

Yogi govt directed to pay Rs 25,000 each to 70 girls stripped in Muzaffarnagar school

NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued summons to the Muzaffarnagar District Magistrate to appear before it on December 29 over the alleged stripping of 70 girls in a government school in Uttar Pradesh. The NHRC in its recent order also pressed the Uttar Pradesh government to pay compensation of 25,000 each to the 70 girls who were forced to strip by the warden of a government school in Muzaffarnagar to check for menstruation and submit a compliance report. The warden was reportedly angered by bloodstains found in a toilet of the school.

The summons was sent through the Chief Secretary of the State, who shall get the summons served to

the District Magistrate and ensure its compliance on time. This comes on a petition and subsequent submissions filed by human rights lawyer and Supreme Court advocate Radhakanta Tripathy, who had sought legal action against the wrongdoers and compensation to the victims.

Tripathy, in his plea, mentioned that the girls alleged that they were made to sit naked in the classroom during the search and alleged that though the report of the District Primary Education Officer has indicted the warden concerned but no effective steps were taken by the Education Department against her.

On perusal of the reports submitted by the state, the NHRC has observed that the warden Surekha Tomar had directed the minors to strip.

सेवानिवृत्त जस्टिस अवतार बने मानवाधिकार आयोग के सदस्य

जागरण संवाददाता, हमीरपुर : भोरंज उपमंडल के गांव कड़ोहता के रहने



अवतार चंद डोगरा

● जागरण

वाले सेवानिवृत्त न्यायाधीश अवतार चंद डोगरा को प्रदेश सरकार ने मानवाधिकार आयोग का सदस्य नियुक्त किया गया है। वह तीन साल तक इस पद पर सेवाएं देंगे। हिमाचल मानवाधिकार आयोग में अध्यक्ष के अलावा दो सदस्य होते हैं। राज्यपाल बंडारू दत्तात्रेय की ओर से उनकी नियुक्ति की अधिसूचना जारी की गई है।

हमीरपुर शहर के प्रतापनगर में रह रहे डोगरा ने साल 1977 में पंजाब विवि चंडीगढ़ से एलएलबी की पढ़ाई की थी। दो साल से ज्यादा समय तक

पंजाब हरियाणा हाईकोर्ट में वकालत की। जनवरी, 1980 से जिला हमीरपुर में वकालत शुरू की। जिला बार एसोसिएशन हमीरपुर के दो बार प्रधान रहे। पहली जून, 2000 को अतिरिक्त जिला एवं सत्र न्यायाधीश का पद धर्मशाला अदालत में ज्वाइन किया। फिर अतिरिक्त जिला एवं सत्र न्यायाधीश शिमला में भी रहे।

2003 से 2005 तक जिला सत्र न्यायाधीश पुणे में तैनात रहे। 2005 से जून 2008 तक जिला व सत्र न्यायाधीश मंडी में रहे। बतौर सेक्रेटरी लॉ हिमाचल सरकार में जुलाई, 2008 से लेकर 2012 तक तैनात रहे। नौकरी के आखिरी तीन माह बतौर जिला व सत्र न्यायाधीश शिमला में तैनात रहे और वहां से ही सेवानिवृत्त हुए। फिर दिल्ली में बतौर चेयरमैन सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के पद पर भी रहे।

Pay ₹25k each to 70 girls stripped in school: NHRC

New Delhi: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued summons to the Muzaffarnagar district magistrate to appear before it on December 29 over the alleged stripping of 70 girls in a government school in Uttar Pradesh.

The NHRC, in its recent order, also pressed the Uttar Pradesh government to pay compensation of 25,000 each to the 70 girls who were forced to strip by the warden of a government school in Muzaffarnagar to check for menstruation and submit a compliance report. The warden was reportedly angered by bloodstains found in a toilet of the school.

The summons were sent through the UP chief secretary, who shall get the summons served to the district magistrate and ensure its compliance on time.

This comes on a petition and subsequent submissions filed by human rights lawyer and Supreme Court advocate Radhakanta Tripathy, who had sought legal action against the wrongdoers and compensation to the victims.

Tripathy, in his plea, mentioned that the girls alleged that they were made to sit naked in the classroom and alleged that though the report of the district primary education officer has indicted the warden concerned but no effective steps were taken by the education department against her.

