

HEAVY CLOUD

New Delhi's response to charges of rising religious intolerance in the country has usually been a firm denial followed by a reminder of India's pluralist tradition. But the international scrutiny persists — and for good reason. Among the several red flags raised by the European Union Special Representative for Human Rights with the Centre and the National Human Rights Commission was rising communal tension under the watch of the Narendra Modi government. This rap over the knuckles had been preceded by a report by a panel in the United States of America that has recommended to the Joe Biden administration that India, along with some other nations, be identified as 'count[ries] of particular concern' because of periodic glimpses of bigotry. India's response notwithstanding, the body of evidence to the contrary is quite substantial. Members of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad have warned the vice-chancellor of the Banaras Hindu University not to attend an *iftar*; *sangh parivar* activists have demanded that the railways should move an entire rail station but not a temple, which is encroaching on a particular platform, exposing the hypocrisy of the Bharatiya Janata Party's bulldozer drive against mostly Muslim properties in the name of anti-encroachment; these shameful incidents are accompanied by almost daily indignities and violence perpetrated on minorities, provocative conduct by religious processions taken out by self-appointed guardians of Hinduism, as well as the capitulation of institutions in the face of such intimidation.

The consequences of the fringe taking over the BJP's political centre will be deleterious at a number of levels. India's fragile social contract would implode; its seduction for the global market as a destination for business and investment would suffer; international condemnation would lead to diplomatic isolation that can, in turn, weaken New Delhi's leverage in a world where geo-strategic imperatives are changing with lightning speed. The *Hindutva* ecosystem has, thus far, fended off these allegations by raising the spectre of a phobia against Hindus, a ploy commonly used by majoritarian regimes. But, as the crisis in Sri Lanka shows, this strategy has its limitations. A divided India would cause irreparable damage not only to the nation itself but also to the global project to sustain inclusive democracies. That would be an unmitigated disaster. The resistance to this growing threat must come from the vanguard of Indian democracy.

Heavy Cloud: Editorial on consequences of the fringe taking over BJP's political centre

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/opinion/heavy-cloud-editorial-on-consequences-of-the-fringe-taking-over-bjps-political-centre/cid/1863178>

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Woman found hanging in UP hospital on 1st day of work, case of gang rape-murder lodged

<https://www.indiatoday.in/crime/story/up-woman-found-hanged-to-death-unnao-hospital-gang-rape-murder-case-1944015-2022-05-01>

The body of a young woman was found hanging from an iron bar behind a private hospital in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao district. She had reportedly started working at the hospital a day before she was found dead.

The incident was reported at New Jeevan Hospital in Dullapurwa village on Saturday. The deceased has been identified as Naziya, 19, a resident of Tikana village. She had arrived at the hospital on Friday to work as an aide.

Naziya's body was discovered by hospital staff the next day, hanging from an iron bar jutting out of the rear wall of the newly opened medical facility. There was a noose around her neck, a mask was on her face, and a handkerchief-like cloth was in her hands, which were pressed between her chest and the wall.

Hospital staff informed the police, who reached the spot and took the body down, before sending it for post mortem. Employees told the police that Naziya had been sleeping inside the hospital on Friday night. Her body was discovered early the next morning.

Taking to Twitter, Dr. Shashi Panja, Minister in Charge of the Department of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare in West Bengal, said, "Horror from @BJP4UP ruled Uttar Pradesh continues! Young nurse raped on the first day of her job. @India_NHRC, still sleeping?"

The deceased woman's family have alleged that she was murdered and her body hanged behind the hospital afterwards. Based on the complaint of Naziya's mother, police have registered a case of gang rape and murder against four men who work at the hospital.

New Jeevan Hospital was inaugurated by Bangarmau MLA Shrikant Katiyar on April 25.

Residents in limbo, say, abandoned by government too

<http://www.millenniumpost.in/delhi/residents-in-limbo-say-abandoned-by-government-too-476328>

The Haj Manzil near Delhi's Turkman Gate has been home to around 70 senior citizens and students — mostly abandoned to the streets by their families — for over two years now thanks to the Delhi government. But these residents now fear the roof over their heads will soon be gone after orders from the DUSIB to convert the building back into a home for Haj pilgrims. While the building was initially meant for Haj pilgrims, it was converted into a shelter home as the pandemic was beginning. Since then, around 67-68 residents have been living here. But even as these residents have now been left with nowhere to go, the real concern is for senior citizens who have no work and have no family.

