporting sand mined from Vedavati river. https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mysuru/karnataka-revenue-officer-attacked-by-sand-mafia-in-ballari/articleshow/88062861.cms (03 Dec. 2021)	Revenue inspector, wife, son attacked
Hassan	06 Dec. 2021		<u>4 held for attack over sand mining issue</u> A group of men attacked 6 persons, damaged a car and a house for lodging a police complaint against illegal sand mining at Doddahalli in the taluk on Monday (06 Dec. 2021) night. The police arrested four persons in this regard. Anil and others of Doddahalli had lodged a police complaint against Divakar and his associates for alleged illegal sand mining and transportation. Following the police complaint, Divakar and his men allegedly barged into the house of Anil, assaulted him and also damaged his car and house. They also assaulted Jagadeesh, Theerthamallesh, Shivappa, Rajashekar and Bhagya, who came in rescue of Anil, said the police. The injured persons are undergoing treatment in a government hospital. The Arehalli police produced the suspects before the court. https://www.deccanherald.com/state/karnataka-districts/four-held-for-attack-over-sand-mining-issue-1058558.html (07 Dec. 2021)	6 attacked by a group of 4 for complaining against illegal mining.

Bengaluru	11 Jan. 2022	<p>Truck falls on 2 cars, bike; 6 killed Three men, two women and a minor boy were killed when a rashly driven tipper truck carrying gravel hit the median and fell on two cars and a motorcycle on Mysuru Road, near Kumbalagodu, on the outskirts of Bengaluru, on Monday (10 Jan. 2022). The accident occurred around 7pm when the city-bound truck rammed the median and fell to its left, pouring the load of gravel on the cars and the bike. The deceased have been identified as Veenamma, 44, Keerti Kumar, 40, Indra Kumar, 14, and Neetu, 29, (all occupants of the first car), TJ Shivaprakash (lone occupant of the second car) and biker Jatin B George. The truck driver fled the scene, leaving his vehicle behind. Bengaluru-bound vehicles were stuck in a 5km snarl between Bidadi and Kumbalagodu. Traffic from Kengeri to Bidari was reduced to a crawl till 9pm. https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/truck-falls-on-2-cars-bike-6-killed-on-bluru-mys-rd/articleshow/88820389.cms (11 Jan. 2022) The tipper, carrying gravel stones, was heading towards Bengaluru. The police said as the tipper arrived near Kumbalagodu, the driver lost control and hit the median. The vehicle then fell over on two cars and a bike, crushing them. https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/bangalore/bengaluru-six-dead-as-tipper-truck-topples-onto-3-vehicles-7716763/ (11 Jan. 2022)</p>	6 killed as gravel tipper overturned on 3 vehicles.
Summary		<p>Between January 2021 and January 2022, at least 19 people (including 15 women and a child) lost their lives while 17 suffered injuries in sand mining related violence and accidents in Karnataka state. Additionally, 12 mine workers were killed in 2 blast incidents in stone quarry sites first in Shivamogga in January 2021 killing 6 mine workers and then in Chikkaballapur in February 2021 again killing 6 mine workers.</p> <p>There have been four reports of attack by illegal sand miners causing injuries to 9 people including 2 government officials, 1 activist and 6 citizens. In one such attack, Venkataswamy, Revenue Inspector, Ballari, his wife and son were grievously injured by four miscreants at his house in December 2021. Day before the assault, the officer had seized a tractor carrying illegally mined sand. In March 2021, activist Girish Achar, who has been fighting against forest encroachment, illegal stone quarrying, and sand mining for more than 15 years was assaulted by unidentified people near Mattimane in Hosanagar taluk, Shivamogga.</p> <p>The deaths of 13 people including 11 women on a college reunion trip by over speeding sand truck in January 2021 in Dharwad is among most fatal accident in the state. In yet another horrific road accident, 6 people including 3 men, 2 women and a minor boy were killed when</p>	19/17

			<p>a rashly driven tipper truck carrying gravel overturned on 2 cars and a motorcycle in Bengaluru in January 2022. Similarly, in April 2021, a sand truck fell on railway track in Bengaluru raising a potential accident threat, however it was averted by alert staff.</p>	
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Telangana

District	Month/Year	River	Detail	Remark
Nizamabad	01 Dec. 2020		<p>Principal dies in road accident A private junior college principal died on the spot when his two-wheeler was rammed by a speeding truck in Nizamabad on Tuesday (Dec. 1, 2020). Srikanth (49), principal of Sri Medhavi Junior College in Nizamabad city, was on his way to the college from his Namdeevwada home when the accident occurred. A speeding sand truck hit his vehicle on Kanteshwar-Madhava Nagar bypass road. Srikanth is survived by wife and two daughters. Dichpally police registered a case and are inquiring into the incident. https://telanganatoday.com/junior-college-principal-from-nizamabad-dies-in-road-accident (01 Dec. 2020)</p>	Speeding sand truck killed a principal.
Vikarabad	26 Dec. 2020		<p>5 die as sand lorry crashes into auto 5 farm workers, including 3 minors, who were seated inside a parked auto rickshaw, died after a sand-laden lorry rammed into the three-wheeler at Mominpet in Vikarabad district on Saturday (Dec. 26, 2020) morning. https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/5-die-as-sand-lorry-crashes-into-auto-at-mominpet/articleshow/79973179.cms (27 Dec. 2020)</p>	Sand truck rammed into auto-rickshaw killing 5 workers including 3 minors.
Kamareddy	28 Dec. 2020		<p>Angry Mob Set Killer Lorry on Fire Tensions flared for over two hours in Bichkunda mandal in Kamareddy district on Monday (28 Dec. 2020) evening, after a speeding sand-laden truck hit a 35-year-old man, killing him on the spot. Enraged locals went on a rampage and set fire to the lorry after the driver ran away from the spot. Not stopping there, a huge mob started</p>	Man killed by sand truck. Angry mob

