

Amit Shah Is Expected To Inaugurate A National Conference On 'Human Rights In Indian Culture And Philosophy'

<https://www.outlookindia.com/national/amit-shah-is-expected-to-inaugurate-a-national-conference-on-human-rights-in-indian-culture-and-philosophy--news-205096>

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is slated to inaugurate a two-day national conference this week in Delhi during which leading academicians, legal experts, jurists, and others will gather to explore and discuss various subjects, themed on "human rights in Indian culture and philosophy," officials said on Monday.

The event, spread over Jun 30 and July 1, is being hosted by the National Human Rights Commission in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), the NHRC said in a statement. One of the imperatives of this conference on 'Human Rights in Indian Culture and Philosophy' is to "fulfill major lacunae in the study of human rights," it said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate the conference, as the chief guest, at Vigyan Bhawan. He will also present the NHRC human rights short film competition-2021 awards, officials said. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is slated to be the chief guest for the valedictory session of the event that will be held at Ph.D. Chamber of Commerce and Industry here, they said.

"The conference is expected to be highly significant in the understanding of human rights, which formed an integral and defining essence of Indian socio-cultural milieu since time immemorial," the statement read. Leading academicians, scholars, legal experts, jurists, practitioners, and researchers have been invited to explore and discuss various subjects, "like the evolution of human rights in Indian philosophic-historical tradition, its social contexts, manifestation in art and literature, the framework of rule and finally living by the Indian Constitution," it said.

"The cultural traits and the philosophical thoughts in the Indian subcontinent have always hailed a wide spectrum of views and insights on human rights through both writings and practice. For ages, the Indian culture has emphasized the innate nature of human well-being rooted in spiritual, political, and dignified social, cultural, and mental freedom," the NHRC said.

As the temperament of the society has always remained knowledge-centric or spiritual-oriented, the human rights and cultural values have been conceptualized or imagined in a holistic framework of concrete, yet universal abstract multi-dimensional human existence, it said.

"Human Rights' per se, as pronounced in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, although became popular around the 20th CE, the journey of its inherent meaning is an age-old phenomenon, which may be traced out in the rubric of Indian culture and philosophy. The word for 'right' in Indian culture is *adhikara*. Exploring

the early Indian literature we do not come across the word adhikara; but in the overarching framework of kings and their responsibilities ascertained by the Dharma reflect its modern connotations," the statement added.

"India is a country in which 'Dharma' has always been an underlying force and it is interpreted in its original and wider connotation implying an ideal way of life-based on universal principles, social perspectives, and humanistic concern. Dharma although signifies obligations towards society but rights can be deduced from obligations," the statement read.

NHRC chairperson Justice (retd) Arun Kumar Mishra, IGNC Board of Trustee president Ram Bahadur Rai, NHRC members, justice M M Kumar, D M Mulay, and Rajiv Jain, and Secretary-General D K Singh, senior officers, among others would also attend the event. The filmmaker and director of the film 'Samrat Prthiviraj', Chandraprakash Dwivedi is also slated to attend one of the technical sessions, as per the itinerary of the conference.

Exhibits, including photos, relevant to the theme of the conference, would also be displayed on the occasion, the statement added.

Amit Shah to inaugurate national conference on 'human rights in Indian culture and philosophy'

<https://theprint.in/india/amit-shah-to-inaugurate-national-conference-on-human-rights-in-indian-culture-and-philosophy/1014660/>

New Delhi, Jun 27 (PTI) Union Home Minister Amit Shah is slated to inaugurate a two-day national conference this week in Delhi during which leading academicians, legal experts, jurists and others will gather to explore and discuss various subjects, themed on "human rights in Indian culture and philosophy," officials said on Monday.

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External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is slated to be the chief guest for the valedictory session of the event that will be held at PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry here, they said.

