

ThePrint/ The Week/ Latestly/ NYOOOZ/ Devdiscourse

NHRC launches human rights-themed photography competition

<https://theprint.in/india/nhrc-launches-human-rights-themed-photography-competition/1083930/>

<https://www.theweek.in/wire-updates/national/2022/08/15/des51-day-nhrc-photography.html>

<https://www.latestly.com/agency-news/india-news-nhrc-launches-human-rights-themed-photography-competition-4085066.html>

<https://www.nyoooz.com/news/delhi/1692263/nhrc-launches-human-rightsthemed-photography-competition/>

<https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/law-order/2144777-nhrc-launches-human-rights-themed-photography-competition>

In line with the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', the National Human Rights Commission launched a month-long online photography competition on Monday themed on human rights, officials said.

Indian citizens aged 14 years and above can participate in it without any entry fee, they said. Mounted by the media and communication wing of the Commission, the competition aims at spreading awareness about various aspects of human rights and values as well as the need to protect them, the NHRC said in a statement.

Three cash awards of Rs 15,000, Rs 10,000 and Rs 5000 along with certificates will be given for the first, second and the third spot winners besides seven consolation cash prizes of Rs 2,000 each or as may be decided by the Commission, it said. The selected photographs will be used by the Commission for awareness purposes, it added.

'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' is a government's initiative to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of Indian independence.

NHRC chairperson justice, (retd) Arun Kumar Mishra has said the 76th Independence Day marks "yet another milestone in the journey of our sovereign nation as the largest and successful democracy in the world".

"As we commemorate the country's Independence Day holding the tricolour high, let's take a pledge to uphold the unity and integrity of the country with peace and harmony in honour of all our great men and women, who fought for the freedom of the country from the British rule, and made supreme sacrifices to make a just, equitable and progressive society," he was quoted as saying in a statement.

Times Now/ The Indian Express

Bilkis Bano gang-rape case: From fight for justice to release of 11 life imprisonment convicts; here is the timeline

<https://www.timesnownews.com/mirror-now/in-focus/bilkis-bano-gang-rape-case-from-fight-for-justice-to-release-of-11-life-imprisonment-convicts-here-is-the-timeline-of-events-article-93577662>

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/gandhinagar/bilkis-bano-case-life-imprisonment-convicts-released-gujarat-government-remission-policy-8092225/>

In a major development in the Bilkis Bano gang-rape case, all eleven prisoners walked out of the Godhra sub-jail on Monday under the Gujarat government's remission policy. In the 2002 post-Godhra Bilkis Bano gang rape case, all eleven offenders were sentenced to life in prison and the decision was upheld by the Bombay High Court in May 2017.

March 3, 2002: A ferocious crowd assaulted Bilkis Bano's family in Ahmedabad, killing seven members of her family. Bilkis, a 19-year-old woman who was five months pregnant at the time, was gang-raped while six other members of her family managed to flee.

2002-2003: Local police officers repeatedly refused to register her case, alleging a lack of proof, and threatened her with legal actions if she pursued the matter. Bilkis then approached the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and filed a plea in the Supreme Court in December 2003. The Supreme Court then ordered the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to investigate the case.

January 2004: After gathering all the available evidence against each of the suspects identified in Bilkis' complaint, the CBI arrested all of them.

August 2004: After Bilkis expressed concerns about the possibility of evidence tampering and potential injury to the witnesses, the Supreme Court decided to move the trial from Ahmedabad to Bombay.

January 2008: 13 persons were found guilty by the trial court of raping Bilkis, participating in a criminal conspiracy, and murder, with 11 of them receiving life sentences. The accused subsequently challenged the conviction to the High Court, asking that the trial court's ruling be overturned.

July 2011: The CBI filed a petition with the Bombay High Court asking for the convicts to be hanged.

July 15, 2016: The appeals filed by 11 people accused of crimes in the 2002 gang rape case were heard by the Bombay High Court.

September 2016: The convict's attorney requested that several witnesses in the case be re-examined, but the Bombay HC denied his request.

October 2016: Bombay High Court bench ruled that the application cannot be allowed under the Criminal Procedure Code, but as the court mentioned that Bilkis may convert her application into an appeal.

December 2016: The Bombay High Court had reserved judgement on an appeal filed by 11 prisoners who were given life sentences. Additionally, the HC reserved its judgement

on a CBI appeal that sought the death punishment of three convicted criminals, describing it as one of the rarest of rare situations.

May 2017: The Bombay HC upheld the life sentence of the 11 convicts.

May 15, 2022: One of these prisoners, who had already served more than 15 years in prison, went before the Supreme Court and pleaded for an early release.

August 15, 2022: All the eleven convicts walked out of the Godhra sub-jail under Gujarat government's remission policy.