On perusal of the reports submitted by the state, the NHRC observed that the warden Surekha Tomar had directed the minors to strip. She was found guilty of inhuman behavior with the minor girl students, Tripathy said and added that the magistrate who inquired into the incident has confirmed the allegations. ANI

AIIMS asked to explain SC candidate rejection

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The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) have sought a response from AIIMS, Delhi on why a doctor who did his postgraduation and senior residency from AIIMS was not selected for a contractual post of assistant professor in geriatric medicine though he was the only candidate. The scheduled castes commission sought a response from AIIMS director Dr Randeep Guleria as it had decided to investigate the complaint received from Dr Harjit Singh Bhatti, the sole applicant for the interviews conducted for the post of assistant professor for three months.

Dr Bhatti did post-graduation in geriatric medicine and three years of senior residency in the geriatric medicine department of AIIMS. He fulfilled all eligibility criteria

Dr Bhatti fulfilled all eligibility criteria such as publications and number of years of senior residency. Yet, at the interview held on August 25 for the post, he was rejected

such as publications and number of years of senior residency. Yet, at the interview held on August 25, for the post which was reserved for SC category, he was rejected. When contacted, Dr Guleria said the selection "is based on an interview conducted with an external expert who grades the candidates and recommends if the candidate is suitable for a job at AIIMS". "It has happened before that in a walk-in interview no candidate is selected despite more than one candidate appearing. It has happened in other departments also," added Dr Guleria.

Full report on www.tol.in

Take action against cop, MLA, NHRC tells TS DGP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

NHRC has asked the DGP M Mahendar Reddy to take action against Inspector Saidulu and MLA Maganti Gopinath in connection with a complaint received from Karne Srisailam in respect of Neelam Bhargava Ram.

In a letter addressed to the DGP, NHRC Assistant Registrar Indrajeet said the complainant alleged Ram recently expressed his concern on Twitter regarding demolition of a local Hanuman temple.

On September 25, he was called by Saidulu and was abused in the name of caste. He was further threatened to implicate in a false case of rape. Subsequently, the victim attempted to commit suicide by consuming poison.

'Need to enumerate, identify, register migrant workers'

SANDEEP CHACHRA, executive director of ActionAid Association, in an email interview with Uddalok Bhattacharya, speaks of the lockdown, the tasks ahead and the changes in the foreign contribution law. Edited excerpts.

Do you think the lockdown that followed the arrival of the pandemic was done in haste? And the announcement of Shramik Special trains almost 45 days after that contributed to the situation's deterioration?

The pandemic merely exposed the pre-existing inequalities and precariousness of millions of people. The Shramik Special trains were an essential need. If announced sooner, they would have eased a lot of stress for migrant workers. The ActionAid Association survey of more than 11,000 workers in May showed that 10 per cent of the respondents had accessed government transport assistance by then. With hindsight, it appears we could have planned our response to the pandemic better.

Tell us something about the workings of the free food grain scheme. As part of the Aatmanirbhar package, it was announced that there were 80 million migrants. Next we heard the government had no data on migrant workers.

The extension of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana to distribute 5 kg of free rice or wheat with 1 kg of pulses to the National Food Security Act beneficiaries till November is a welcome one. Given that food insecurity will continue into 2021, it should be extended and expanded. The lesson of the lockdown is that the public distribution system needs strengthening.

There have been conflicting figures on migrant workers. In early May, the chief labour commissioner of India had estimated that 2.6 million migrants were stranded across the country, and the solicitor general informed the Supreme Court that close to 9.8 million migrant workers had been transported back home. We feel that these numbers



SANDEEP CHACHRA
Executive Director,
ActionAid Association

are gross underestimations.

The Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan had announced that free food grains would be distributed to 80 million migrants for two months in May. This had to be extended till August because in the initial months, states ran into roadblocks in identifying the migrant workers who were eligible. There is need to enumerate, identify and register migrant workers.

In your reports that went into the writing of the National Human Rights Commission advisory, you talked of the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan. How did the government select the 116 districts for this? Do you foresee execution difficulties with the Mahatma Gandhi National

Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) as a parallel scheme?

These were districts that reported large concentrations of returnee migrant workers, and they are in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Odisha. The Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan was announced for 125 days for a focused implementation of 25 categories of public works/activities in 116 districts. The coverage needs to be expanded because these districts are not unique in experiencing depressed wages, high unemployment and distress migration.

Further, the Abhiyan should not be limited by the imagination of the MGNREGS. As the objectives of the scheme include providing livelihood opportunities to migrant workers and similarly affected rural populations in accordance with their skills, in that sense, the scheme is an extension rather than one parallel to the MGNREGS.

Finally, in what way will the amendments to the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act affect you?