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Filmmaker and director of film ‘Samrat Prthviraj’, Chandraprakash Dwivedi is also slated to attend one of the technical sessions, as per the itinerary of the conference. Exhibits, including photos, relevant to the theme of the conference, would also be displayed on the occasion, the statement said. PTI KND RCJ

Home Minister Amit Shah Will Inaugurate The National Conference On 'Human Rights In Indian Culture And Philosophy' In New Delhi On 30th Of June

<https://indiaeducationdiary.in/home-minister-amit-shah-will-inaugurate-the-national-conference-on-human-rights-in-indian-culture-and-philosophy-in-new-delhi-on-30th-of-june/>

New Delhi: Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate the National Conference on 'Human Rights in Indian Culture and Philosophy' in New Delhi on 30th of June. He will also present the NHRC human rights short film competition- 2021 awards. NHRC is organizing the two-day Conference in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts. External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar will be the Chief Guest of the Valedictory session. Conference is expected to be highly significant in understanding of human rights, which formed an integral and defining essence of Indian socio-cultural milieu since time immemorial.

Amit Shah To Inaugurate National Conference On human Rights In Indian Culture And Philosophy

<https://www.republicworld.com/india-news/general-news/amit-shah-to-inaugurate-national-conference-on-human-rights-in-indian-culture-and-philosophy-articleshow.html>

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Indian literature we do not come across the word adhikara; but in the overarching framework of kings and their responsibilities ascertained by the Dharma reflect its modern connotations," the statement added.

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Amit Shah to inaugurate national conference on "human rights in Indian culture and philosophy"

<https://www.nyoooz.com/news/delhi/1683442/amit-shah-to-inaugurate-national-conference-on-human-rights-in-indian-culture-and-philosophy/>

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‘भारतीय संस्कृति और दर्शन में मानवाधिकारों’ पर राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन करेंगे शाह

<https://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/india/shah-to-inaugurate-national-conference-on-human-rights-in-indian-culture-and-philosophy/articleshow/92497236.cms>

नयी दिल्ली, 27 जून (भाषा) केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह इस सप्ताह दिल्ली में दो दिवसीय राष्ट्रीय अधिवेशन का उद्घाटन करेंगे जिसमें जानेमाने शिक्षाविद, न्यायविद और अन्य विद्वान शामिल होंगे और ‘भारतीय संस्कृति तथा दर्शन में मानवाधिकार’ से संबंधित अनेक विषयों पर चर्चा करेंगे। अधिकारियों ने सोमवार को यह जानकारी दी। राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने एक बयान में कहा कि वह इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय कला केंद्र (आईजीएनसीए) के साथ मिलकर 30 जून और एक जुलाई को सम्मेलन का आयोजन कर रहा है। उसने कहा कि इस सम्मेलन का एक उद्देश्य मानवाधिकारों के अध्ययन में बड़े अंतरालों को पाटना

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राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने एक बयान में कहा कि वह इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय कला केंद्र (आईजीएनसीए) के साथ मिलकर 30 जून और एक जुलाई को सम्मेलन का आयोजन कर रहा है। उसने कहा कि इस सम्मेलन का एक उद्देश्य मानवाधिकारों के अध्ययन में बड़े अंतरालों को पाटना है।

अधिकारियों ने बताया कि शाह विज्ञान भवन में सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन करेंगे और मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में इसमें शामिल होंगे। वह एनएचआरसी मानवाधिकार लघु फिल्म प्रतियोगिता 2021 के पुरस्कार भी प्रदान करेंगे।

विदेश मंत्री एस जयशंकर सम्मेलन के समापन समारोह में मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में शामिल होंगे। यह समारोह यहां पीएचडी चैंबर ऑफ कॉमर्स एंड इंडस्ट्री में आयोजित किया जाएगा।

NHRC seeks action-taken report in atrocity case

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/nhrc-seeks-action-taken-report-in-atrocity-case/articleshow/92507204.cms>

Ahmedabad: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), in a communication addressed to the collector and the superintendent of police of Patan district, has sought a report on action taken in a case where the family of a groom from the Dalit community was assaulted for riding a horse during his marriage procession. The district authorities have been asked to provide information as to what action has been taken in the case. The alleged offence occurred at Bhatsan village in Patan district on May 12. People belonging to upper castes allegedly objected to Vijay Parmar riding a horse for the procession. They allegedly even set the marriage pandal on fire. According to Dalit activists in Patan, police arrested 19 people in connection with the case. Dalit activist Kantilal Parmar filed a complaint with the NHRC in the matter. In a letter to the district collector and SP, the NHRC on Monday said, "It is requested that an action-taken report be sent to the commission within four weeks from the date of receipt of this letter." Kantilal Parmar said such atrocities have continued unabated and the state government has failed to stop such human rights violations.

