

Times of India

Tuticorin firing: HC asks TN why report not implemented

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/tuticorin-firing-hc-asks-tn-why-report-not-implemented/articleshow/104956318.cms>

Chennai: Tamil Nadu government has been asked to explain why no action was taken to implement Justice Aruna Jagadeesan report on the May 22, 2018, police firing at anti-Sterlite protesters, killing 13 people.

A division bench of the Madras high court, comprising Justice Nisha Banu and Justice N Mala, issued an interim order to that effect on Friday, on a plea moved by human rights activist Henri Tiphagne.

Directing the government offer an explanation, the bench then adjourned the hearing to November 17 for the state to file its report.

In his petition, Tiphagne wanted the court to direct the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to re-investigate the police firing. According to the petitioner, NHRC which commenced a suo motu probe into the incident closed the investigation within five months after the shoot out without recording any reasons.

He further alleged that the Tamil Nadu government had not fully implemented the recommendations of the commission. "Only ₹20 lakh compensation recommended by the commission has been provided to the families of the victims. But the state has not acted against the 17 police personnel who were named by the commission," he said.

The petitioner also wanted the court to direct the state to provide a copy of the report filed by the NHRC if any based on its probe. Responding to the plea, the state government informed the court that they have not received any report from the NHRC.

We also published the following articles recently

NHRC seeks action taken report from Centre on homeless peopleThe National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has requested action taken reports from the Union ministries of housing and urban affairs and home regarding the rehabilitation of homeless people and street children in India. The commission issued this request after hearing a petition from human rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy. Tripathy has urged the commission for comprehensive provisions for homeless people and street children, including access to health services and basic hygiene. The ministries have been given six weeks to submit the reports or face potential legal action.104948624

NHRC seeks report on 5-year-old's deathThe National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken notice of the death of a five-year-old boy who was killed when a damaged entry gate fell on him in Delhi. The NHRC has issued notices to the chief secretary, Delhi Development Authority, and city police commissioner.

The victim's family and residents of the colony claim that no action was taken despite their complaints. The NHRC has asked for detailed reports on the incident and action taken within four weeks. The police are also asked to clarify contradictions in their version of events.104875661

Fill up vacancies in CIC, state information commissions: Supreme Court to Centre, statesThe Supreme Court has directed the Centre and the states to urgently fill vacancies in the Central Information Commission and the state information commissions. The court stated that if the vacancies are not filled, the Right to Information Act of 2005 would become ineffective. The Department of Personnel and Training has been instructed to gather information from all states regarding the sanctioned strength, vacancies, and pending cases in the commissions. The court granted three weeks for the information to be provided. The directive came in response to a plea filed by RTI activist Anjali Bhardwaj.104824795

Samaa Tv

Manipur crisis deepens: more than thousand lives lost amid ongoing conflict

Manipur's CM declares situation extremely critical

<https://www.samaa.tv/208733840-manipur-crisis-deepens-more-than-thousand-lives-lost-amid-ongoing-conflict>

In the northeastern Indian state of Manipur, a severe crisis has unfolded, raising grave concerns.

Imphal, the capital town, witnessed a brazen attack as over 700 rebels stormed a police camp, making off with state-of-the-art weaponry, ammunition, and several vehicles.

Tragically, the assault in Imphal resulted in the loss of lives among police personnel. This conflict, which began in 3 May, has seen the looting of over 5,000 government weapons and countless rounds of ammunition.

Despite deploying a massive security contingent of over a lakh, it appears that the Modi government has struggled to regain control of the situation in Manipur.

The toll on law enforcement is devastating, with over 100 police officers having lost their lives in the region.

The ongoing hostilities have inflicted a heavy human toll, with more than a thousand lives lost, and displacement of over a lakh of residents.

The destruction extends to thousands of homes and hundreds of dwellings left in ruins.

Manipur's Chief Minister, Biren Singh, has declared the situation extremely critical. Some voices have accused Prime Minister Modi of having political motivations behind the unrest in Manipur.

The violence and turmoil in Manipur have drawn concern from the National Human Rights Commission, which has criticized the Modi government for not taking sufficient measures to quell these incidents.

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Times of India

NHRC seeks action taken report from Centre on homeless people

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/nhrc-seeks-action-taken-report-from-centre-on-homeless-people/articleshow/104948624.cms?from=mdr>

BHUBANESHWAR: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has asked for an action taken report from the Union ministry of housing and urban affairs and Union ministry of home in a case related to rehabilitation of homeless people and street children in the country.

The Commission issued this direction on October 31 after hearing a petition filed by human rights activist and lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy. Secretaries of the two ministries have been asked to submit requisite reports within six weeks, failing which the Commission would be constrained to issue a coercive process under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.