			<p>breaking the window panes of twelve lorries, leading to chaos in the region. Police were immediately called in and had to resort to lathi charge to dispel the crowds. https://english.sakshi.com/news/crime/kamareddy-accident-tensions-flare-angry-mob-set-fire-killer-lorry-128255 (29 Dec. 2020)</p>	damaged several lorries.
Hyderabad	22 Jan. 2021		<p>Mason dies in road accident at Hakimpet A 50-year-old mason died and his co-worker suffered injuries when their bike rammed into a truck coming from the opposite direction at Hakimpet on Friday (22 Jan. 2021) morning. During the preliminary probe police found out that when the truck with a load of robo sand was travelling from Laxmi Narasimha Metal Industries at Peddamma Colony, Shamirpet to Lothukunta, at HP petrol pump in Hakimpet, a bike coming from the opposite direction has suddenly turned right towards the petrol pump.</p> <p>To avoid the bike the truck driver suddenly turned the vehicle to left and applied a sudden brake. The truck over turned and part of the bike was crushed under the rear portion of the truck. Pillion rider, V Sammaiah, 50, a mason from Kowkooor in Alwal fell on the road and died on the spot. The bike rider I Yellaiah, 49, a construction worker from Kowkooor, suffered injuries. Yellaiah did not have a driving license and based on the complaint of traffic police, Alwal police registered a case. https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/telangana-mason-dies-in-road-accident-at-hakimpet/articleshow/80409291.cms (22 Jan. 2021)</p>	Mason died after sand truck overturned on bike while avoiding collision.
Warangal	11 Feb. 2021		<p>6-year-old girl crushed to death by tipper A six-year-old girl died after she was hit by a sand tipper at Moranchapalli village on NH-363, on Thursday (Feb. 11). According to police, Milki Mithraja was playing in front of her house which was next to the NH when the mishap happened. Outraged villagers beat up the lorry driver, alleging that he was under the influence of alcohol when the incident happened. They staged a protest on the highway, bringing traffic to a standstill for kilometres on both sides. The tipper was transporting a load of sand from Kaleshwaram to Hyderabad. https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/telangana/2021/feb/12/telangana-6-year-old-girl-crushed-to-death-by-tipper-2262952.html (12 Feb. 2021)</p>	Sand tipper ran over 6 year old kid.
Peddapalli	17 Feb. 2021		<p>3 arrested for lawyer couple murder A local leader of the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) and two others were arrested in connection with the gruesome daylight killing of the lawyer couple on Wednesday (Feb. 17). The TRS suspended the leader concerned as advocates across the state staged protests. TRS Manthani mandal unit president Kunta</p>	Role of sand mafia suspected in daylight

		<p>Srinivas, along with another person allegedly attacked Gattu Vaman Rao and his wife P.V. Nagamani `as he bore some personal grudge, police said, ruling out as of now any political reason behind the killing.</p> <p>“In his dying declaration, Vaman Rao named TRS Manthani Mandal president Kunta Srinivas. The couple was murdered by TRS sand mafia for raising their voice against the custodial killing of a Dalit person, Seelam Rangaiah on May 25, 2020. CM Chandrasekhar Rao’s silence is deafening and only a CBI inquiry will bring out the truth,” News 18 quoted Reddy as saying. https://thewire.in/government/trs-leader-among-three-arrested-telangana-lawyer-couple-murder (19 Feb. 2021)</p> <p>Telangana Congress stepped up its offensive against the TRS government meeting the Governor, Tamilisai Soundararajan and demanding that a court-monitored CBI inquiry be launched into the daylight murder of lawyer-couple, Vaman Rao and Nagamani, since the police and TRS leaders were facing accusations.</p> <p>Later, Mr. Uttam Kumar Reddy told reporters that the brutal murder of High Court advocates Gattu Vaman Rao and PV Nagamani in Manthani reflected the murderous politics in Telangana due to the rising sand mafia. He said CM K. Chandrashekhar Rao did not even condemn the murder and claimed this sent a signal to the TRS leaders that they will be protected.</p> <p>The deceased Vaman Rao and his wife Nagamani had filed several cases against the local TRS leaders involved in illegal sand mining and land grabbing. They also filed a case against the Manthani police officials for the custodial death of a Dalit, Seelam Rangaiah, he reminded. The Bar Council of Telangana and also the Bar Council of India had written to the Telangana High Court Chief Justice terming it an attack on the judiciary, he said. https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/cbi-probe-sought-into-lawyers-murder/article33944819.ece (26 Feb. 2021)</p>	murder of advocate couple practicing in high court
Ranga-reddy	13 March 2021	<p><u>Lorry falls into well, 1 injured</u> A driver was injured after the Sand-laden lorry he was driving accidentally fell into an open well here at Masaniguda village of Shankarpalli town of Rangareddy district in the wee hours of Saturday (13 March 2021). Villagers rushed to the well after learning the incident and pulled out the lorry driver using a rope. He was sent to a private hospital in Patancheru in 108 vehicle after first-aid. The police also were informed who</p>	Driver injured after sand truck

			<p>inspected the area. More details are awaited about the incident. https://www.thehansindia.com/telegana/lorry-falls-into-agricultural-well-in-hyderabad-outskirts-1-injured-676651 (13 March 2021)</p>	fell into a well.
Bhadradi-Kothgudem	27 March 2021		<p>Sand smugglers attack Forest Dept officials A few persons, who were illegally transporting sand from tanks and streams in a forest area, allegedly attacked Forest Department officials in Burgampad mandal in Bhadradi-Kothgudem district on Saturday (March 27). Sources said that when the Forest Department received information about illegal transportation of sand from Domalavagu forest area in the district, forest beat officer B Ashok Kumar and two other staffers rushed to the spot to inquire into the matter. https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/telegana/2021/mar/28/sand-smugglers-attack-forest-dept-officials-cop-in-kothagudem-2282566.html (28 March 2021)</p>	Sand mafia attacked forest department team
Sircilla	29 March 2021		<p>Sand-laden lorry crashes into house A lorry carrying sand crashed into a man's house at Nerrella village in Thangallapalli mandal on Monday (29 March 2021). The owner of the house Kola Harish alleged that the lorry appeared out of nowhere and hit his house on purpose. Alleging that this was an attempt to murder him, Harish said that it was the sand smugglers who were behind the 'attack'. Nobody was hurt in the incident.</p> <p>Harish and his family staged a rasta roko on Sircilla highway, upset with the State government for failing to stop sand smuggling in the district. Several BJP workers participated in the protest, and raised slogans against the TRS government. Later, Harish's mother lodged a complaint with the police against the owner and driver of the lorry. It may be recalled that before the 2018 Assembly elections, Harish and other residents of the village had led a campaign against sand smugglers in the district, after a man was hit by a sand-laden lorry. The said case has still not been closed. https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/telegana/2021/mar/30/sand-laden-lorry-crashes-into-house-at-teleganas-nerrella-village-2283294.html (30 March 2021)</p>	Sand truck rammed into house, affected termed it deliberate attempt to murder as he was opposing illegal sand mining.
Mahabubnagar	16 April 2021		<p>Dalit Farmer Allegedly Stabbed by Sand Mafia A Dailt farmer was allegedly stabbed for opposing illegal mining near Vadyala village in Midgul Mandal of Mahabubnagar district. Victims of the sand mafia are reportedly increasing in the southern state. Raising concern over</p>	Dalit farmer killed for opposing