NHRC lens on child abuse in shelter homes

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/nhrc-lens-on-child-abuse-in-shelter-homes/articleshow/92507581.cms>

Bhubaneswar: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed Odisha chief secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra to take action on the recommendations of the special rapporteur, NHRC, on the death and alleged exploitation of children in shelter homes in the state, in general, and in Dhenkanal district, in particular. The NHRC passed this order on June 21 after hearing a petition filed by activist and human rights lawyer, Radhakanta Tripathy, on July 17, 2019. The petitioner alleged that a minor student, Sambhunath Nayak, was found dead at Laxminarayan Gurukul Ashram in Dhenkanal on July 2, 2019. In the same district, minor children were sexually exploited at Good News India Dream Centre shelter home located at Belatikri. Both the ashram and shelter home were running illegally, he added. The commission took cognizance of the case and conducted several hearings since 2019. TNN

NHRC asks Odisha chief secretary to comply with recommendations on shelter home abuse cases

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/nhrc-asks-odisha-chief-secretary-to-comply-with-recommendations-on-shelter-home-abuse-cases/articleshow/92496131.cms>

BHUBANESWAR: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed Odisha chief secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra to take action on the recommendation of the special rapporteur, NHRC on the issue of death and exploitation of children in shelter homes in the state in general and in Dhenkanal district in particular. The rights panel passed this order on June 21 after hearing a petition filed by activist and human rights lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy on July 17, 2019. The petitioner alleged that a minor student Sambhunath Nayak was found dead on July 2, 2019 at Laxminarayan Gurukul Ashram in Dhenkanal district. In the same district, Good News India Dream Centre shelter home located at Belatikri was running for years illegally. In this shelter home, minor children were sexually exploited. Both the ashram and shelter home were running illegally, he added. The commission took cognizance of the case and conducted several hearings since 2019. In the first case, the SP of human rights protection cell (HRPC), Odisha Police in its report submitted before the NHRC in December last year that the Ashram School was closed, and criminal proceedings were initiated against its errant workers. The charge sheet had been forwarded to the court in this case. The death of the minor was natural. All the students were rescued and rehabilitated, said the report. In the second case, a committee had visited the Beltikri shelter home and found that the institution was not registered under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. It had not followed the guidelines under the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). It was found that the victim girls and other inmates were subjected to sexual abuse and molestation by the heads of the shelter home and others. Three separate cases had been registered against accused persons and charge sheets have been filed in this case before the local court. On October 23, 2020 order, the commission had directed Vinod Aggarwal, special rapporteur of eastern zone, to enquire the matter thoroughly and submit the report with recommendations. In his report, the special rapporteur has asked several questions to the government regarding administrative failure in these two cases. However, all such actions were taken only after the occurrence of the incidents and no enquiry report or compliance report has been submitted till date on the recommendations of the special rapporteur. Therefore, the commission directed the Odisha chief secretary to take action on the recommendation of the special rapporteur.

NHRC directs Govt to take steps on abuse of minors in short stay homes

<https://www.thestatesman.com/cities/bhubaneswar/nhrc-directs-govt-take-steps-abuse-minors-short-stay-homes-1503084792.html>

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) directed the State's Chief Secretary to initiate measures on the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur, on the issue of death and exploitation of children in Shelter homes in the State in general and in the Dhenkanal district in particular.

Disposing a petition filed by rights activist and lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy the NHRC passed the order seeking compliance of suggestive measures by the Special Rapporteur.

Tripathy had moved the apex rights panel alleging that a minor inmate Sambhunath Nayak was found dead on 2 July, 2019 in Laxminarayan Gurukul Ashram in Dhenkanal District. In the same district, in Good News India Shelter Home, located at Belatikri orphans, was running for years where minor children were living were sexually exploited besides other violation of legal provisions. Both the schools were running illegally, he alleged.

Earlier expressing serious concern over the report of Dhenkanal District Collector that the Children victims are not covered under Compensation Rules, the NHRC had directed the district administration to move an application immediately before concerned court through Prosecutor under Rule 7 of POCSO Rules, 2012, for compensation and to submit compliance report within a period of six weeks.