The petitioner has urged the Commission for integrated and comprehensive provisions for homeless people and street children in India, rehabilitation of such persons with basic dignity, availability of night-shelters throughout the country, accessibilities to health services and basic hygiene. Tripathy said these homeless people are suffering silently due to negligence, inaction and failure on the part of the government authorities across states/Union territories (UTs) in India. Lives of such people solely depend upon kindness extended by others, he added.

“As per 2011 census, there are around 1.77 million homeless people in India consisting of single men, women, elderly and disabled of which around 9.38 lakh live in urban areas,” read the order quoting petitioner’s plea.

The Commission has heard the petition several times after registration of the case on January 12. It had directed the ministries of home, health and family welfare and housing and urban affairs to submit their reports. Pursuant to the directions of the Commission, a report was submitted by the under secretary, ministry of health and family welfare (child health section) on September 15.

The report stated that the ministry has been supporting all states/UTs in implementation of reproductive, maternal, new born, child, adolescent health and nutrition (RMNCAH+N) strategy under the National Health Mission (NHM) based on the annual program implementation plan (APIP) submitted by states/UTs to improvise child health survival.

“Requisite reports have not been submitted by the secretary of ministry of housing and urban affairs and secretary of ministry of home affairs despite direction of the Commission. In the interest of justice, one opportunity is granted and the secretaries of ministry of housing and urban affairs and ministry of home affairs is directed to submit requisite action taken report in the instant case,” read the order of the NHRC.

myRepublica

NHRC appeals for prompt rescue and free treatment of quake victims

<https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/nhrc-appeals-for-rescue-free-and-effective-treatment-to-quake-victims/>

KATHMANDU, Nov 4: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has appealed to all concerned sides to rescue those injured in the earthquake in Jajarkot and Rukum West districts and arrange free and effective treatment for them.

The NHRC urged all including the government, political parties to engage in relief and rescue operations of the quake-affected people.

A press release issued by NHRC Spokesperson Tika Ram Pokharel on Saturday reads, "The NHRC urges all concerned sides including the government and the political parties to rescue the injured ones, make arrangements for free and effective treatment and engage in rescue and relief operations."

The NHRC has been deeply saddened by the loss of lives and physical property caused by the earthquake in Jajarkot and Rukum West districts on Friday night, reads the statement.

Extending tribute to those killed in the earthquake, the NHRC extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members and also wished for the speedy recovery of the injured. It has also started monitoring the quake-hit districts.

A team of the Karnali Province office of the NHRC on Saturday left for the quake-affected areas to monitor the human rights condition of quake-affected people.

Deccan Chronicle

Odisha: State govt asks varsities, colleges to ensure safety of transgenders

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/in-other-news/041123/odisha-state-govt-asks-varsities-colleges-to-ensure-safety-of-transg.html>

State govt has already formulated a policy for enabling transgenders to have equal access to education

In a letter to the registrars and principals, the state higher education department has requested the educational institutes to protect gender non-conforming students from bullying, harassment or other forms of violence in their respective jurisdictions.

Bhubaneswar: Complying with an advisory by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the Odisha government has directed registrars and principals of all the universities and degree colleges in the state to ensure the safety of the transgenders on campuses.

In a letter to the registrars and principals, the state higher education department has requested the educational institutes to protect gender non-conforming students from bullying, harassment or other forms of violence in their respective jurisdictions.

The department also directed to form monitoring committee cells at educational institutes to address prejudices, discrimination, sexual abuse and other violence against transgenders.

As per the department, gender-neutral facilities should be provided at all higher educational institutions, including unisex toilets and restrooms.

On September 26, the NHRC had in a letter to the secretaries in the department of social justice and empowerment and ministry of corporate affairs, chief secretaries of states and administrators of Union Territories, asked them for early implementation of its recommendations in letter and spirit. The rights body had also sought Action Taken Report (ATR) within two months.

In the advisory, the Commission had observed that one of the primary concerns faced by transgender persons in the country is that despite the legal advancements, they continue to grapple with discrimination at various places like employment disparities, limited access to healthcare, and exclusion from social circles.

The Odisha government has already formulated a policy for enabling transgenders to have equal access to education. Called Odisha State Transgender Person Policy 2021, the policy reiterates the commitment of the State to provide equal opportunities to third-gender persons and protection of their rights. It emphasizes a series of interventions, namely, education, security, equality, freedom of expression, education, employment, healthcare, safety and security, housing and ageing.