			<p>the impact of illegal sand mining on agriculture, farmers and locals in the district have held several protests in the last few years.</p> <p>On Friday (April 16), Dalit farmer Gaddala Madhu was allegedly stabbed several times by the accused Beerla Ramesh when the former tried to stop the purported sand mining near his village. Severely injured, Madhu is undergoing treatment in the district hospital. This is not the first time that a farmer was attacked in this regard. https://www.newsclick.in/telangana-dalit-farmer-allegedly-stabbed-sand-mafia-opposing-illegal-mining (17 April 2021); https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RyXWPHNO4bA; https://www.socialnews.xyz/2021/04/16/ntv-sand-mining-mafia-hulchul-in-palamuru-district-video/</p> <p>Rampant illegal sand mining across Palamuru region is going on unabated as some officials of revenue and police departments were hand in glove with sand mafia and turning blind eye to the illegal sand mining and unauthorized sand transportation. https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/kadapa-initiate-stern-action-against-those-indulge-in-sand-mining-668576 (29 June 2021)</p>	illegal sand mining.
Bhadrachalam	07 May 2021	Godavari	<p><u>Sand mining a cause for worry in Bhadrachalam</u> As many as 6 people have died in the last 49 days while passing the Godavari river in Bhadrachalam. However, neither the Police Department nor the irrigation department have taken any steps to prevent the deaths. On March 19, four persons, including three women, who went to fetch water for washing clothes died and on Friday (May 7), two girls, aged 20 and 15 years, died at the same place while washing clothes. According to official records, as many as 39 persons, including tourists, have died in the last few years while taking baths and washing clothes. https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/telangana/2021/may/09/sand-mining-a-cause-for-worry-in-bhadrachalam-2300182.html (09 May 2021)</p>	Mentions of 4 drowning deaths on March 19 & 2 girls on May 07 which could be due to sand mining
Karimnagar	26 July 2021	Godavari	<p><u>Jagtial: Cops attacked by sand mafia</u> The sand mafia that transports sand illegally from the banks of the Godavari river in the district have proving to be more violent day by day. In an incident at Vempalli Venkataropet in Mallapur mandal on Monday (26 July 2021) night a probationary SI Venkatesh, constables Srinivas, Raj Kumar and Suresh were attacked by sand mafia when during a search operation near the river to check illegal sand transportation. When the police rushed to the spot on a tip-off, that some members of the sand mafia were</p>	Police team attacked by sand mafia.

		illegally moving sand, the police were attacked with stones and sticks. On receiving information Metpally DSP Ghouse Baba and CI Sreenu rushed to the spot and seized five tractors. The police personnel were shifted to hospital for treatment and search for the accused was on. https://www.thehansindia.com/telangana/jagtial-cops-attacked-by-sand-mafia-698450 (28 July 2021)	
Sircilla	29 Oct. 2021	<u>Man dies of injuries after sand lorry runs over him</u> A 21 year-old youth, Thalla Akhil Goud, who was injured in a road accident in the wee hours on Friday (29 Oct. 2021), died while undergoing treatment in Yashodha hospital, Hyderabad. A resident of Jaggaraopalle of Sircilla municipal limits, Akhil Goud received serious injuries when he was run over by a sand lorry. While he was sitting on a roadside, a sand lorry ran over his legs. He was shifted to Hyderabad as his health condition deteriorated. After knowing about the incident, Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister KT Rama Rao took initiative and got him admitted to Yashodha hospital. A pall of gloom descended over the village with the death of an active TRS youth wing activist. https://telanganatoday.com/man-dies-of-injuries-after-sand-lorry-runs-over-him-in-sircilla (29 Oct. 2021)	1 killed by sand truck.
Nizamabad	07 Dec. 2021	<u>VRA Killed By Sand Mafia</u> A Village Revenue Assistant (VRA) was allegedly killed by the sand mafia in Kandgaon village in Bodhan mandal in Nizamabad district on Tuesday (07 Dec. 2021). The government officer named Gautam was beaten by the mafia on late Monday (06 Dec. 2021) night when he tried to stop them from taking sand. A few members caught hold of him and thrashed him. The critically injured VRA was rushed to a government hospital but to no avail. Gautam died while undergoing treatment. Upon learning of the information, the VRA leaders and villagers demanded that the sand mafia be stopped in the village. On Tuesday morning, Gautam's family members protested in front of the police station. The family members urged the police to take action against those responsible for the VRA's death. His wife in a complaint to the police stated that her husband was attacked and murdered by the miscreants as the VRA was obstructing the sand mafia. Based on her complaint, a case was registered and being investigated by the police. https://english.sakshi.com/news/crime/nizamabad-vra-killed-sand-mafia-147775 (07 Dec. 2021)	Sand mafia killed VRA

Hyderabad	10 March 2022	<p>Motorist killed in road crash in Hyderabad A motorist died on the spot after the motorcycle he was riding was hit by a truck at Mansoorabad in LB Nagar late on Thursday (10 March 2022). The unidentified victim, aged in his forties, was proceeding from LB Nagar towards Mansoorabad when the mishap occurred. According to the police, when the bike reached near Mansoorabad, the sand-laden truck, allegedly driven in a rash manner, hit the bike, killing the rider on the spot. The LB Nagar police are investigating. https://telanganatoday.com/motorist-killed-in-road-crash-in-hyderabad (10 March 2022)</p>	1 killed after bike bit by sand truck.
Summary		<p>The available media reports reveal death of at least 21 people on account of sand mining related incidents in Telangana between December 2020 and March 2022. While road accidents involving sand laden vehicles killed 11 people, drowning in sand pits has possibly led to death of 6 persons. The total death toll includes 6 children of which 4 were killed in road accidents and 2 in drowning in sand pits. The sand pits in Bhadrachalam stretch of Godavari river have become death traps of local people due to large scale mining.</p> <p>In past, the state has seen several protests against road accidents by sand trucks in Bhupalpally, Sircilla and Warangal districts. The situation has not improved much there. In December 2020, death of a person by a sand truck in Kamareddy, turned the mob violent who set the truck on fire and damaged several other vehicles. Police force was called in to control the situation.</p> <p>There were 6 violent attacks by sand mafia during this period. In two such incidents forest staff in Mach 2021 and police team in July 2021 were targeted while in others, 4 people including a dalit farmer and a Village Revenue Assistant (VRA) were killed.</p> <p>First in April 2021, a dalit farmer Gaddala Madhu was stabbed to death by sand mafia when the former tried to stop illegal sand mining near his village Vadyala in Midgul Mandal of Mahabubnagar district. Then in December 2021, a VRA named Gautham was beaten to death by sand smugglers in Kandgaon village in Bodhan mandal in Nizamabad district when he tried to stop illegal sand mining. The day light murder of a lawyer couple in Peddapalli in February 2021 is also reportedly linked to sand mafia flourishing under political patronage.</p>	21/03