The Special Rapporteur of Eastern Zone Dr. Vikas Aggarwal had later investigated the allegations.

Meanwhile, Tripathy alleged that the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur have not been acted upon by the Government and no compensation has been paid to the victims.

"The enquiry report reveals that various actions have been taken against the private illegal school and it has been closed down. Charge sheets have been filed in Case No. 539/2018, dated 01.12.2018, u/s 354-A / 341 / 323/394/506/34 IPC r/w Sec. 10 of POCSO Act and in Case No. 537/2018 u/s 354(A) IPC r/w Sec. 10 POCSO Act. Application for compensation has been filed in the court. In view of such facts, no further intervention of the Commission is required", NHRC ruled.

However, it is apparent that all such actions were taken only after the incident and no enquiry report or compliance report has been submitted till date on the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur.

Therefore, let direction be issued to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Odisha to take action on the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur, the order concluded.

मानवाधिकार पर सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन करेंगे शाह

नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह इस सप्ताह दिल्ली में दो दिवसीय राष्ट्रीय अधिवेशन का उद्घाटन करेंगे। इसमें शिक्षाविद, न्यायविद और अन्य विद्वान शामिल होंगे। भारतीय संस्कृति तथा दर्शन में मानवाधिकार से संबंधित विषयों पर चर्चा करेंगे। राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने कहा कि वह इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय कला केंद्र के साथ 30 जून और एक जुलाई को सम्मेलन का आयोजन कर रहा है।

NHRC directs Govt to take steps against abuse of minors in short stay homes

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

BHUBANESWAR, 27 JUNE:

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) directed the state Chief Secretary to initiate measures (on the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur), on the issue of death and exploitation of children in Shelter homes in general and particularly in the Dhenkanal district.

Disposing a petition filed by rights activist and lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy the NHRC passed the order seeking compliance of suggestive measures given by the Special Rapporteur.

Tripathy had moved the apex rights panel alleging that a minor inmate Sambhunath Nayak was found dead on 2 July, 2019 in Laxminarayan Gurukul Ashram in Dhenkanal district. In the same district, another shelter home was running for years where minor children were sex-

ually exploited. Both the schools were in operating illegally, alleged the petitioner.

Earlier expressing serious concern over the report of Dhenkanal District Collector that the Children victims are not covered under Compensation Rules, the NHRC had directed the district administration to move an application immediately before concerned court through Prosecutor under Rule 7 of POCSO Rules, 2012, for compensation and to submit compliance report within a period of six weeks. The Special Rapporteur of Eastern Zone Dr. Vikas Aggarwal had later investigated the allegations.

Meanwhile, Tripathy alleged that the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur have not been acted upon by the Government and no compensation has been paid to the victims.

"The enquiry report reveals

that various actions have been taken against the private illegal school and it has been closed down. Charge sheets have been filed in Case No. 539/2018, dated 01.12.2018, u/s 354-A / 341 / 323/394/506/34 IPC r/w Sec. 10 of POCSO Act and in Case No. 537/2018 u/s 354(A) IPC r/w Sec. 10 POCSO Act. Application for compensation has been filed in the court. In view of such facts, no further intervention of the Commission is required", NHRC ruled.

However, it is apparent that all such actions were taken only after the incident and no enquiry report or compliance report has been submitted till date on the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur. Therefore, let direction be issued to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Odisha to take action on the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur, the order concluded.

Supreme Courts judgment in Zakia Ahsan Jafri versus State of Gujarat bodes ill for democracy

<https://theleaflet.in/supreme-courts-judgment-in-zakia-ahsan-jafri-versus-state-of-gujarat-bodes-ill-for-democracy/>

The Supreme Court has travelled a long way from linking the killings to modern day Neroes to seeing the very struggle for justice as having the audacity to question the integrity of every functionary.

Senior advocate Fali S. Nariman, described civil rights activist and journalist Teesta Setalvad as a “foot soldier of the Indian Constitution”. Today, the foot soldier has been arrested for zealously pursuing justice for one of independent Indias most egregious wrongs, namely the Gujarat pogrom, which was unleashed following the Godhra train burning of February 27, 2002.