एनएचआरसी ने मानवाधिकार विषय पर फोटोग्राफी प्रतियोगिता शुरू की

<https://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/india/nhrc-launches-photography-competition-on-human-rights-theme/articleshow/93576863.cms>

आजादी का अमृत महोत्सव के तहत राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने सोमवार को मानवाधिकार विषय पर ऑनलाइन फोटोग्राफी प्रतियोगिता शुरू की, जो एक महीने तक चलेगी। अधिकारियों ने यह जानकारी दी।

उन्होंने बताया कि 14 या इससे अधिक उम्र का कोई भी भारतीय नागरिक बिना किसी प्रवेश शुल्क के इस प्रतियोगिता में हिस्सा ले सकता है।

एनएचआरसी ने बताया कि आयोग के मीडिया व संप्रेषण प्रभाग की ओर की गई पहल का उद्देश्य मानवाधिकार के विभिन्न पहलुओं व मूल्यों के प्रति जागरूकता पैदा करने के साथ-साथ उनकी रक्षा को इंगित करना है।

बयान के मुताबिक प्रतियोगिता में प्रथम, द्वितीय और तृतीय स्थान आने वाले प्रतियोगियों को प्रमाण पत्र के साथ-साथ क्रमशः 15 हजार, 10 हजार और पांच हजार रुपये बतौर नकद पुरस्कार राशि दी जाएगी। इनके अलावा सात लोगों को दो-दो हजार रुपये का सांत्वना पुरस्कार दिया जाएगा। विजेताओं का चयन आयोग करेगा।

बयान के मुताबिक चुनी हुई तस्वीरों का इस्तेमाल आयोग जागरूकता फैलाने में करेगा।

एनएचआरसी ने मानवाधिकार विषय पर फोटोग्राफी प्रतियोगिता शुरू की

https://hindi.business-standard.com/storypage_hin.php?autono=2264847

‘आजादी का अमृत महोत्सव’ के तहत राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने सोमवार को मानवाधिकार विषय पर ऑनलाइन फोटोग्राफी प्रतियोगिता शुरू की

उन्होंने बताया कि 14 या इससे अधिक उम्र का कोई भी भारतीय नागरिक बिना किसी प्रवेश शुल्क के इस प्रतियोगिता में हिस्सा ले सकता है।

एनएचआरसी ने बताया कि आयोग के मीडिया व संप्रेषण प्रभाग की ओर की गई पहल का उद्देश्य मानवाधिकार के विभिन्न पहलुओं व मूल्यों के प्रति जागरूकता पैदा करने के साथ-साथ उनकी रक्षा को इंगित करना है।

बयान के मुताबिक प्रतियोगिता में प्रथम, द्वितीय और तृतीय स्थान आने वाले प्रतियोगियों को प्रमाण पत्र के साथ-साथ क्रमशः 15 हजार, 10 हजार और पांच हजार रुपये बतौर नकद पुरस्कार राशि दी जाएगी। इनके अलावा सात लोगों को दो-दो हजार रुपये का सांत्वना पुरस्कार दिया जाएगा। विजेताओं का चयन आयोग करेगा।

बयान के मुताबिक चुनी हुई तस्वीरों का इस्तेमाल आयोग जागरूकता फैलाने में करेगा।

एनएचआरसी ने मानवाधिकार विषय पर फोटोग्राफी प्रतियोगिता शुरू की

<https://hindi.theprint.in/india/nhrc-launches-photography-competition-on-human-rights-theme/373810/>

‘आजादी का अमृत महोत्सव’ के तहत राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने सोमवार को मानवाधिकार विषय पर ऑनलाइन फोटोग्राफी प्रतियोगिता शुरू की, जो एक महीने तक चलेगी। अधिकारियों ने यह जानकारी दी।

उन्होंने बताया कि 14 या इससे अधिक उम्र का कोई भी भारतीय नागरिक बिना किसी प्रवेश शुल्क के इस प्रतियोगिता में हिस्सा ले सकता है।

एनएचआरसी ने बताया कि आयोग के मीडिया व संप्रेषण प्रभाग की ओर की गई पहल का उद्देश्य मानवाधिकार के विभिन्न पहलुओं व मूल्यों के प्रति जागरूकता पैदा करने के साथ-साथ उनकी रक्षा को इंगित करना है।

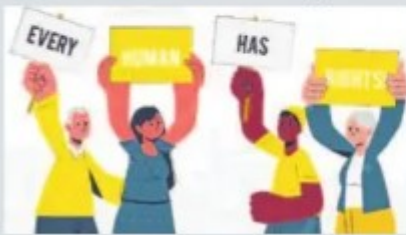
बयान के मुताबिक प्रतियोगिता में प्रथम, द्वितीय और तृतीय स्थान आने वाले प्रतियोगियों को प्रमाण पत्र के साथ-साथ क्रमशः 15 हजार, 10 हजार और पांच हजार रुपये बतौर नकद पुरस्कार राशि दी जाएगी। इनके अलावा सात लोगों को दो-दो हजार रुपये का सांत्वना पुरस्कार दिया जाएगा। विजेताओं का चयन आयोग करेगा।

