

## School bus accident, thrashing of woman by cops belie good governance claims: Khaira

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Sukhpal Singh Khaira, former Congress MLA from Bholath while highlighting horrific accident killing 13 school children and broadaylight thrashing of a woman by policemen said it exposed, belied and trashed the bogus claims of good governance and development by the SAD-BJP government.

"Today's newspapers are splashed with two tantalizing and startling incidents of 13 school children dead in an accident and the brutal beating of a woman in Tarn Taran, instead of rendering justice. These gory incidents in fact present the true picture of a dismal, disorganized and dilapidated affairs of a once glorious Punjab."

Khaira rued that more than 5,000 people lose their lives in road accidents annually in Punjab but it is still not enough to draw the attention of Sukhbir Badal.

"During the last five years as an elected representative, I tried my best to raise the issue of road accidents in the Vidhan Sabha but to no avail. No meaningful discussion could ever take place despite my best efforts, leave aside finding a solution."

The former MLA said, "Similarly, police brutality is the order of the day, the way the woman and her father were beaten and thrashed by policemen, clearly indicate to complete anarchy, jungle raj and breakdown of the law and order mechanism. The killing of an ASI, breaking of the leg of an AIG, tearing of the uniform of a Home Guard jawan and spate of rapes across Punjab, have failed to wake up the government from its deep slumber."

"The fact is that the real issues concerning the ordinary people have taken a back seat including education, health care, unemployment, drugs, road accidents, law and order. Instead of focusing on these vital issues, the Deputy CM Sukhbir Badal was busy in Moga bypoll accusing Sonia Gandhi of liking Pizza's or Capt Amarinder Singh having fondness for drinks and chicken. Not once did Sukhbir Badal mention the above stated issues of the people during his campaign," Khaira pointed.

An economic survey conducted by Cato Institute of America in collaboration with known Indian economists, such as Swaminathan Aiyar and Ashok Gulati, Chairman Agriculture Price Commission has put Punjab at 12th position behind even states like Bihar, Chhattisgarh not to mention Gujarat or Haryana. But according to Badal duo, Punjab is on the top in all spheres, Khaira said.

Khaira demanded an emergency session of the Vidhan Sabha to fix accountability at the political level for complete breakdown of the constitutional working in Punjab.

"The CM and the Deputy CM must own responsibility for these incidents and discuss threadbare in Vidhan Sabha to find solutions and not mere lip service or else Punjab would continue to suffer."