Also read: Teesta Setalvad arrest: Outpouring of support and solidarity for the activist

The instigation for Setalvads arrest is a paragraph in the Supreme Courts judgment of the Supreme Court of last Friday (delivered, ironically, a day before the 47th anniversary of the emergency) dismissing the appeal by Zakia Jafri, widow of former Parliamentarian Ehsan Jafri who was slain before her during the pogrom. Jafri had petitioned for an investigation into the conspiracy behind the pogrom.

The Supreme Court, in dismissing Jafris petition, had observed that a “coalesced effort of the disgruntled officials of the State of Gujarat along with others was to create sensation by making revelations which were false to their own knowledge.”

The judgment described those that used the process of law to pursue justice for those who were targeted because of their minority status for over 16 long years as having the “audacity” to “question the integrity of every functionary”.

The judgment then described those who used the process of law to pursue justice for the victims of 2002 for over 16 long years as having the “audacity” to “question the integrity of every functionary”. The Court noted that their motives had an “ulterior design”. The Court observed that “all those involved in such abuse of process, need to be in the dock and proceeded with in accordance with law.”

A day after the judgment was delivered, (on the anniversary of the emergency) the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah gave an interview in which he said that the judgment mentioned Setalvads name, and that the NGO run by her had “given baseless information about the riots to the police”. A few hours later, the Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad arrested Setalvad from her house. The first information report (FIR) records that the crimes she is accused of include forgery, giving false evidence with intent to procure conviction, and conspiracy. The FIR is against Setalvad as well as former Indian Police Service officers Sanjiv Bhatt and R.B. Sreekumar for the conspiracy to commit these offences.

What did the three of them do?

Setalvad is a relentless crusader who pursued all legal avenues to bring justice to the victims of the pogrom.

Bhatt is a former Deputy Commissioner of Intelligence in the Gujarat Intelligence Bureau, who had filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court in 2011 against Narendra Modi, who was the Chief Minister of Gujarat during the 2002 pogrom, concerning Modi's alleged role in the pogrom. He also filed a public interest litigation in the Supreme Court that year, requesting for an independent agency to investigate the pogrom or, alternatively, for the case to be transferred outside Gujarat. He was dismissed from the Police Service in 2015 due to unauthorized absence, and is currently in jail serving a life sentence he was awarded in 2019 in a custodial death case from 1990.

Also read: [There seems no light at the end of the tunnel for Sanjiv Bhatt | Comment](#)

R.B. Sreekumar is a former Additional Director General of Police (intelligence) in Gujarat who filed affidavits before the Commission of Inquiry comprising Justices G.T. Nanavati and A.H. Mehta, appointed to probe the Godhra train burning and pogrom of 2002 in Gujarat, detailing the acts of omission and commission of Gujarat administration under the Chief Ministership of Modi during the pogrom.

The follow-up question as to why, in spite of such instructions violence engulfed Gujarat, was not probed by the SIT or inquired into by the Supreme Court.

The judgment records that Bhatt had claimed that the then Chief Minister in an official meeting, while addressing the DGP, the then Chief Secretary and other senior officials of the State, had instructed them to allow the mobs to give vent to the Hindu anger on the minority in the wake of Godhra incident.

The judgment finds that there is no truth to the submissions by either Sreekumar or Bhatt, going to the extent of stating that Bhatt never attended the meeting, so he could not have known what was said in the meeting. It concludes that there was no larger conspiracy "linking the separate incidents of mass violence across the state". The Supreme Court agrees with the Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed by it to investigate the matter, in coming to its conclusion.

However the amicus curiae, senior advocate Raju Ramachandran, appointed by the Supreme Court to assist it, points to the difficulty in ensuring justice for the victims of the pogrom. He states that, "It would be impossible to get anyone present in the meeting on 27.02.2002 to speak against Shri Modi, especially the bureaucracy and police officials".

What the Supreme Court fails to consider in its judgment

The Supreme Court spends much time debunking the possibility of a conspiracy, hatched at the highest level in the State. While the evidence before the court might not have shown a conspiracy (for the reasons pointed out by the amicus), the question remains as to why did the violence happen. Why did the government of the state not bring the violence under control quickly and effectively? The court seemed satisfied with the statement of the then Chief Minister Modi that he had

given “categorical and clear cut instructions to maintain peace and communal harmony at any cost.”

