

APPENDICES

Girl, 11, goes missing from Anandnagar

Vishwa Patel, a class 6 student of Vidhyanagar School, left home on Friday to attend a wedding reception in her society and did not return

JIGNESH VORA



Cops clueless about missing Vishwa

JCP Ajay Tomar held a meeting with cops to review all aspects of the case; to take help of CID Crime

Ahmedabad Mirror Bureau
amfeedback@indiatimes.com

The investigation in the mysterious disappearance of 11-year-old Vishwa Patel near her home at Mira Mangal Flats in Anandnagar on January 27 is heading nowhere it seems. The reason behind her disappearance is yet to be known.

A review meeting was held by Joint Commissioner of Police Sector-I Ajay Tomar on Thursday to discuss the issue.

The police are looking at all aspects of the case. The police are not able to decide whether Vishwa was kidnapped or she ran away from home. According to sources, the city police will be taking help from the Missing Cell as well as Human Trafficking Cell of CID Crime in this regard.

This apart, residents of Mira Mangal Flats and the neighbouring societies will be questioned by the police.

A class VI student of Vidhyanagar High School, Vishwa had gone missing after attending a wedding in the



Vishwa Patel is missing since January 27

Anandnagar. She had left her house between 1.30 pm and 2 pm on January 27 to attend a marriage reception in the

SQUAD FOR MISSING KIDS ITSELF MISSING

With 26 minors missing in Feb alone, need for a special squad is sorely felt. Time lapse, insufficient information database and ineffective tracking system minimises kids' chances of coming back home

Mehul Jani
@timesgroup.com

Ahmedabad has misplaced its young. In February alone, 26 minors have been reported missing. There is little that the police can do to trace the kids as their missing person squad is missing, too.

Of the 26 minors missing, 12 are girls. The youngest child is 5 years old, the eldest 17 years old. Eleven children are between 11 and 15 years of age, and 13 fall in the 16-20 years bracket. Most of these children remain traceless except for odd ones like Rohan Patel and Parthik Patel, Class 9 students of Mangaldeep School in Nava Vadaj who ran away to Mumbai to be a star like Salman Khan. They returned home on their own volition.

APATHETIC COPS
The cops' record in tracing missing children is dismal. Take the case of Vishwa Patel who went missing on January 27 after attending a wedding in the common plot of her society in Vejalpur. Over 200 policemen are looking for the girl but a month later, they remain clueless.

Not much importance is given to deal with missing persons. Many a times, relatives find it tough to get an FIR registered. The response they receive is 'wait for a day or two. The missing person will come back on his own'.

Even when a complaint is registered, the biggest hindrance is police investigation or lack thereof.

Atish Desai, a 12-year-old resident of Kabir Chowk in Sabarmati, went

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Form emergency system to trace missing kids: Parents

More than 700 people gathered at Law Garden to pressure government and police to take such cases seriously

Zahid Qureshi
@timesgroup.com

Misfortune is a great leveller. No one knows this better than parents of missing children who gathered in force at Law Garden on Wednesday to decide on the future course of action to tackle the issue. Whether the voices belonged to the rich or the poor, the young or the old, the question was the same: Where's our child? Forming a pressure group, they demanded that the authorities form an emergency system like 108 to trace missing children.

Over 700 people took part in the meeting where parents of missing children from across the state wanted the government to remove inadequacies in the state machinery and enable it to find their children. "We need a mechanism where a parent can report a missing child immediately. If the police are short-staffed, funds should be allotted to reward those who find missing kids. This would encourage the public to be on the lookout," suggested Rajendra Padachi, a Khokha resident whose son Kartik is missing for 45 days now.

Most parents voiced their grouse against the police. "They do not file a complaint immediately. They ask us to wait for 24 hours by which time a child



Tears flowed down parents' cheeks as they exhorted government to strengthen state machinery so their kids could be traced

can reach another state! If somehow a complaint is registered, they make no concentrated efforts to trace the child. More often than not, they claim the child ran away due to the parent's fault," said parents.