The policy asks educational institutions to ensure provisions to address issues gender non-conforming students and TG students as well as establish an anti-discrimination cell to monitor any form of discrimination and harassment; raise awareness of the entire spectrum of student population towards the TGs, starting from the upper primary level.

According to the 2011 Census, there are 20,332 transgender persons in Odisha.

'Ensure safety of transgender students'

Odisha Govt asks colleges, varsities

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Taking an initiative to protect students belonging to the transgender community from any kind of violence and sexual abuse in educational institutions across Odisha, the State Government has di-

rected all the degree colleges and universities to follow an advisory issued by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

In this regard, the State Higher Education Department issued a notification to the registrars of all universities and principals of degree colleges enclosing a copy of the advisory of the NHRC for ensuring

the welfare of the transgender students at their campuses.

"The educational institutions are requested to protect gender-nonconforming students from bullying harassment or other form of violence in their respective jurisdictions," the Higher Education Department stated in the notification.

The department directed the authorities to form moni-

toring cells at all the colleges and universities to address the issues of prejudices, discrimination, sexual abuse and other violence against transgender persons. As per the NHRC advisory, all educational institutions should take steps for the construction of uni-sex toilets or rest rooms to provide gender neutral facilities in the premises.

Telegraph

Sashastra Seema Bal jawan shoots self while on duty at border outpost in West Champaran

Incident takes place at Senwaria border outpost and the deceased has been identified as Rajkumar Chaudhary, a native of Kamarbasti village under Tezpur police station in Sonitpur district of Assam

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/india/sashastra-seema-bal-jawan-shoots-self-while-on-duty-at-border-outpost-in-west-champaran/cid/1977740>

A 29-year-old Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) jawan hailing from Assam allegedly shot himself dead while on duty at a border outpost in West Champaran district along the Indo-Nepal border on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday.

The incident took place at Senwaria border outpost and the deceased has been identified as Rajkumar Chaudhary, a native of Kamarbasti village under Tezpur police station in Sonitpur district of Assam.

The jawan was posted with the 47th battalion of the SSB and was on guard duty at the time of the incident. His colleagues ran up to him after hearing the sound of firing and found him lying in a pool of blood. He was rushed to a hospital where he was declared brought dead.

“Chaudhary shot himself in the head with his service weapon, which was an automatic rifle. The local police are investigating the matter. The post-mortem has been conducted. We have embalmed his body and sent it to his native place via an aircraft,” the 47th battalion’s second-in-command Anendra Mani told The Telegraph.

Mani said that an inquiry into the possible reasons behind the suicide was also going on.

Transgenders safety push in Odisha

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government has asked colleges and universities to initiate steps for the safety of transgenders on campuses.

The directive has been issued in tune with the orders of the National Human Rights Commission. In a letter to the educational institutes, the higher education department said: “Monitoring committee cells should be formed at educational institutions to address the issue of prejudices, discriminations, sexual abuse and other violence against the transgender persons.”

It added: “To provide gender-neutral facilities, all the educational institutes should take steps for the construction of unisex toilets and restrooms.”

Subhashish Mohanty

DNP India

BILKIS BANO CASE: जब शर्म ही न रहा, बिलकिस की आँखों का पानी दिखेगा किसको!

<https://www.dnpindiahindi.in/country-state/bilkis-bano-case-%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%AC-%E0%A4%B6%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%AE-%E0%A4%B9%E0%A5%80-%E0%A4%A8-%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%B9%E0%A4%BE-%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%B2%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%B8-%E0%A4%95/188702/>

राष्ट्रीय अपराध रिकॉर्ड ब्यूरो (National Crime Records Bureau/NCRB) के अनुसार साल 2001 से 2018 के बीच 4,49,092 रेप के मामले दर्ज हुए। एनसीआरबी की इस रिपोर्ट के अनुसार 2001 से 2018 के बीच बलात्कार के मामलों में 70.6% की बढ़त भी देखी गई और 2012 के बाद इस बढ़त का आंकड़ा सबसे ज्यादा था। ये सिर्फ आंकड़े हैं, जो महिला सशक्तिकरण की दिशा में समाज की सोच का बढ़ता या संकुचित होता दायरा दिखाता है। अब इसी बलात्कार से जुड़ी हाल की दो बड़ी खबरों पर नजर डालते हैं।