The follow-up question as to why, in spite of such instructions, violence engulfed Gujarat, was not probed by the SIT or inquired into by the Supreme Court. To answer this question the Court could have concluded that conspiracy was not made out, but that does not mean that no crimes were committed. It could have recommended that Parliament consider amending the Indian Penal Code to include the notion of command or superior responsibility so that such wrongs (as allowing thousands of innocent men, women and children to be killed under ones watch) in the future become prosecutable crimes.

Also read: Why the Modi years have been the most shameful period in the history of the Indian Supreme Court

The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, under Article 28(b), lays down that when the crimes against humanity, genocide and crimes against peace are committed by subordinates, the superior should be held criminally responsible if the “crimes concerned activities which were within the effective responsibility and control of the superior” and the “superior failed to take all necessary and reasonable measures within his or her power to prevent or repress their commission of such crimes”.

The only one to ask the question of the superior responsibility or constitutional responsibility of the Chief Minister is the amicus Raju Ramachandran.

The only one to ask the question of the superior responsibility or constitutional responsibility of the Chief Minister is the amicus Ramachandran. In the note he submits to the Supreme Court, which is produced as the first annexure to the judgment, Ramachandran states that “there is nothing to show that the CM intervened on 28.02.2002 when the riots were taking place to prevent the riots. The movement of Shri Modi and the instructions given by him on 28.02.2002 would have been decisive to prove that he had taken all steps for the protection of the minorities...Neither the CM nor his personal officials have stated what he did on 28.02.2002. Neither the top police nor bureaucrats have spoken about any decisive action by the CM”.

Without invoking the idea of the constitutional responsibility of the Chief Minister and without testing whether the Chief Minister in this case had done all within his power to prevent the commission of the crimes of 2002, the conclusion of the Supreme Court rings hollow. The fact that the crime of conspiracy is not made out is not evidence that no crimes were committed by those in control and command of the state machinery.

Sadly, the Supreme Court went further and put its seal of imprimatur on the theory that what happened post Godhra was a spontaneous occurrence, and at best, lower-level functionaries are responsible for the violence. The idea of spontaneous occurrence was debunked in numerous fact-finding reports prepared by civil society, including by a nine-member ‘Concerned Citizens Tribunal – Gujarat 2002’ headed by former Supreme Court judge, Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer. In fact the Supreme Court

itself, in its 2004 judgment in the Best Bakery case had observed that, “the modern day Neros were looking elsewhere when Best Bakery and innocent children and helpless women were burning, and were probably deliberating how the perpetrators of the crime can be saved or protected.”

Also read: Gujarat govt agrees to table part two of Nanavati commissiion report on 2002 carnage

It is this long history of seeking accountability for the crimes of Gujarat 2002 (which included the work by the Supreme Court itself) which the court has abjured in its judgment. A lack of faith in the state administration had prompted the Supreme Court to transfer key riot cases out of Gujarat. All of these efforts by victim families, civil society, the National Human Rights Commission and the Supreme Court resulted in the conviction of over 100 persons in trial courts.

It is the long history of seeking accountability for the crimes of Gujarat 2002 (which included the work by the Supreme Court itself) which the court has abjured in its judgment.

The Supreme Court has travelled a long way from linking the killings to modern day Neroes to seeing the very struggle for justice as having the audacity to question the integrity of every functionary.

This judgment and these arrests bode ill for the future of Indian democracy.

NHRC seeks action-taken report in atrocity case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), in a communication addressed to the collector and the superintendent of police of Patan district, has sought a report on action taken in a case where the family of a groom from the Dalit community was assaulted for riding a horse during his marriage procession.

The district authorities

have been asked to provide information as to what action has been taken in the case. The alleged offence occurred at Bhatsan village in Patan district on May 12. People belonging to upper castes allegedly objected to Vijay Parmar riding a horse for the procession. They allegedly even set the marriage pandal on fire.

According to Dalit activists in Patan, police arrested 19 people in connection with the case.

Dalit activist Kantilal Parmar filed a complaint with the NHRC in the matter. In a letter to the district collector and SP, the NHRC on Monday said, "It is requested that an action-taken report be sent to the commission within four weeks from the date of receipt of this letter." Kantilal Parmar said such atrocities have continued unabated and the state government has failed to stop such human rights violations.