Tamil Nadu

District	Month/Year	River	Detail	Remark
Sivaganga	17 Jan. 2021		<p><u>Sand mining gang attacks revenue staff</u> In a daring attack, a revenue department employee suffered severe cut injuries when an armed gang assaulted him with aruvals on Sunday (Jan. 17). It is said that a few days ago, a flying squad in the district intercepted and seized a vehicle near V Pudukulam village after it was found that sand was being smuggled from the river bed. The victim, Pandian, 40, who was in Mela Vanayangudi village at the time, received a call. When he stepped out of the premises, he was attacked by Siva of V Pudukulam and others with aruval. He fell unconscious and was rushed to hospital, where the doctors referred him to Madurai. Sivaganga Town police registered a case and were on the lookout for the suspects.</p> <p>A few months ago, in a similar incident, a village administrative officer (VAO) in Devakottai block was targeted by a sand mining gang. Though revenue officials then seized the lorry, which was carrying sand, a police inquiry was delayed due to political pressure. Following this, the VAO Association staged a protest. https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Madurai/sand-mining-gang-attacks-revenue-staff-in-sivaganga/article33594770.ece (17 Jan. 2021)</p> <p>Expressing their anguish and apprehension at 'rampant illegal sand mining' in Devakottai taluk in Sivaganga district, members affiliated to the VRO Association have demanded the State government immediately arrest all the 10 accused. https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Madurai/arrest-10-illegal-sand-miners-for-assaulting-officers/article31566680.ece (12 May 2020)</p>	Revenue staff attacked by sand mafia.
Chennai	02 Feb. 2021		<p><u>3 women run over by drunk truck driver</u> A truck driver who was allegedly in an inebriated state mowed down 3 women labourers working for a private firm in Chennai. The incident took place when the three victims were planting saplings along the median on the outer ring road near Kunrathur. The victims have been identified as Pachaiyammal (40), Senji Lakshmi (60) and Suganthi (40), according to a report in Times of India. All victims were residents of Vayalanallur near Poonamallee.</p>	3 women killed by truck on way to load sand.

		<p>The three victims were planting saplings at around 9 am at the time of the incident. The three women, who were wearing reflector jackets, usually complete their work before the morning rush hour. They were hit by an empty truck that was on its way to Tiruneemalai to load the sand. After the accident, the driver tried to escape from the spot but was caught by the passersby. https://www.timesnownews.com/chennai/article/chennai-three-woman-workers-of-private-firm-killed-after-being-run-over-by-drunk-truck-driver/715182 (02 Feb. 2021)</p>	
05 Feb. 2021	<p><u>Drowning death toll mounts, state parched for remedy</u> By December, once the north-east monsoon fills the lakes, ponds, “kuttais”, “kanmaais”, farm-ponds and stone “quarry-ponds” in Tamil Nadu with water, a series of identical tragedies grips villages across the state. The following months are marked by the deaths of school-going children and adolescents due to drowning. Often, two to four children - in some cases, siblings – lose their lives in these water bodies. From January to April-end, Tamil newspapers publish a news item, almost every day, on these tragedies which occur with numbing regularity. What is terrible is that these deaths are entirely preventable.</p> <p>What lies behind such deaths due to drowning are tales of human greed. Real-estate builders, brick-kiln owners, even farmers in some cases and official indifference all have a part to play. For the powerful lobby of real-estate builders and brick kiln owners excavate deep and massive pits on the lake- and pond-beds for red soil, “vandal mann” (energising soil), clay and what is called “savudu.” It is in these cavernous pits filled with water --after the monsoon has ended -- that the victims drown.</p> <p>Revenue or Mining Department officials may permit builders, brick kiln owners and quarry operators to excavate the lake or pond beds for red soil, “vandal mann”, clay or “savudu” over an area of, say, 20 feet * 15 feet with a depth of three feet. However, in reality, the excavation spans 40 feet * 25 feet with a depth of 15 feet. Full of water, these cavernous pits become death traps.</p> <p>The quarry-ponds are a deadly, different story and a morbid reflection of this deep-rooted issue. If the Mining Department permits an individual to quarry a hill and the surrounding areas, the entire hill will be illegally gouged out from the earth. Besides, a vast area of the size of several football fields, around the disappeared hill, will be mined to a depth of</p>	<p>This detailed piece explores reasons behind increasing drowning deaths of children in water bodies, rivers, quarry pits.</p> <p>Lists many such incidents in January 2021, of two have been due to sand, stone mining.</p>	

		<p>many hundreds of feet for minerals. Sprawling artificial lakes and ponds form in these gigantic excavated areas, which are not fenced. Therefore, it is no surprise that human beings and cattle perish regularly in them.</p> <p>January 14: Mohan Kumar (15), a tenth-standard pupil of Ullagaram, went with his friends to take bath in a quarry-pond near Burma Tamils' Colony, Chennai. Mohan Kumar was caught in the slush in the quarry-pond and drowned. January 17: In another incident, Balaji (32) died when he fell into a deep trench dug on the bed of the Arani river, near Pulicat lake, about 55 km from Chennai. https://www.asiaville.in/article/tns-drowning-deaths-mount-state-parched-for-preventative-measures-68633 (05 Feb. 2021)</p>	
Chennai	09 Feb. 2021	<p><u>5 dead as lorry collides with car on GST Road</u> The deceased were identified as P Subramani (85) of Karaiyanchavadi near Ponnamalee, his wife Indirani (75), their daughter Mahalakshmi (50), and granddaughter Shanthini (18) and the car driver Paul Dinakaran (24) of Mangadu. Police said Subramani was a retired driver from PWD. The police said Subramani went to visit the Samayapuram temple in Tiruchy along with his family. Early on Tuesday (09 Feb. 2021), they were returning to Chennai in a car. The police said the car was speeding on the GST Road near Maduranthagam when the driver of a lorry loaded with m-sand lost the control of the vehicle and collided with the car. On the impact, all the five of them who were inside the car died on the spot. The Padalam police who arrived at the spot retrieved the bodies and sent it for post-mortem examination. The police said the lorry driver Thangavel fled after the incident but the lorry has been seized and search is on to nab the driver. https://www.dtnext.in/News/City/2021/02/09103003/1275290/Five-killed-in-road-accident-near-Maduranthakam.vpf (09 Feb. 2021)</p>	Truck loaded with M-sand rammed into a car killing 5 occupants.
Kancheepuram	09 Feb. 2021	<p><u>5 members of family killed</u> Five members of a family died after the car they were travelling in rammed a sand truck at Padalam in Kancheepuram district in the early hours of Tuesday (Feb. 9). Police said that the family had gone to Samayapuram temple in Trichy on Monday (Feb. 8) and was returning when the accident happened. The family was travelling in their own car and Paul Dinakaran was hired to drive it.</p> <p>When the vehicle was going on Trichy-Chennai National Highway near Athimanam village at Madurantakam in Chengalpet district around 2.30am, the driver of a sand truck that</p>	5 of family member travelling in a car killed after sand truck applied sudden break.