१५ अगस्त, २०२२ को आजादी के ७५वें सालगिरह को अमृत महोत्सव के रूप में मनाते हुए जहां हर तरफ हर्षोल्लास की खबरें थीं, वहीं अचानक एक खबर ने सबको चौंकाया। २००२ के गुजरात दंगों की बलात्कार पीड़िता बिलकिस बानो के सभी सजायाफ्ता दोषियों को माफी देकर रिहा कर दिया गया। बात यहीं नहीं रुकती, बल्कि जेल से छूटकर घर पहुंचने पर उन सभी सजायाफ्ता गुनहगारों का फूल-मालाओं से स्वागत किया जाता है, उनकी आरती उतारी जाती है, टीका किया जाता है और मिठाइयां बांटी जाती हैं। हद तो तब हो जाती है, जब बीजेपी के एक नेता उन्हें ब्राह्मण और संस्कारी बता देते हैं। आजादी के माहौल में यह खबर यकायक ही महिलाओं के लिये समाज की गुलाम तस्वीर को उकेर गया।

२८ अगस्त, २०२२ को झारखंड के दुमका से महिला अपराधों से जुड़ी एक और विद्रूप खबर आती है। १२वीं की छात्रा अंकिता सिंह को उसके ही पड़ोस में रहने वाले शाहरूख ने पेट्रोल छिड़ककर उसके ही घर में जला दिया। घटना अहले सुबह की है, अंकिता अपने घर में ही अपने कमरे में ही सोई हुई थी। बताया जाता है कि आरोपी पिछले कई महीनों से अंकिता के पीछे पड़ा हुआ था और उससे दोस्ती करने के लिये कह रहा था। मुहल्ले की दूसरी कई लड़कियों के साथ भी वह ऐसा करता रहा है और अब अंकिता के पीछे एकतरफा प्यार में था। पीड़िता के मना करने पर उसने उसे रात में ही मारने की धमकी दी थी और सुबह इस वारदात को अंजाम दे दिया।

२३ अगस्त की सुबह ४ बजे यह घटना हुई और २५ अगस्त को अस्पताल में भर्ती अंकिता ने दम तोड़ दा। खबर आते ही इसपर देशभर में प्रतिक्रियाएं शुरू हो गईं। जस्टिस फॉर अंकिता की मांग शुरू हो गई। भाजपा समेत, बजरंग दल, करणी सेना आदि अंकिता के लिये जस्टिस की मांग को लेकर धरना-प्रदर्शन कर रहे हैं। नेशनल कमीशन फॉर प्रोटेक्शन ऑफ चाइल्ड राइट्स (NCPCR) ने मामले में संज्ञान लिया है, बीजेपी के कुछ नेता अंकिता के परिवार की मदद के लिये राशि इकट्ठा कर रहे हैं और देशभर से उन्हें इसके लिये चंदा दिया जा रहा है।

वापस लौटते हैं १५ अगस्त, २०२२ की सुबह पर। इसी साल जून में भारत की केंद्र सरकार की ओर से सभी राज्यों को खत लिखकर यह विशेष रूप से अवगत कराया गया था कि उम्रकैद की सजा भुगत रहे, विशेषकर बलात्कार के सजायाफ्ता दोषियों की सजा माफ नहीं की जाएगी। गुजरात सरकार ने २०१४ में ही उम्रकैद में माफी के प्रावधान को हटा दिया था। २३ जनवरी, २०१४ को राज्य द्वारा जारी दिशानिर्देश के अनुसार दो या दो से अधिक व्यक्तियों की हत्या अथवा बलात्कार या सामूहिक बलात्कार में संलिप्त दोषियों की सजा माफ नहीं का जायेगी।

बिलकिस बानो के केस में साल २००८ में २१ जनवरी को मुंबई की विशेष सीबीआई अदालत ने ११ दोषियों को उम्रकैद की सजा सुनाई थी। इसके खिलाफ मुंबई हाईकोर्ट में याचिका भी दायर की गई थी, लेकिन वहां भी सजा को बरकरार रखा गया था। २००२ से लड़ती आ रही रही बिलकिस को ६ सालों की लंबी लड़ाई के बाद ये इंसफ मिला था और अब १४ सालों बाद उसकी लड़ाई बेकार मालूम पड़ने लगती है। एक ६ महीने की ग्रभवती महिला से ११ लोग न केवल बलात्कार करते हैं, बल्कि उसकी आंखों के सामने उसके पूरे परिवार की हत्या कर दी जाती है।

अब इसी से जुड़ा एक और दृश्य। एक आंतकित घटना की शिकार और उससे किसी तरह जान बचा पाई बिलकिस बानो के दोषियों को जब माफी देकर रिहा किया जाता है, वह बिलकिस अभी जिंदा है। उसे टीवी से यह खबर मिलती है। औरों की तरह वह भी चौंकती है लेकिन उसका चौंकना बाकी सबसे बहुत अलग है क्योंकि उसके लिये यह उसके जीवन में एक घटी एक असामान्य घटना से उबरने की जुगत में उसे वापस उसी मुकाम पर खड़ा कर देने वाली खबर है जहां से उसने खुद को लड़कर फिर से जीने का हौसला जुटाया था।