Sandeep Sagar who is a caretaker of Haj Manzil shelter home said that the order issued by DUSIB (Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board) which includes that the night shelter code number 626 couldn't be granted an extension and they should hand over the building to be used for housing pilgrims. Arjun Singh, 70, has been staying in the Haj Manzil shelter home since the pandemic. "I don't have a place to go. I have come here from the footpath and in this scorching heat, the government is planning to vacate us to the footpath again. At this age, nobody is giving me work. Where should I live? What should I eat without money? I don't have any family members," he said, teary-eyed.

24-year-old Deepak Kumar from Indore is also a resident of the shelter home. He grew up on the streets and with the help of an NGO had managed to finish his schooling and is now studying at the Delhi University's School of Open Learning while also working at a vaccination centre. "My exams are near and I have to go to the streets again? I am uncertain about my future now," he said. The DUSIB has said that the building must be handed back to authorities to be converted fully back into a home for pilgrims. Now, uncertain about their future, the residents have made desperate pleas to as many authorities as possible. They have written to the local police, the National Human Rights Commission, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Delhi L-G Anil Baijal — seeking that they somehow be rehabilitated or moved to another shelter home. Rajkumar Singh, 46, has been staying in the shelter home for 6 months. He originally belong to Balia, UP and was abandoned by his family. While circumstances brought him to Delhi, he has been diagnosed with a heart condition and has been advised by doctors not to engage in physical labour.

He said, "I have been living with a heart problem and being abandoned by my family members have no place to live? What will I do now? Now I feel, I have been abandoned by the government too. Nobody is there to take care of us."

थाने के अंदर प्रतिबंधित नक्सली संगठन के एक सदस्य की हिरासत में मौत, 5 पुलिसकर्मियों को निलंबित

<https://jantaserishta.com/local/jharkhand/custodial-death-of-a-member-of-banned-naxalite-organization-inside-the-police-station-5-policemen-suspended-1237689>

झारखंड के हजारीबाग जिले के एक पुलिस थाने के अंदर प्रतिबंधित नक्सली संगठन के एक सदस्य की हिरासत में मौत के मामले में पांच पुलिसकर्मियों को निलंबित कर दिया गया है। इन पुलिसकर्मियों पर झूठी में लापरवाही बरतने के आरोप लगे हैं। पीपुल्स लिबरेशन फ्रंट ऑफ इंडिया (पीएलएफआई) के 32 वर्षीय सदस्य नंद किशोर महतो मंगलवार सुबह हजारीबाग के मुफस्सिल थाना के लॉकअप के शौचालय में फंदे से लटका पाया गया था। पीएलएफआई भाकपा (माओवादी) का ही एक अलग समूह है।

हजारीबाग के पुलिस अधीक्षक मनोज रतन चौथे ने बताया कि 25 और 26 अप्रैल की मध्य रात्रि को पीएलएफआई का नक्सली नन्द किशोर महतो गिरफ्तार किया गया और उसे मुफस्सिल थाने में हिरासत में रखा गया था, जहां उसे सुबह हाजत के शौचालय में फांसी से लटकता पाया गया था। चौथे ने बताया कि मौत की सूचना मिलने के तुरंत बाद वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधिकारियों के साथ प्रारंभिक जांच की और हाजत की अभिरक्षा में लगे एक सहायक पुलिस उपनिरीक्षक समेत पांच पुलिस कर्मियों को कर्तव्य में लापरवाही के लिए बुधवार रात को ही तत्काल प्रभाव से निलंबित कर दिया गया।