		<p>was moving in front of the car applied sudden brake. Paul lost control and rammed the truck. All the occupants in the car died on the spot and the car was completely damaged. Soon after the accident, the truck driver escaped abandoning the vehicle. Passersby alerted the highways patrol police who with the help of the registration number of the sand-laden truck arrested its driver P Thangasami, 31, from Manapparai. Police said that the driver had to apply brake as another car moving ahead of him suddenly slowed down. https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/five-members-of-family-killed-as-car-truck-collide-one-arrested/articleshow/80775421.cms (10 Feb. 2021)</p>	
Ranipet	06 April 2021	<p><u>Families refuse to receive bodies, seek compensation</u> Three days after the murder of two Dalit men in Ranipet, their kin and Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) members are continuing their protest on Saturday (April 10). The family members in Ranipet are staging a protest, refusing to receive the body, seeking compensation of Rs 1 crore and a government job for the nearest kin. VCK members headed by party chief Thol Thirumavalavan staged a protest at Valluvar Kottam in Chennai seeking the arrest of the accused under Goondas Act.</p> <p>While the police are denying any political motive behind the attack, the VCK members alleged that the murder was done for political reasons. VCK's Union secretary Bakiyaraj had earlier told TNM that there was previous enmity between the two groups, as Dalits had complained about sand mining in the area. He said this was exacerbated during the elections as Suryia, who is a VCK member, and Arjunan campaigned for the party candidate. The police on Friday (April 9) arrested two more members in connection with the crime, taking the total number of persons held to six. One of those arrested has been identified as Karthi, who is the son of AIADMK district office-bearer. https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/ranipet-double-murder-families-refuse-receive-bodies-seek-compensation-146913 (10 April 2021)</p> <p>Protests have been underway since Wednesday (April 7) night in Ranipet district's Arokkanam area after two Dalit youths were murdered. The two victims Arjunan (26) from Soghanur village and Suriya (26) from Sembedu village were stabbed to death with knives and bottles while three of their friends -Madhan, Vallarasu, and Soundarajan have been</p>	2 dalit youth killed. Role of sand mafia suspected.

			<p>injured. Four members from the Vanniyar community have been arrested in connection to the murders.</p> <p>Speaking to TNM, Arakkonam VCK's Union secretary Bakiyaraj alleges that there are clear political and personal motives behind the murders. "There was already previous enmity between the two groups. For over two years now, the Dalit men have been complaining about the sand mining in the region and also about how these trucks are speeding in areas where children reside," says Bakiyaraj. "During the elections, matters got worse because Suriya and Arjunan were campaigning for the VCK candidate. Suriya is also a member of the party," he adds. https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/ranipet-double-murder-vck-alleges-dalit-men-were-killed-over-political-tensions-146788 (08 April 2021)</p> <p>Mr. Thirumavalavan claimed that an AIADMK leader in Kaveripakkam was involved in illegal sand mining and they have been opposed by local youth belonging to the Scheduled Castes. https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/vck-announces-protest-across-tn-against-murders-of-two-dalits/article34279057.ece (09 April 2021)</p>	
Pudukottai	01 May 2021	Vellaru	<p><u>Activist beaten up for opposing sand mining</u> A 35-year-old activist, who has been crusading against illegal sand mining in his village in Pudukottai district, was beaten up allegedly by family members of the panchayat president after he refused to give up the cause. C Palanisamy of Murugaraja Nagar in Kothandaramapuram panchayat is undergoing treatment at Pudukottaigovernment medical college hospital for multiple injuries.</p> <p>According to his complaint with Annavasal police, the incident happened on Thursday (April 29) when over 15 people, most of them women family members of panchayat president Veerayi, assaulted him when he was making door-to-door visits selling soaps. Palanisamy has given several complaints against Veerayi's sons V Selvaraj, 45, and V Perumal, 42 for illegally mining sand from south Vellaru river near the village. As his complaints were not taken up by the police, he went on to file a PIL before the Madras high court.</p> <p>This is not the first time that Palanisamy was beaten up. He said he was manhandled by a group two months ago after he approached the district collector and superintendent of</p>	Activist attacked second time by sand mafia.

			<p>police against the illegal sand mining. "All my complaints are being ignored by the authorities. There is threat to my life, but I will not give up the cause," he said. https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/trichy/activist-beaten-up-for-opposing-sand-mining/articleshow/82334235.cms (01 May 2021)</p>	
	04 May 2021		<p><u>10 journalists who are under threat</u> This also includes Sandhya Ravishankar (India) a freelance journalist reporting on elections, politics, and corruption, including on Tamil Nadu's sand mafia and beach sand mining who has faced years of threats and harassment, including death and rape threats, doxing, and a 2018 attempt to sabotage her motorbike. https://fortune.com/2021/05/03/most-urgent-cases-journalists-human-rights-ranked-may-2021/ (04 May 2021)</p>	
Kancheepuram	07 June 2021		<p><u>2 men killed as sand quarry caves in at Kancheepuram</u> Two men, who were working at a private sand quarry near Uthiramerur in Kancheepuram district, were killed when the sand caved in reportedly due to the rains on Monday (June 7) evening. Operations are still underway on Tuesday (June 8) to remove the bodies from debris. The two men were migrant labourers from Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh. The police personnel will also initiate an inquiry to find out if the quarry has the permit and whether all safety norms were followed.</p> <p>In February 2021, there was a similar incident where a worker was killed and two others suffered injuries after a stone quarry caved in at Kancheepuram district. The incident took place while the workers were breaking stones on the premises and suddenly a portion of the quarry caved in. The stones fell on those working in the quarry. Then Tiruvallur District Collector Mageswari Ravikumar called engineers from the Department of Geology and Mining to check the stability of the quarry and then ordered them to take action against the culprits. https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/two-men-killed-sand-quarry-caves-kancheepuram-150311 (08 June 2021)</p>	<p>Caving in of sand quarry killed 2 migrant workers.</p> <p>Collapse of stone quarry in same district killed 1 person and injured 2.</p>
Sivaganga	01 Aug. 2021		<p><u>1 killed in clash between sand miners</u> A clash between two groups, who had been allegedly indulging in illegal sand mining in Devakottai taluk, ended in the death of a 30-year-old man on Sunday (Aug. 1). The groups decided to hold a compromise meeting in the presence of elders in the village. On Sunday (Aug. 1), when the groups assembled in front of the house of one Muthiah in Selugai village, Thennarasu, 30, son of Velu Thevar,</p>	<p>Infighting in rival groups killed 1 man.</p>