स्टेटमेंट्स

गुजरात के मुख्य सचिव इसपर कहते हैं कि इसमें कानून के खिलाफ कुछ भी नहीं है क्योंकि यह समय से पूर्व रिहाई का मामला नहीं है, बल्कि दोषियों को माफी दी गई है। उम्रकैद के सजायाफ्ता को १४ साल की सजा काटने के बाद माफी के लिये आवेदन का अधिकार है। इसी के तहत बिलकिस केस के दोषियों ने भी सजा माफी के लिये याचना की थी और क्योंकि यह मामला २०१४ से पूर्व का था, इसलिये इनके मामले में २०१४ से पूर्व के कानूनन प्रावधानों (१९९२ की माफी नीति) के अनुसार इन्हें माफी दी गई है।

मतलब साफ है कि राज्य सरकार के अनुसार कुछ भी गैरकानूनी नहीं है। ४१ साल की बिलकिस बानो गठना के वक्त महज २० साल की रही होगी। आज जब वह अपनी जिंदगी को दुबारा जीने की कोशिश कर रही थी, अचानक फिर से उस अपमान और दर्द की वेदना को जगा दिया गया। अपने दोषियों कि रिहाई से उसे अपनी सुरक्षा का डर भी सता रहा है। अंकिता के लिये नेशनल कमीशन फॉर प्रोटेक्शन ऑफ चाइल्ड राइट्स ने संज्ञान लिया लेकिन बिलकिस के लिये कहीं कोई संज्ञान नहीं आया। बिलकिस ने राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (National Human Rights Commission) मानवाधिकार आयोग में गुहार लगाया है और एक तस्वीर वहां की भी।

मानवाधिकार के सदस्यों से जब बिलकिस बानो के रिहाइयों को माफी देकर रिहा किये जाने पर राय मांगी जाती है, ज्यादातर इस घटना से अपने आपको को अनभिज्ञ बताते हैं। इससे दो ही हातें अनुमान लगायी जा सकती हैं कि या तो वो किसी भय में हैं कि इसके खिलाफ नहीं बोलना चाहते, या फिर वे इसे इतना छोटा मुद्दा मानते हैं कि इतनी बड़ी घटना उनके लिये एक आम बात है, उनके पास हजारों मुद्दे हैं और सबकी वो जानकारी नहीं रख सकते, इसलिये इसकी जानकारी नहीं है।

थोड़ा और पीछे जाने पर निर्भया कांड और बलात्कार की हर घटना विद्रूप घटनाओं की श्रेणी में और विद्रूप मानी जानी चाहिये। ये दोनों घटनाएं भी झकझोरने वाली थीं, लेकिन दोनों की खबरों में कहीं ना कहीं परिदृश्य थोड़े अलग नजर आते हैं। एक ने जहां बहस को जन्म दिया, दूसरे ने जस्टिस की मांग को आगे बढ़ाया।

Video of tribal man who was found dead on July 2 emerges in Manipur

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

A video of a 31-year-old tribal man, which was made shortly before he was beheaded and set ablaze on the boundary of Churachandpur and Bishnupur districts of Manipur on July 2, emerged on social media on Saturday. A police official said they were analysing the video and that no arrests had been made in the case so far.

In the video clip, the man, identified as David Tuolor, is seen being

slapped and asked about his ethnic identity. A group of men wearing black clothes and camouflage trousers asks if he belongs to the Hmar community. The faces of the men are not visible.

When Tuolor replies that he grew up among the Kom community, he is slapped and asked again if he is a Hmar, to which he replies in the affirmative.

The same day Tuolor was found murdered in his village, Chinglangmei, in Churachandpur. The severed head was put on display on a bamboo fence

and the body burnt.

According to a complaint filed on August 1 by his father, Lalkhumlien, with the National Human Rights Commission, a group of men, suspected to be members of the vigilante groups Aarambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun, led by the police reached Chinglangmei and started looking for Kuki-Zomi-Hmar people. Tuolor, who was home, was caught by the group after which he was tortured to death, the complaint read.

Three Meitei men were also killed on the same day, *The Hindu* had reported. Heisnam Balram Singh, Superintendent of Police, Bishnupur, had said that on July 2, bunkers set up by the villagers near Khujuma Tabi, a Meitei village, were attacked by armed miscreants. He said following the incident, a large number of people stormed the nearby Kuki-Zo villages in Churachandpur district.

