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**THE TIMES OF INDIA**

## Dalit lynched for 'stealing' cellphone

TNN, Jun 13, 2010, 02:40am IST

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**SASARAM:** A man was lynched at Torana village under Sheosagar police station of Rohtas district on Saturday allegedly for stealing a cellphone, said police. This is the tenth incident of lynching of a Dalit-Adivasi in Rohtas and Kaimur districts over the past two years.

Sources said Buchan Musahar of Mojari village under Sheosagar PS went to Torana village to catch rats. While drinking water from a hand pump after finishing his job, villagers gathered there and started thrashing him allegedly for stealing a mobile phone. Though he repeatedly kept on denying the charge, the mob kept on beating him up. Later, his body was dumped before the house of a chowkidar. Even after two hours, police failed to reach the spot.

The spurt in the lynching of Dalits, accusing them of being thieves, has raised a question mark on the functioning of the police. In fact, this has been going on for sometime now. On August 6, 2009, five Dalits, alleged to be thieves, were stoned to death by the people of Kudra village in Kaimur district.

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