

14 JUL 2002

Punjab pupil dies after beating

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, July, 13. — A student died yesterday of his injuries during a beating by his teacher in Ludhiana on Monday.

Police said Ms Jinder Kaur hit Jagroop Singh, a student of class X at the Government Senior Secondary School in Pakhowalthe, repeatedly on the head with a cane. He had failed to bring a notebook to school. The victim became unconscious and was taken to Guru Tegh Bhadur Hospital in Ludhiana.

His condition deteriorated and he was transferred to

Arora Nureo Centre. A CAT scan and an MRI showed he was suffering from brain haemorrhage.

The doctors at found his right side was paralysed and he may have lost the power of speech. He was shifted to the ICU on Wednesday. He died after suffering cardi-thoracic arrests.

The victim's family has registered an FIR under sections 302 (murder), 337 and 338 of the IPC against the teacher. The sub-divisional magistrate (Rajkot), Mr Ajmer Singh, has started an inquiry into the matter. The district education officer, Mr Bachi-

tter Singh, suspended Ms Kaur on Thursday.

The victim's father, Mr Lakhbir Singh, said corporal punishment was common in the school, but the authorities had not taken any action on the guardians' complaints. "The teacher responsible for my son's death had a record of inflicting harsh punishments on students."

The SP (headquarters), Mr Amarjit Singh, said: "Many complaints are being forwarded by the parents that their wards were being mistreated by the teachers and specially by Ms Kaur."

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