बयान के मुताबिक चुनी हुई तस्वीरों का इस्तेमाल आयोग जागरूकता फैलाने में करेगा।



Photo contest on human rights

In line with the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', the National Human Rights Commission launched a month-long online photography competition on Monday themed on human



rights. Indian citizens aged 14 years and above can participate in it without any entry fee. The competition aims at spreading awareness about various aspects of human rights and values as well as the need to protect them. Three cash awards of Rs 15,000, Rs 10,000 and Rs 5000 will be given for the first, second and the third spot winners.

TIMELINE OF BILKIS BANO CASE

In the 2002 mob violence in Gujarat, Bilkis Bano was gangraped and her family members were killed. Her case went to court and accused were jailed after a trial:



03.03.2002

BILKIS BANO FAMILY WAS ATTACKED BY A MOB AT RANDHIKPUR VILLAGE NEAR AHMEDABAD; BILKIS, FIVE MONTHS PREGNANT, WAS GANG-RAPED; HER KIN KILLED

March 4, 2002: First FIR was filed in Limkheda police station in Dahod district; Names of the rapists included in the FIR

March 25, 2003: A summary report was filed and accepted by the Limkheda judicial magistrate; Limkheda judicial magistrate effectively closed the case citing in consensus as a reason

April 2003: Bilkis approached NHRC which asks Harish Salve to represent her in SC

April 2003: Bilkis approached SC seeking quashing of the summary report of Limkheda magistrate, a CBI investigation against Gujarat police officers and compensation

October 25, 2003: SC asked Gujarat government to stop the state CID investigation

December 18, 2003: SC handed over the case to CBI

January 2004: CBI arrested 12 accused

February 11, 2004: CBI filed an interim report highlighting complicity of Gujarat police

April 9 2004, CBI filed chargesheet against 20 people, including 6 police officers and two govt doctors

May 12, 2004: CBI filed final reports mentioning gross violation and complicity of Gujarat cops

July 2004: Bilkis filed petition to transfer the case outside Gujarat

August 2004: The case transferred to special CBI court in Mumbai

January 13, 2005: Charges were framed

February 20, 2005: Bilkis identified 12 accused; The trial initially began in Ahmedabad

January 21, 2008: A special court convicted 11 men and sentenced them to life imprisonment for raping Bilkis and murdering seven of her family members, while acquitting seven, including cops and doctors

May 4, 2017: The HC convicted 7 people — 5 policemen and 2 doctors — under charges of not performing their duties and tampering of evidence.

July 10, 2017: SC dismissed appeals of two doctors and four policemen against conviction

April 2019: SC directed Gujarat government to give Rs 50 lakh, a job and accommodation to Bilkis

October 2020: Bilkis again approached SC and said she was not satisfied with compliance of the apex court order with regard to the job offer and provision for accommodation made by the state government. The SC asked Bano to approach authorities with her grievances

Bilkis Bano case: All 11 serving life terms freed under remission policy

Ahmedabad/Vadodara: Eleven convicts sentenced to life for gang rape and murder in the 2002 Bilkis Bano case walked out from Godhra sub-jail on Monday, based on the recommendation of a panel set up a few months ago to consider their release under Gujarat's remission policy.

"The committee had been formed on the instructions of the Supreme Court," Panchmahal collector Sujal Mayatra said. "The release order was issued on Sunday." Bilkis Bano was 21 and five months pregnant when she was sexually assaulted on March 3, 2002, while fleeing rioting in the aftermath of the Godhra train burning. Her three kids were among the victims.

On January 21, 2008, a special CBI court in Mumbai sen-

IN JAIL FOR 15 YRS

► Spl CBI court in Mumbai on Jan 21, 2008 sentenced 11 accused to life term on charge of gang rape and murder of seven members of Bilkis Bano's family

► Convicts had served over 15 yrs in jail after which one of them approached SC with a plea for premature release

► SC had directed Guj govt to look into remission issue

tenced to life all 11 accused. The Bombay HC upheld their conviction for gang rape and murder of seven members of Bano's family. After over 15 years in jail, one of the convicted men moved a remission plea in the SC, which directed Gujarat to look into it. TNN

11 lifers convicted for Gujarat riots gangrape, murder set free in Godhra

'Remission in Bilkis case on completion of 14 yrs, conduct'

ADITI RAJA

VADODARA, AUGUST 15

ELEVEN CONVICTS serving life imprisonment in the Bilkis Bano gangrape case from the 2002 Gujarat riots were freed from the Godhra sub-jail on Monday after a state government panel approved their application for remission of sentence, according

to senior officials.