"The police told me to inform them when I find my son. What are they there for if I am to find my son on my own," said a teary-eyed father who refused to be named fearing police harassment.

With lack of proper tracking mechanisms, parents rely mostly on unsubstantiated information and rush to different places on hearing rumours of

children who resemble their kids being spotted in the area. Or they stick poster of their children at hospitals, orphanages and public institutions.

Mehram Khamana, 15, went missing in August 2010. He was an orphan from Rajkot who was living with his sister in Paldi before he disappeared. "Whenever we visit the police station, they make us wait for 2-3 hours. Then they ask us to come the next day as they do not have time to deal with us. But they do nothing to trace the child," said Mehram's sister.

Manish Baria, 16, went missing from Makarpura in Vadodara on

September 26.

"The cops did nothing to trace him. After a while, we found that their records showed he had been traced. When we pointed it out, they apologised and put him back in the missing list," said his parents.

Mukesh Patel, whose son Sagar is missing since December 20, said, "I felt lonely in my search for my son till I met Vishwa Patel and Kartik's parents. On seeing so many parents gathered here, I am hopeful that if we stand together we might get our kids back. At least, we will force the government to take up the issue of missing kids seriously."

DEEPTI THAKUR

WHERE ARE THE MISSING KIDS?

YEAR	REGISTERED MISSING	FOUND	STILL MISSING
2008	2655	2286	369
2009	2681	2196	485
2010	2890	2186	704
2011	2558	974	1584
Total:	10784	5642	3142

WEBSITE LAUNCHED

A website — www.searchmychild.in — was launched at the meet where 78 kids were registered as missing. Sanjay Joshi, a human rights activist, said, "We will put up the name, photograph, contact number and other details of these children on the website. This will help us reach more people and attract parents who are yet to find their children."

Spotted in the crowd were two young kids, Dhruv, 13, and Meet, 10, were there for their mother. "Our mother Ramaben went missing from Bapunagar a month ago. We heard they was a meeting for missing kids at Law Garden. We thought we could find someone to look for our mother here. Please bring her back," they pleaded.

Four teens go missing from Khokhra

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: Four teens went missing from their school in Khokhra on Monday. Police officials said that the group might have left home without informing their family members.

According to Khokhra police officials, Gopi Kishan Naikar, 17, his brother Suraj, 16, his sister Manisha, 14, and cousin Jayesh, 11, all residents of Yalavnagar, Hatkeshwar, study at Municipal Tamil School in Khokhra and go to school in the morning together. As per a complaint by Nagraj Naikar, Gopi, Suraj and Manisha's maternal uncle and Jayesh's father, the group went to school on Monday and did not return at their usual time. They searched for them at school and their friends' residences, but in vain. They went to police officials who asked them to wait for a day and registered a missing persons' report on Tuesday evening.

"Gopi, Suraj and Manisha were living with their maternal grandmother Sneeta and Nagraj after their mother Raswati died six years ago. Their fa-



The children who disappeared from their school

ther had left home 12 years ago. Except Jayesh, none of them are good at studies. Gopi studies in class V and Suraj studies in class VII. We believe that they have left home intentionally. We are contacting their relatives to know their whereabouts and have also informed city police control room about the incident," said a Khokhra police official.

The city police are in a tizzy as a number of missing children complaints have started pouring in from beginning of the year. While some got solved, some remain a mystery.

Website launched to find state's vanished children

Ahmedabad: A group of parents whose children have gone missing launched a website and a Facebook page on Tuesday to engage web users to search for the children. The website will also become a meeting ground for the parents, said the website hosts. Sanjay Joshi, a human rights activist, told TOI that they have launched www.searchmychild.in on the eve of the state-level meet of parents of the missing children that will be held at Law Garden on 4 pm on Wednesday. TNN