			<p>was attacked even as talks were on. When three others attempted to intervene, they were stabbed as well.</p> <p>According to police, Thennarasu died on the spot while the injured Kalidas, 35, Suresh, 25, and Ganesan, 32, were admitted to the Thiruvadanaï General Hospital. The body was sent for a post-mortem examination. The Devakottai taluk police have registered a case of murder. Police said that they had secured three suspects in connection with the murder. A large posse of police personnel have been deployed in the Selugai village. Investigation is on. https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/one-killed-in-clash-between-sand-miners-in-devakottai/article35672665.ece (02 Aug. 2021)</p>	
Vellore	03 Sept. 2021	Malattar	<p><u>Lack of action on sand smugglers despite attacks</u> The attack incident occurred on the night of September 3 when Pachayyappan and Aiyappan, sons of Kandasamy of Masigam village were told that sand smuggling was going on in their land. The land abuts the Malattar river and when they rushed to the spot they discovered sand being loaded into carts. Arguments resulted in fisticuffs and both brothers were assaulted with spades by the sand smugglers resulting in their admission to Pernambut Government Hospital. Though a police complaint was lodged, it was finally withdrawn due to pressure from sand mafia on the brothers through their 'friends' and also due to police dragging their feet after a complaint was lodged sources said. Nandan, former Masigan village head (nattanmai) said, "We expected things to change once the DMK took over, but the situation only worsened. There is no one to control the sand mafia." https://www.dtnext.in/News/TamilNadu/2021/09/13060814/1317745/Lack-of-action-on-sand-smugglers-despite-attacks-irks-.vpf (13 Sept. 2021)</p>	2 severely injured by sand mafia.
Virudhu-nagar	25 Dec. 2021		<p><u>Councillor, dad attacked for plaint against sand mining</u> A woman councillor of DMK sustained injuries as she was run over by a two-wheeler, after her father lodged a police complaint about illegal sand mining at Sundararajapuram village here on Sunday (Dec. 26). According to sources, A Muthusamy, a resident of Sundararajapuram, submitted a complaint with the Seithur rural police station on December 25 stating that two people, Thamilarasan and Muniandi, were involved in illegal sand mining activities and were transporting sand through his agricultural land using tractors.</p>	Woman councillor, father attacked by illegal sand miners.

		<p>On Sunday (Dec. 26), Muthusamy was standing in front of his house along with his daughter Muthuselvi, district councillor of the 15th ward. Muniandi and his brother Muniswaran who came to the spot assaulted Muthusamy and ran Muthuselvi over with their two-wheeler and escaped from the spot. Muthuselvi, who sustained a fracture in her right leg, was admitted to Rajapalayam government hospital. Muthusamy also sustained minor injuries in the incident. Seithur police registered a case and an investigation is on. https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/madurai/councillor-dad-attacked-for-plaint-against-sand-mining/articleshow/88511510.cms (27 Dec. 2021)</p>	
Summary		<p>In Tamil Nadu, about 19 people have died while 10 other suffered injuries in sand mining related violence and accidents from December 2020 upt March 2022. Additionally, 2 people have died and one suffered injury in stone mining related accidents in this period. 13 people including 3 women plantation workers and two families of 5 members were killed in 3 road accidents that happened in just one month of February 2021 involving sand transporting vehicles in the state.</p> <p>There have been at least 5 incidents of violent attack by sand mafias killing 2 Dalit youths and injuring 7 people including 2 government officials, 1 activists and 2 common citizens. A woman councillor and her father also survived injuries after assaulted by sand mafia for complaint against illegal mining. While 1 casualty occurred due to drowning in sand pit, 1 person was killed and 3 faced injuries in violent clash between rival sand smuggler groups.</p> <p>The murder to 2 dalit youths from Ranipet in April 2021 resulted in agitation by affected community seeking arrest of accused and compensation to families. The two victims Arjunan (26) from Soghanur village and Suriya (26) from Sembedu village were stabbed to death with knives and bottles while three of their friends were injured. The victims were reportedly complaining against sand mining activities and objecting to speeding sand trucks moving through residential area.</p> <p>Same month, C Palanisamy a 35-year-old activist fighting against illegal sand mining in Murugaraja Nagar in Pudukottai district, was beaten up allegedly by family members of the panchayat president after he refused to give up the cause. He was also manhandled</p>	19/10

		<p>by a group two months ago after he approached the district collector and superintendent of police against the illegal sand mining.</p> <p>In August 2021, a compromise meeting between two rival sand smuggler groups went haywire resulting in death of a member and injuries of 3 others in Devakottai taluk of Sivaganga district. In same taluk, a revenue department employee suffered severe cut injuries when an armed gang assaulted him with aruvals in January 2021.</p> <p>Before this, a VAO in Devakottai block was targeted by a sand mining gang. Though revenue officials then seized the sand laden lorry, a police inquiry was delayed due to political pressure. Following this, the VAO Association staged a protest. In May 2020, expressing their anguish and apprehension at 'rampant illegal sand mining' in Devakottai taluk, members affiliated to the VRO Association had demanded immediately arrest all the 10 accused.</p> <p>As per a report the drowning incidents and deaths in soil, sand, stone mine pits are on the rise in the state.</p>	
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Andhra Pradesh

District	Month/Year	River	Detail	Remark
Kadapa	08 May 2021		<p>10 killed in explosion at quarry Ten workers were killed in a blast at a limestone quarry near Mamillapalli village under Kalasapadu mandal in Kadapa district on May 8, 2021. The explosion occurred while workers were unloading gelatin sticks from a vehicle for use in the quarry. https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/andhra-pradesh-10-killed-in-explosion-at-quarry-in-kadapa-district/articleshow/82492096.cms (09 May 2021)</p> <p>Police, revenue, mines and geology and pollution control departments are generally responsible for overseeing blasting operations in quarries and mines. The mines department officials were reportedly well aware that illegal mining was brazenly taking place at the quarry. Also, the police and the revenue departments turn blind eye to those running explosives</p>	Blast at limestone quarry site killed 10 workers.

			<p>businesses without any permits or licences. The pollution control board officials do not seem to know which quarries are operating without environmental permits.</p> <p>First of all, prime responsibility rests with the department of mines. It is a common practice that those in possession of licence mineral extraction licences sell them away to the highest bidder illegally. Officials are said to be in cahoots with the illegal miners and look the other way even as ore worth crores of rupees is illegally extracted and sold. They also do not check if those operating mines have proper environmental permits. https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/politics/090521/illegal-mining-goes-on-brazenly-in-kadapa.html (10 May 2021)</p>	
Guntur	26 May 2021		<p><u>Illegal mining creates death traps in Krishna</u> V Nagesh and his 4 college friends—M Harish, K Lokesh, P Gopi Reddy and K Hari Gopal—were on a casual swimming session in Krishna river when they met with a cruel twist of fate. The youths, all in their 20s, slipped into the deep water and drowned in a tragic accident that took place in Gidugu village on August 16, 2016.</p> <p>Exactly two years later, in August 2018, four students met the same fate after they ventured into the swollen river at Gundimeda in Guntur district. In the same year, in May, two members of a family—a woman and her daughter—lost their lives after their boat collided with a dredger boat used for mining. All these incidents are connected by one key factor—deep pits formed by mining of sand rivers. https://thefederal.com/the-eighth-column/troubled-waters-rampant-illegal-sand-mining-form-death-traps-in-krishna-river/ (26 May 2021)</p>	Details of drowning death in sand mine pits in Krishna river in past.
Guntur	02 June 2021		<p>YSRCP local leaders attacked Jaypee staff who were doing sand mining in Guntur district on Wednesday (02 June 2021). They obstructed them from doing sand mining. With this, Jaypee employees lodged a complaint with the police. But the police did not respond. YSRCP leaders are allegedly demanding money to allow sand mining in their respective districts. However, the Jaypee group refused to pay money to YSRCP leaders which angered them and resorted to attacks. https://www.telugu360.com/sand-war-in-ysrcp-jaypee-mining-staff-attacked/ (02 June 2021)</p>	JP group staffs attacked by YSRCP local leaders.
Krishna,	25 July 2021		<p>A National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB-2019) report reveals that 1,554 people died by drowning in Andhra Pradesh. While 44% of the deaths were accidents, the rest were suicides and other causes. Apart from drowning deaths along the coastline, rivers in Krishna, East and</p>	This mentions of NCRB