उन्होंने बताया कि मामले की सीआईडी जांच भी शुरू कर दी गयी है, जबकि दूसरी ओर पुलिस प्रशासन के अनुरोध पर हजारीबाग के जिला एवं सत्र न्यायाधीश सत्यप्रकाश सिन्हा ने मामले की न्यायिक जांच के लिए प्रथम श्रेणी के एक न्यायिक मजिस्ट्रेट को जिम्मेदारी सौंपी है। पुलिस अधीक्षक ने कहा कि न्यायिक मजिस्ट्रेट और पुलिस टीम के निष्कर्षों को राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) को भेजा जाएगा। रांची से आई सीआईडी की टीम भी अलग से जांच करेगी। टीम घटना स्थल का दौरा करेगी और एक एएसआई सहित निलंबित पुलिसकर्मियों से पूछताछ करेगी।

उन्होंने कहा कि महतो, जो पहले भाकपा (माओवादी) से जुड़ा था, हाल ही में जेल से बाहर आया था और पीएलएफआई में शामिल हुआ था। महतो पर हजारीबाग जिले के बड़कागांव और केरेदारी थाना क्षेत्रों में संचालित एनटीपीसी, ओएनजीसी और निर्माण कंपनियों से रंगदारी वसूलने का आरोप था। इसके लिए पुलिस ने एक विशेष जांच दल (एसआईटी) का गठन किया था, जिसने उसे 25 और 26 अप्रैल की दरम्यानी रात को गिरफ्तार किया था।

लूणकरणसर में पुलिस की लापरवाही, नींबू की पेटियों के नीचे दबी महिला, हुई मौत

<https://zeenews.india.com/hindi/india/rajasthan/bikaner/in-lunakaransar-police-negligence-woman-buried-under-lemon-boxes-died/1170439>

बीकानेर के लूणकरणसर में दिनांक 6 अप्रैल को राजमार्ग 62 पर हुए सड़क हादसे को लेकर राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने एसपी को जांच के आदेश दिए हैं. बता दें कि 6 अप्रैल को नींबू से भरे कंटेनर और कैंपर गाड़ी की टक्कर हुई, जिसमें 5 लोगों की मौत हो गई थी. वहीं, हादसे में एक महिला का शव 4 घंटे बाद नींबू की पेटियों के नीचे दबा मिला.

इसको लेकर अधिवक्ता दयानंद सारस्वत ने पुलिस पर लापरवाही का आरोप लगाते हुए राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग को दी. शिकायत में बताया कि सड़क हादसे में पुलिस अधिनियम और अन्य विधिक प्रावधानों के तहत पुलिस का दायित्व बनता है कि हादसों के बाद घटनास्थल का मुआयना करें और सुनिश्चित करें कि घटनास्थल पर अन्य कोई समाधान और बचाव हो सकता है, लेकिन 6 अप्रैल को हुए हादसे में पुलिस ने लापरवाही बरती और घटनास्थल का सही तरह से मुआयना नहीं किया.

इस वजह से एक पूजा नामक महिला नींबू की पेटियों के नीचे दबी रह गई, जिसे मजदूरों और राहगीरों ने देखा और पुलिस को अवगत करवाया. सूचना मिलने के बाद आनन-फानन में पहुंची पुलिस ने महिला को नींबू की पेटियों के नीचे से बाहर निकाला तब तक उसकी मौत हो चुकी थी.

अधिवक्ता सारस्वत ने बताया कि अगर समय पर पुलिस जिम्मेदारी से काम करती तो हो सकता है महिला की जान बच जाती. वहीं अधिवक्ता सारस्वत की शिकायत पर राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने बीकानेर एसपी को जांच के आदेश देकर 8 सप्ताह में रिपोर्ट मांगी है.

HAJ MANZIL SHELTER HOME COULDN'T BE GRANTED AN

Residents in limbo, say, 'abandoned by go

JAGISHA ARORA

NEW DELHI: The Haj Manzil near Delhi's Turkman Gate has been home to around 70 senior citizens and students — mostly abandoned to the streets by their families — for over two years now thanks to the Delhi government. But these residents now fear the roof over their heads will soon be gone after orders from the DUSIB to convert the building back into a home for Haj pilgrims.

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with the help of an NGO to finish his schooling and is working at the Delhi University Open Learning while also acting as a vaccination centre. "I am near and I have to go back to my home again? I am uncertain about my future now," he said.

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