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum had said then that the Kuki-Zo villages were attacked first.

Times of India

Panel seeks report on rehab of homeless people

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/panel-seeks-report-on-rehab-of-homeless-people/articleshowprint/104957167.cms>

Bhubaneswar: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has asked for an action taken report from the Union ministries of housing and urban affairs and home in a case related to rehabilitation of homeless people and street children.

The commission issued the direction on October 31 after hearing a petition filed by human rights activist and lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy. Secretaries of the two ministries have been asked to submit the required reports within six weeks.

The petitioner has urged the NHRC for integrated and comprehensive provisions for homeless people and street children in India and rehabilitation of such persons with basic dignity, among others.

We also published the following articles recently

NHRC seeks action taken report from Centre on homeless people
The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has requested action taken reports from the Union ministries of housing and urban affairs and home regarding the rehabilitation of homeless people and street children in India. The NHRC issued this request after hearing a petition from human rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy. The ministries have been given six weeks to submit the reports, or else the NHRC will take further action. The petitioner is calling for comprehensive provisions for homeless individuals, including access to night-shelters, healthcare, and basic hygiene.104948624

NHRC seeks report on 5-year-old's death
The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken notice of the death of a five-year-old boy in Delhi due to a damaged entry gate and has issued notices to the chief secretary, Delhi Development Authority, and the city police commissioner. The incident occurred on October 28, 2023, and despite complaints made by the victim's family and colony residents, no action was taken. NHRC has asked for detailed reports and information on any relief provided to the family and action taken against responsible officials. The commission has also asked the police to clarify contradictions regarding eyewitnesses to the incident.104875661

Left Homeless By Rain, They Now Stare At Himalayan Cold
Hemraj Verma, along with thousands of people in Himachal Pradesh, lost their homes due to the devastating floods and landslides caused by heavy monsoons. Despite receiving some aid from the government, the amount provided is not sufficient to rebuild their lives. Many are left homeless, living in cowsheds or with relatives, and struggling to find the means to construct new houses. The government has announced a relief package, but it has yet to reach all the victims. The situation remains uncertain for those affected by the natural disasters.104796192

The Daily Star

Is democracy on its deathbed again?

<https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/democracy-its-deathbed-again-3461081>

Last week, the entire nation was gripped by anxiety and apprehension, with the prospect of the country facing an upheaval, bringing in dangerous uncertainty. Regrettably, that is exactly what unfolded. Some had held on to the faint hope that the ongoing protests might serve as a catalyst for addressing the structural and organisational challenges surrounding the impending election. However, as time passed, those hopes began to wane.

The current situation, marked by strikes and blockades, bears an uncanny resemblance to the problematic events of 1995-96, when the BNP held the reins of power. During that period, the Awami League ignited a demand for a caretaker government during the election period, a movement that was joined by Jamaat-e-Islami and Jatiya Party. However, the BNP initially chose not to endorse this demand, leaving the BNP's subordinate parties as the sole opposition. This fueled the movement further, leading to prolonged strikes and blockades that persisted for days and weeks. At a certain juncture, the BNP itself introduced the caretaker government clause into the constitution through parliamentary proceedings while it was in power.

The genesis of the concept of a caretaker government can be traced back to the movement against the dictatorship of Ershad. This idea emerged from the realisation that, from 1973, no "proper" elections were held under a political party's rule, giving rise to doubts that elections under a ruling party could ever be fair in Bangladesh. The system gained momentum through its temporary enactment by officials, led by Chief Justice Shahbuddin Ahmed, in 1991 and was eventually inscribed in the constitution after the protests of 1996. Subsequent elections were conducted in accordance with this new constitutional provision in 1996, 2001, and 2008.

However, despite coming to power in 2008 through an election overseen by a caretaker government, the Awami League opted to remove this clause from the constitution, reverting to elections under the control of the ruling political party, as we witnessed in the 2014 and 2018 elections. In 2008, AL secured a monumental electoral victory, presenting an opportunity to reform the constitution and prioritise democracy. Instead, the constitution was utilised for establishing the party's authoritarian rule.

The 2014 election was notably one-sided, with over 153 MPs securing victory without any opposition. The 2018 election demonstrated an unprecedented level of election engineering, marked by extensive ballot stuffing the night before the official election. In light of this, we can say the last government to be widely accepted was the one elected in 2008. Subsequent elections have been filled with irregularities, leaving us with the feeling the current government we have is an illegitimate one that has overstayed its rule.