East- & West Godavari			West Godavari districts that receive massive inflows during the monsoon also contribute to cases of drowning. https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/drowning-claims-over-1500-lives-a-year-in-ap/articleshow/84714824.cms (25 July 2021)	report on numbers of drowning deaths in the state.
Chittoor	09 Aug. 2021		<u>3 dead as tipper lorry electrocuted</u> The lorry driver and two other youths were killed in the accident at Kanikapuram in Palasamudram mandal of Chittoor district. Going into details, Muniswamy Naidu, who was building a house in Kanikapuram, brought gravel in a tipper for his needs. Manoj, the driver, did not notice the electric wires while unloading the gravel and lifted the rear end. During this process, the tipper was struck by electrical wires, and current flown through the lorry. The driver shouted and the youngsters Jyotishwar (19) and Dora Babu (23) from the same village next door responded. They also lost their lives due to electrocution while they tried to save Manoj. Police have registered a case over the incident and are investigating. https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/andhra-pradesh-three-dead-as-the-tipper-lorry-electrocuted-in-chittoor-while-unloading-the-material-700666 (19 Aug. 2021)	A truck driver, 2 locals electrocuted while unloading gravel truck.
Krishna	14 Aug. 2021	Krishna	<u>135 lorry drivers, cleaners rescued</u> About 135 drivers and cleaners, who were engaged on sand lorries and tractors were rescued from Krishna River, when the flood level increased suddenly in the early hours on Saturday (Aug. 14). However, 132 lorries and two tractors were trapped in the river, and the rescue operations are on. Water level in the river raised suddenly when the officials opened the gates at Munneru Vaagu in Telangana around midnight, the officials said. "The lorries and tractors went into Krishna River from Chevitikallu village in Kanchikacherla mandal, to load sand last night. Due to flash floods, all the drivers and workers along with the vehicles were caught in the flood," Mr. Siddharth Kaushal told The Hindu. https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/135-lorry-drivers-cleaners-rescued-from-krishna-river/article35908034.ece (14 Aug. 2021) Over 75,000 cusecs of water came from upstream Pulichintala project while another 5,000 cusecs came from Munneru rivulet due to heavy rain in the catchment, revenue officials said.	135 lorries stuck in Krishna flash flood after improper operation of upstream dam. 300 truck drivers, helpers rescued.

		<p>Sand excavation was being carried out at a reach inside the river and the trucks were meant to carry it out.</p> <p>There had been no warning whatsoever about the impending flood flow and so we went about our work. But we could not return because of the water surge and our vehicles got stuck, some truck drivers said. Revenue officials said they too had no prior information about the flood flow. As the Nagarjuna Sagar reservoir upstream Pulichintala got filled to the brim, water was being discharged downstream. Since a crest gate got damaged at Pulichintala last week, there was no way to impound it there and hence the discharge, the local tehsildar said. Unless water is let out downstream from the Prakasam Barrage in Vijayawada, the flow at Chevitikallu can't be curtailed. https://www.news18.com/news/india/over-100-lorries-stuck-in-krishna-river-due-to-flood-in-andhra-pradesh-4085927.html (14 Aug. 2021)</p> <p>The ramp leading to the quarry and the temporary road laid at the place were washed away in the floods. On being alerted by the truckers about the flash floods and their situation, Nandigama circle police and disaster response force swung into action and rescued more than 300 people using boats and ropes and gave first aid treatment to those who suffered minor injuries.</p> <p>Meanwhile, truck drivers, who were rescued, are concerned that their trucks stuck in the river might get washed away causing them unrecoverable losses. They were also angry at officials, particularly the tahsildar, for not alerting them of the possible flash floods and demanded compensation for their losses. "It's purely due to the negligence of officials who failed to alert us when they were aware of the floodwater released from above. Had they alerted us, we would not have ventured into the river to collect sand," Raja, a lorry driver, told The New Indian Express. https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2021/aug/14/trucks-seeking-to-transport-sand-stuck-in-krishna-river-after-flash-floods-300-people-rescued-2344663.html (14 Aug. 2021)</p> <p>"We climbed up the lorry cabins and shouted for help. The road laid to the ramp got washed away and the vehicles were caught in the flood water," the rescued lorry drivers later said. "As usual, we went into the river around midnight to load sand. Suddenly, flood water surrounded our vehicles and the road laid to the ramp got washed away in the early hours. It's a rebirth for us," says a driver Rama Krishna. https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-</p>	
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			pradesh/flood-water-discharged-without-warning-say-rescued-staff/article35920311.ece (15 Aug. 2021)	
Summary			<p>We could find out media reports on sand mining violence and accidents for Andhra Pradesh comprising period between May 2021 and August 2021. In these four months, 13 people have died in 2 incidents of sand and stone mining in the state.</p> <p>Firstly, 10 workers were killed in a blast at a limestone quarry near Mamillapalli village under Kalasapadu mandal in Kadapa district. The incident revealed several such illegal stone quarries were functioning in the district and abject failure of administration to check these. Then in Chittoor district 3 people including truck driver were electrocuted while unloading gravel filled truck in August 2021.</p> <p>In July 2021, YSRCP local leaders reportedly attacked the staff of Jay Pee company awarded sand mining contract for refusing money from sand mining operations in various districts. Strangely, company's complaint was not registered by the police.</p> <p>The state has also seen a big man-made disaster in August 2021 when sudden discharges from Pulichintala project created flash flood in Krishna river trapping around 135 sand trucks. Fortunately around 300 people including truck drivers, helpers, mine workers were rescued. As per the drivers there was no warning given to them about the water discharge beforehand.</p> <p>The incident shows serious irregularities and violations in mining and dam operations in the state. Mining in rivers is generally prohibited during monsoon months and night hours. The upstream dam released water in rivers without alerting concerned officials. Fortunately the miners were rescued otherwise it could have been one of the biggest mining related disasters in the country.</p> <p>This report highlights drowning deaths due to sand pits in Krishna river in Guntur district. Similarly, media report on NCRB 2019 drowning deaths data mentions Krishna, Godavari rivers adding into drowning death numbers. However it's not known if NCRB keeps a record of deaths occurred in sand mining pits.</p>	03/00

