

3 BROTHERS THRASHED IN VIRAR AFTER ONE OBJECTS TO OFFENSIVE REMARKS AGAINST AMBEDKAR, DALIT LEADERS

By Ram Parmar, Mumbai Mirror | Oct 13, 2015



Jeet, Chetan and Sagar at Sanjeevani hospital in Virar on Monday; (inset) the injury on Jeet's back

Incident took place when 25-year-old Sagar Ingle went for a party on Sunday night; the police have booked 30 people for rioting and assault, and arrested three.

Three Dalit brothers were stripped and assaulted by a 50-strong mob after one of them objected to offensive remarks against Dr B R Ambedkar and other Dalit leaders. The police have booked 30 people for the crime that took place in Virar West on Sunday night. Three have been arrested so far.

Sagar Ingle, 25, Jeet and Chetan are now being treated at Sanjeevani hospital in Virar for multiple injuries. The victims are the sons of a corporator from the Vasai-Virar Municipal Corporation.

It all began when Sagar, who owns a mobile repair shop, received a call from a school friend inviting him for a party. The friend, Satish Bagwe, told him that he had also called their former classmates. Though a non-drinker, Sagar decided to meet his friends and headed for the venue - an under-construction building at MB Estate in Virar East.

Bagwe apart, Sagar told the police, there were seven people, who were not his schoolmates. But Bagwe allegedly insisted that he stayed there. The group started drinking and soon their talks veered into Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech on Sunday.

Modi was in the city to lay the foundation stone of Ambedkar Memorial, where he extolled the Dalit icon and many other leaders, including Savitribai Phule. The drunken men started berating Dr Ambedkar and calling the other leaders names.

"They blamed Dr Ambedkar for reservations and made many offensive remarks against the other

leaders. They said Modi was using the Dalit card only for political gains. I objected to their uncharitable remarks and said I would call my brother Jeet who is a TV journalist if they didn't stop," said Sagar from the hospital.

Enraged at Sagar's warning, the men thrust a beer bottle into his mouth and forced him to drink the alcohol. They sprayed beer on him and assaulted him. Sagar somehow managed to call his brothers. By the time Jeet and Chetan reached the spot, the group had organised a mob of nearly 50 people.

The hooligans led by one Gaurav Raut attacked the trio with iron rods, hockey sticks and wooden planks. Raut allegedly tried to smash Sagar's head with a stone. Jeet then informed his father Pandurang Ingle. The mob dispersed after Pandurang reached the scene with the police.

Shrikrishna Kokata, additional superintendent of police from Vasai, said they have registered a case of rioting and assault against 30 people. The police have identified the main accused as Raut, Bagwe, Sagar Koregaonkar, Selvin Martin and Santosh Sonawane. Kokata said, "We have also booked the main accused under the State Atrocities Act. While Koregaonkar, Martin and Sonawane have been arrested, we are looking for the others."