The extended tenure in power and the handling of the last two elections by AL have illuminated that Bangladesh has yet to develop the capability to conduct elections under the stewardship of a ruling political party. The demand for a caretaker government is not exclusive to the BNP; it resonates with almost all citizens who yearn for genuine elections and democracy. Therefore, aside from AL and its allies, many people refer to it by different names such as an interim government, temporary government, or caretaker government, but the core idea remains the same.

Regrettably, Awami League has not aligned with this popular demand. In an attempt to oppose, suppress, and ultimately quash the movement, it has resorted to employing force, resulting in a substantial transformation of the political landscape in Bangladesh. The state has grown more authoritarian, violent, divisive, and intolerant.

During this government's tenure, there have been visible infrastructural (building bridges, roads) developments. However, many of those have been accompanied by unchecked corruption and environmental risks masquerading as development activities. In the political arena, there is a glaring lack of accountability; any wrongdoing remains unquestioned and unaddressed. The current situation reflects a poor state of administrative bodies, the legal system, and the media.

The National Human Rights Commission, Anti-Corruption Commission, Election Commission, judicial system, and public universities have all forgotten their dignified role, now serving the ruling party's interests, creating a colossal crisis. While a country necessitates a government, it also requires various public bodies to ensure accountability and public interest.

The media needs to play a vital role in scrutinising the government's actions and informing the public, while the justice system needs to uphold legality and impartiality. In the current situation, none of these organisational bodies, which are meant to check the power of the ruling party, are functioning effectively. The police and the political party have become intertwined, exerting unilateral force, and the media is tightly controlled.

The image of the state as untouchable has yielded other far-reaching implications. The banking sector has spiralled out of control, leading to the emergence of family dynasties amassing wealth through dishonest means. Wealth disparity has soared, and natural resources like rivers, forests, and land have been exploited with disastrous effect.

The authoritarian system has cast a wide net over all these issues. Universities, once bastions of critical thought, have also fallen under authoritarian influence, creating a generation that struggles to hold organisational bodies accountable. This situation is not solely about a political party remaining in power through flawed elections; it poses long-term implications of organised corruption and unchecked wrongdoing, as well as a generation unfamiliar with the concept of accountability.

The relationship between citizens and the nation-state is being irreparably damaged. Just the other day, garment labourers protesting the decrease in their minimum wage, which had significantly diminished due to inflation and rising essential prices, were met with police and ruling party men's violence, resulting in the tragic death of two workers and many injuries. These labourers already earn a meagre wage that cannot cover their basic human rights. Is it too much to ask for their voices to be heard?

Our freedom of speech and expression are intrinsically linked to this issue. The future generation's ability to learn and shape a better future, both for themselves and the country, hinges on the conduct of a fair election. It is unacceptable that a small segment of the population holds all the power and wealth without being held accountable for their actions. Elections are the embodiment of the people's freedom, and when elections are not fair and inclusive of all parties, it signifies a lack of space for freedom of expression and the demise of democracy.

After 52 years of independence, after ensuring voting rights and freedom of speech, we were supposed to be discussing ways to decrease disparities and discrimination, focusing on building a sustainable future, protecting our rivers and forests, and addressing issues related to gender, class, ethnic and religious discrimination. However, the reality is that we find ourselves back where we started, collectively fighting for the very principles our independence was built upon: equality, social justice and human dignity.

Financial Express

Nepal earthquake: Injured shifted to a hospital at the foothills, some may be sent to India

At least 157 people were killed and hundreds of others injured when the Friday night earthquake, the worst since 2015, struck western Nepal's remote areas destroying hundreds of houses in the Himalayan country.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/world-news/nepal-earthquake-injured-shifted-to-a-hospital-at-the-foothills-some-may-be-sent-to-india/3297249/>

Nepalgunj, which is at the Himalayan foothills, close to the India-Nepal border, is nearer to the quake-affected region as compared to Kathmandu. (PTI)

Even as search and rescue operations continued through Saturday in the mountainous Jajarkot district in western Nepal hit by a powerful 6.4 magnitude earthquake on Friday night, authorities shifted scores of injured persons to multiple hospitals in the foothills and expected that some of them may be airlifted to India.

At least 157 people were killed and hundreds of others injured when the Friday night earthquake, the worst since 2015, struck western Nepal's remote areas destroying hundreds of houses in the Himalayan country.

The epicentre was in Jajarkot district, about 500km northwest of Kathmandu. The Jajarkot and Rukum districts of western Nepal were worst hit by the quake.

Nepalgunj, which is at the Himalayan foothills, close to the India-Nepal border, is nearer to the quake-affected region as compared to Kathmandu.

Soon after the quake, the Nepal Army mobilised its personnel to carry out rescue works and through Saturday army personnel and other rescue workers dug through the rubble of collapsed houses to find survivors.

