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## 1. Gujarat fake encounter cases: SC directs state govt to share committee report with petitioners

- What is Justice Bedi report on Gujarat fake encounters?
- What are "fake encounters"?
- When do civil servants appear in corrupt practices such as fake encounters?
- What are the ethical issues against and in support of encounters?

**GS paper 4 (Ethical concerns and dilemmas in government)**

**In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.**

**The above article has been retrieved from:**

Express

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Indian Express. Retrieved from

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/gujarat-encounter-cases-sc-directs-state-govt-to-share-committee-report-with-petitioners-5529873/>

**What is the context about?**

- The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Gujarat government to share the copy of the report of Justice HS

Bedi committee on alleged fake encounters between 2002 and 2007 with the petitioners.

- ❑ Appearing for the state government, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had earlier opposed sharing the report with petitioners.
- ❑ Solicitor General stated that Justice Bedi had submitted the final report “without taking views of the other members of the Monitoring Authority in contradistinction to the practice followed while submitting the earlier interim reports”.

### **What is Justice Bedi report on Gujarat fake encounters?**

- ❑ The Special Task Force (STF) headed by Justice H S Bedi (retired) was asked to monitor the investigation of 17 encounter cases in Gujarat between 2002 and 2006.
- ❑ Among the earliest of these 17 encounters was that of Samir Khan Pathan, who was shot dead on October 22, 2002, by a police team led by Tarun Barot at Usmanpura, a suburb of Ahmedabad.
- ❑ Police claimed that Pathan was a Jaish-e-Muhammad operative who had intended to assassinate then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi.

### **What are "fake encounters"?**

Fake encounters, are extrajudicial executions, usually of people in custody, generally staged to appear as though they occurred in gun battles.

## **When do civil servants appear in corrupt practices such as fake encounters?**

Civil Servants may resort to such acts bases on reasons like:

- Seeking revenge on the suspects for killing their colleagues and also incentives from the governments for eliminating them in the form of promotions or awards
- Sense of Accomplishment: When a police eliminates a suspected criminal, it gives a sense of performing their duties as their main duty is to safeguard the lives of citizens.
- Lack of trust in the institutions like court of law: Because of delays in the justice delivery systems, civil services may feel helpless to stop crime even when they are doing their duty well.
- Inhumanity of suspected criminals: Based on the general public opinion, civil servants may also come to a conclusion that someone like Veerappan is actually a devil and not a human and human rights don't apply to them.

## **What are the ethical issues against and in support of encounters?**

### **Ethical Issues against encounter killings :**

- Can the state/individual take someone's life without giving the person an appropriate chance to defend. Wouldn't this imply the subversion of human liberty and

life by the institution who guaranteed to save it, except under exceptional circumstances.

- ❑ Such encounters can foment a trend of killings on the pretext of giving justice, thus putting life of common man at stake, paving way for chaos and anarchy.

### **Ethical Issues which support encounter killings**

- ❑ The suspected culprits are escaping and may prove to be a danger for the common man sometime later. Hence, its necessary to do away with them for the greater good of the society.
- ❑ Can an individual keep the state and judiciary on its toes, which means the state has lesser time to give to other problems, thus harming the collective good.