Kerala

District	Month/ Year	River	Detail	Remark
Thiruvananthapuram	13 Dec. 2020		<p><u>Truck traced, driver arrested</u> Police team probing the death of journalist S V Pradeep tracked down the truck that caused the accident and also took the driver into custody on Tuesday (14 Dec. 2020). Police identified the accused as Joy, 60, of Vettikonam near Vazhayila under Peroorkada police station limits. The seized truck was examined and samples were collected by forensic officials.</p> <p>According to police, Joy was transporting M sand from Vattiyoorkavu to Vellayani when the accident occurred. The vehicle was traced by collecting surveillance camera visuals near the accident spot at Karakkamandapam Junction and nearby locations. "From the surveillance camera visuals, it appears that the accident occurred when Pradeep strayed dangerously close to the fast lane of the road while attempting to overtake a two-wheeler which incidentally was overtaking another vehicle," the DCP said. https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/thiruvananthapuram/hit-and-run-case-truck-traced-driver-arrested/articleshow/79760618.cms (17 Dec. 2020)</p> <p>Journalist SV Pradeep died on Monday (Dec. 13, 2020) afternoon after a vehicle hit a scooter. The driver of the vehicle that struck him has not yet been identified, though eyewitnesses reportedly said that it was an SML truck. https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/kerala-journalist-sv-pradeep-dies-road-accident-139609 (15 Dec. 2020)</p>	Journalist killed in hit and run case by M sand truck.
Kozhikode	12 Nov. 2021		<p><u>Cop who fought sand mafia passes away 24 years after fatal accident</u> TK Muhammad Shafiq, a police officer who took on the sand mafia, passed away on Thursday (Nov.11) after 24 years of battling wounds of a near-fatal accident. Shafiq was hit by an unidentified vehicle on his way home from work, leaving him confined to bed for nearly a quarter-of-a-century. That accident changed the course of his life. Following the accident, he was left paralyzed for a while. He continued in the service with full cooperation from the police department and retired as Circle Inspector five years ago.</p> <p>The upright officer joined as a Sub Inspector in 1987 and busted sand mafia rackets. In 1997, when he was on his way to Kozhikode, he got off a train at Tirur railway station and the two-wheeler he was riding in was hit by a truck near his house in Thekkumuri. Investigations into</p>	Sad story of a cop who took on sand mafias before getting bed ridden for 24 years on account of grievous injuries

		<p>the vehicle that hit the SI yielded no results. He had received threats from several offenders, including the sand mafia.</p> <p>He returned to service for a while after treatment but had continued to reel from a lot of physical impediments. Occasionally, he faced difficulty with body movements. He was eventually promoted to Deputy SP at the time of his retirement, Shafiq refused to accept. Shafiq is a native of Kodungallur town in Thrissur. His wife Suhra is a secondary school teacher in Kadungathukundu. Only his son Shaisal is a doctor with MIMS Hospital in Kozhikode. https://www.news18.com/news/india/kerala-cop-who-fought-sand-mafia-passes-away-24-years-after-a-near-fatal-accident-4435907.html (12 Nov. 2021)</p>	inflicted by an untraced vehicle.
Kochi	11 March 2022	<p>Driver dies after truck falls into water-filled quarry A fully loaded truck, which fell into a water-filled granite quarry here was lifted from the waters using cranes on Saturday (March 12). The body of the truck driver was found inside the vehicle. The vehicle fell into the water-filled quarry at Mariappally near here around 9.30pm on Friday (March 11). The truck could be taken out of water only after an 18-hour effort by local authorities. The truck was carrying fertilizers loaded from a depot in Mariappally and was going to Cheppad. The truck belonged to Ajikumar. Police suspect that Ajikumar lost control of the vehicle near the quarry, which resulted in the accident. https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kochi/kerala-driver-dies-after-truck-falls-into-water-filled-quarry/articleshow/90180208.cms (13 March 2022)</p>	Driver killed after truck fell into granite quarry.
Summary		<p>We could find just 3 reports on sand mining related deaths from Kerala state. First, in December 2020, S V Pradeep a journalist was killed by a truck carrying M-sand in Thiruvananthapuram. Following the incident there were allegations that it was a deliberate act to eliminate him. Then in March 2022, a driver died after the loaded truck fell into a water filled quarry pit in Kochi. The story of policeman TK Muhammad Shafiq is quite tragic. He had led several operation against sand mafia and was bed ridden for 24 years after fatally injured by an unknown vehicle.</p>	03/00

Summary table of death, injuries due to sand mining violence & accidents in South Zone from Dec. 2020 to March 2022

State	Death by drowning in sand pits	Deaths/Injuries in Mine collapse & accidents	Deaths/Injuries in Road accidents	Deaths/Injuries of Citizens/Villagers/Farmers in attacks	Deaths/Injuries of Reporters/Activists in attacks	Deaths/Injuries of Govt. officials In attacks	Death/Injuries in Gang-war/Encounter/Infighting	Total Deaths/Injuries
Karnataka	NA	12/00* (stone quarry)	19/08	00/06	00/01	00/02	NA	31/17
Telangana	6	NA	11/01	03/00	NA	01/02	NA	21/03
Tamil Nadu	2 (1 in stone quarry)	03/01 (1 death & 1 injury in stone mine)	13/00	02/04	00/01	00/02	01/03	21/11
Andhra Pradesh	NA	10/00 (stone quarry)	03/00	NA	NA	NA	NA	13/00
Kerala	NA	NA	02/00 (1 journalist)	NA	00/00	01/00 (1987 incident)	NA	03/00
Total	08	25/01	48/09	05/10	00/02	02/06	01/03	89/31

**NA:- Not Available. *Out of total deaths and injuries 23 deaths and 1 injury has taken place in accidents at stone mining sites. (12 deaths in Karnataka, 10 in Andhra Pradesh, 1 death and injury in Tamil Nadu). Similarly, 2 deaths (1 drowning in Tamil Nadu and 1 road accident in Kerala) have occurred in stone quarry pits. These 26 deaths are excluded in final summary below.*

The 5 south Indian states have seen at least 64 deaths and 30 injuries on account of sand mining related violence and accidents between December 2020 and March 2022. Nearly 47 people were killed and 9 faced injuries due to road accidents involving sand mining vehicles in this period.

Out of total, just 3 states of Karnataka (19), Telangana (21) and Tamil Nadu (19) have accounted for 59 deaths and all injuries in sand mining related incidents.

The accidents and mine collapse incidents have taken lives of 25 people mainly mine workers of which 23 casualties have taken place in stone mining quarries in just two states of Karnataka (12) and Andhra Pradesh (10). In addition to this, 7 people have died after drowning in sand mine pits and 6 of the total deaths occurred in Telangana state.

The zone has also seen 8 people being murdered by sand mafias including 5 common citizens, 1 activist and 2 government officials while 21 people getting injured in attacks by illegal sand miners which includes 10 common citizens, 2 activists and 06 government officials.

We could not come over any report on the subject from Union Territory of Puducherry in this period.

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Note:- The figures compiled here are indicative based on various media reports we have come across for the reporting period so far. There could be several more sand mining violence and death incidents going unreported, being reported as routine accidents without revealing critical information or have remained uncovered by us. Also there is hardly any follow ups on people critically injured in attacks by mafias and hit by sand trucks. The actual death toll and injuries by unabated riverbed mining activities in South Zone states could be higher than numbers mentioned here.