Gujarat Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Raj Kumar told *The Indian Express* that the application for remission was considered due to the "completion of 14 years" in jail and other factors such as "age, nature of the crime, behaviour in prison and so on".

Bilkis was gangraped and her three-year-old daughter Saleha was among 14 killed by a mob on

March 3, 2002, in Limkheda taluka of Dahod district. Bilkis was pregnant at the time.

The Supreme Court had ordered a CBI investigation in the case after Bilkis approached the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). In August 2004, the Supreme Court directed the trial to be transferred from Gujarat to Maharashtra

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Bilkis case

after Bilkis alleged death threats from the accused.

On January 21, 2008, CBI special court judge UD Salvi convicted 13 accused, sentencing 11 to life imprisonment on the charge of gangrape and murder following an in-camera trial in Mumbai. In May 2017, the conviction was upheld by the Bombay High Court.

In 2019, the Supreme Court awarded compensation of Rs 50 lakh to Bilkis — the first such order in a case related to the 2002 riots. "It is very apparent that what should not have happened has happened and the state has to give compensation," the apex court bench of the then CJI Ranjan Gogoi, and Justices Deepak Gupta and Sanjiv Khanna, had said.

The 11 who have been set free are: Jaswant Nai, Govind Nai, Shailesh Bhatt, Radhyesham Shah, Bipin Chandra Joshi, Kesarbhai Vohania, Pradeep Mordhiya, Bakabhai Vohania, Rajubhai Soni, Mitesh Bhatt and Ramesh Chandana.

In its 2008 verdict, the CBI court held that Jaswant Nai, Govind Nai and Naresh Kumar Mordhiya (who died later) raped Bilkis while Shailesh Bhatt killed Saleha by "smashing" her on the ground. The other accused were convicted for rape and murder, as being part of "an unlawful assembly" distributes the liability of the crime, the court said.

On Monday, Additional Chief Secretary (Home), Raj Kumar, said: "The 11 convicts have served a 14-year sentence in total. According to law, a life term means a minimum period of 14 years after which the convict can apply for remission. It is then the decision of the government to consider the application. Based on eligibility, prisoners are granted remission after the recommendation of the prison advisory committee as well as district legal authorities."

In this case, Kumar said: "Among the parameters considered are age, nature of the crime, behaviour in prison and soon. The convicts in this particular case were also considered eligible after considering all the factors since they had competed for 14 years of their life term."

Panchmahals collector Sujal Mayatra told *PTI*: "A committee formed a few months back took a unanimous decision in favour of remission of all the 11 convicts in the case. The recommendation was sent to the state government and yesterday we received the orders for their release."

In the verdict of 2008, CBI special court judge Salvi termed Bilkis's "courageous deposition" as the turning point in the case. The judge also considered the testimony of a minor and photographs of bodies of the victims without footwear — and observed that the "bodies had been moved without footwear, from the scene of crime, indicating a conspiracy".

The judgment also considered that Bilkis had identified all the accused during the trial — she took the court that most of them were known to her and had purchased milk from her family.

The CBI court upheld the prosecution's case that Bilkis was gangraped, assaulted and left to die at Randhikpur, 250 km from Ahmedabad, when 17 members of her family were walking to flee their riot-hit town.

According to the prosecution, the group was attacked with swords and sticks, and eight of Bilkis' kin were killed, including her daughter, while six went missing. On March 4, 2002, dressed only in a skirt and bleeding, Bilkis walked down the hill where her family had been massacred to seek help, the court was told. She found a tribal woman who gave her clothes and met a homeguard who took her to the Limkheda police station to lodge a complaint, the prosecution said.

Constable Somabhai Gori had been awarded three years imprisonment for shielding offenders. In the Supreme Court, the Gujarat government had said that action was taken against the police personnel convicted in the case — a pension cut for three personnel who had retired and demotion by two ranks for RS Bhagora, who was promoted to the IPS in 2007 and was close to retirement at the time. Bhagora had been charged with evidence-tampering.

The counsel for Bilkis, Shobha Gupta, had told *The Indian Express* in 2019: "On March 3, 2002, Bhagora brought Bano to constable Somabhai and recorded her statement, in which he intentionally removed all 12 names of the accused. Then, on March 6, district collector Jayanti Ravi visited the camp and took her statement again in which all accused were named. Ravi forwarded the file to the Dahod SP for action who then forwarded the file again to Bhagora. Despite repeated reminders, Bhagora did nothing till July 2002, and eventually filed the closure report, saying that the event is true but undetected and the accused are untraceable. The Bombay High Court judgment had called the role of police officials as callous." (PTI/INPUTS)