The stipulation on prohibiting the transfer of funds without the prior permission of the Central government prevents foreign contributions going to any other person or organisation. This amendment is likely to adversely impact the ecosystem of civil society organisations because most often a lot of collaboration and partnerships take place with foreign contributions being distributed among smaller organisations. Secondly, the clause about limiting administrative expenses to 20 per cent of the foreign contribution received (from 50 per cent earlier) will create a major challenge for ground work with communities.

The amendments are steps in a worrying direction. They will restrict the space civil society needs to have in any democracy.

Full interview on www.business-standard.com

Plea seeks transfer of PILs on uniform marriage age from Delhi, Raj HCs to SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A plea was filed in the Supreme Court on Thursday seeking transfer of two pleas from the high courts of Delhi and Rajasthan to it on the issue of 'Uniform Minimum Age of Marriage for Men and Women' to "avoid multiplicity of litigations and conflicting views".

The Delhi High Court had in August last year issued notice to the Centre and the Law Commission of India on BJP leader and lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay's plea seeking uniform marriage age for men and women.

On February 5 this year the Rajasthan High Court sought response from the Centre and others on a similar PIL filed by one Abdul Mannan.

Seeking an authoritative pronouncement and to avoid multiplicity of litigation, a fresh plea seeking transfer of these cases to the top court has been filed by Updhayay through his lawyer Ashwani Kumar Dubey.

The transfer plea has been filed in order to "secure gender justice, gender equality and dignity of women", the lawyer said.

Currently various laws

state that minimum age for getting married should be 18 in case of women and 21 for men.

"Petitioner is compelled to approach this Court as more PILs may be filed in other High Courts seeking 'Uniform Minimum Age of Marriage for Men and Women'. Therefore, in order to avoid multiplicity of the litigations and conflicting views on interpretation of Articles 14, 15, 21 and judgments on gender justice and gender equality, the Court may be pleased to transfer these PILs and decide them collectively," said the transfer plea filed under Article 139A of the Constitution.

Alternatively, the plea has sought a direction to the Centre to take appropriate steps to remove the anomalies in the minimum age of marriage and make it 'gender neutral, religion neutral and uniform for all citizens' in spirit of the fundamental rights of equality and right to life and International conventions.

"Alternatively, being custodian of the Constitution and protector of the fundamental rights, declare that the discriminatory minimum age of marriage offends

Articles 14, 15, 21 and international conventions. Hence, minimum age of marriage shall be 21 years for all citizens," it said.

While men are permitted to get married at the age of 21, women are married when they are just 18, it said.

"The distinction is based on patriarchal stereotypes, has no scientific backing, perpetrates de jure and de facto inequality against women, and goes completely against the global trends," it said.

The differential bar discriminates against women thus contravenes the fundamental principles of gender equality, gender justice and dignity of women and offend Articles 14, 15, 21 of the Constitution and international conventions, it said.

The petitioner said more than 125 countries in the world have a uniform age of marriage for men and women and the National Human Rights Commission, pursuant to the National Conference on Child Marriage held in New Delhi in August 2018, had also recommended that India follow suit.



Issue of promotion of Rakta Tirtha NHRC warns Bhadrak DM of coercive action

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Expressing serious displeasure over the lackadaisical attitude of the Bhadrak district Collector in doing the needful and submission of requisite report on the protection and promotion of Rakta Tirtha in Eram, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in its recent order has warned of coercive action against him.

Issuing the warning notice on a petition filed by activist and lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy, the NHRC sought the requisite report within four weeks.

In 2014 the NHRC had asked the Odisha Chief Secretary to submit an ATR over the issue. Since then the issue is making rounds in the bureaucratic juggernauts.

Observing the fact that Tripathy, had filed the petition in 2014, six years back, for the protection and promotion of Rakta Tirtha, Eram, which is considered as the second Jalianwala Bagh, where 29 persons were killed and 56 injured by the British Forces on September 28, 1942, the NHRC expressed ire over the delaying attitude of the Bhadrak administration seriously.

Tripathy also sought, social welfare schemes like house with toilets under Awas Yojana, food under NFSA, other benefits to the eligible members of the family of the martyrs and freedom fighters of Rakta Tirtha.

Despite several reminders, no report was received from the Collector. Keeping in view the matter is



nearly six years old and relates to the martyrs and freedom fighters families and their well being and overall development of Eram, the NHRC directed the Collector to submit requisite report within four weeks positively or the commission would be constrained to invoke coercive

process under Section-13 of the Protection of Human Rights, Act, 1993.

Recently, Bhadrak MP Manjulata Mandal, raised the issue during the monsoon session of the Parliament.

She demanded Eram be given the tag of a 'national tourist' spot.

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