Pulling men, women, and children from under the rubble, rescuing those trapped in dilapidated houses, and then, using proper or makeshift stretchers, the rescuers carried the injured. In many cases, army personnel were seen carrying the elderly on their backs.

Around 30 injured persons, including children, were brought to Bheri Hospital here from the quake-affected areas. This is the nearest big hospital to Jajarkot. Scores of near and dear ones of the injured made a beeline outside the emergency department of the Bheri hospital.

A round of the emergency and general wards of the hospital by PTI showed that several injured had fractured hands or legs.

The doctors and the health care professionals had a hectic time attending to the injured brought to the hospital as the emergency ward ran full of injured. "Of those brought in here, one elderly person succumbed and two are critical," nodal officer and cardiac Dr Vipin Acharya told PTI.

The doctors are on continuous alert as more injured persons are expected. "There are many kids also who were injured and are under treatment. We have a team of specialist doctors here that is taking care of these patients. We are on standby as some more injured people can be brought here," he said.

Meanwhile, Prashant Bishta, the local mayor, who was also present at the hospital, said his team had reached here to help the families and relatives of those injured in the earthquake.

The mayor also said that some of the injured were referred to Surkhet. "The quake affected a whole lot of remote villages. It is difficult to reach here so soon and hence we are expecting more injured may be brought here tomorrow. Our local administration is helping the hospital to deal with the situation and help the injured," he said.

"As and when we get more people, some may be referred to Kathmandu and some even to Lucknow (in India) so that just one hospital is not overloaded with patients. We are planning to airlift them," he said.

Nepal government airlifted several injured as the quake-affected remote mountain area is hard to reach by road. In fact, several injured were sent over to Kathmandu in the aircraft in which Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal travelled back to the capital after his visit to the quake-hit region on Saturday morning.

The Nepalese media reported that seven injured people from Chaurjahari were transported to Kathmandu by air and are now under treatment at the Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital.

Vice-Chancellor of the National Academy of Medical Sciences Prof Dr Bhupendra Kumar Basnet said that the emergency, operation theatre, and ICU have been kept ready at the Bir Hospital and at the National Trauma Center.

Kathmandu Post reported that the National Human Rights Commission has appealed to one and all to rescue those injured in the Jajarkot earthquake and provide them with free and effective treatment.

"The Commission urges all the sides concerned, including the government and political parties, to provide free and effective treatment to those injured in the earthquake and engage in rescue and relief operations," the prominent daily quoted Tikaram Pokharel, spokesperson of the Commission, as saying in a statement.

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Times of India

NHRC seeks DIG probe into death of pregnant woman

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/cuttack/nhrc-seeks-dig-probe-into-death-of-pregnant-woman/articleshow/104957163.cms>

Cuttack: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Friday sought an inquiry by a DIG-ranked officer into the death of a 32-year-old pregnant woman following her release from the custody of Rayagada police on January 13.

The NHRC sought the report after taking on record the health screening and medical documents of the woman submitted by Rayagada SP Vivekanand Sharma, along with the post-mortem report. "Let the case filed be examined by the DIG to rule out any foul play, medical negligence or commission of offence in the matter. He will submit his findings within two weeks," the NHRC stated.

Sulabati Nayak, of Paikaikupakhal village under Andirakanj police station, died after childbirth on January 13. The post-mortem report opined that there was brain haemorrhage prior to her death which could have been due to a stroke arising out of hypertension and complication in her pregnancy. The NHRC had registered a case on the basis of a complaint filed by advocate Anup Patro, a Jeypore-based human rights activist. He alleged that Sulabati died due to medical negligence during her 15 days in custody.

Sulabati was arrested, along with 12 other women, in connection with a road blockade protest on December 26, 2022, and produced in court.

We also published the following articles recently

NHRC seeks report on 5-year-old's deathThe National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken notice of the death of a five-year-old boy in Delhi after a damaged entry gate fell on him. The NHRC has issued notices to the chief secretary, Delhi Development Authority, and city police commissioner. The victim's family and residents of the colony claim that despite their complaints, no action was taken. The NHRC has asked for detailed reports within four weeks and has also asked for information on any relief provided to the family and action taken against the responsible officials. The police have been asked to clarify the contradiction between their version and the eyewitness account.104875661

NHRC seeks action taken report from Centre on homeless peopleThe National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has requested an action taken report from the Union ministries of housing and urban affairs and home in a case regarding the rehabilitation of homeless people and street children in India. The Commission issued this direction after hearing a petition filed by human rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy.

The petitioner has urged for comprehensive provisions for homeless people and street children, including access to healthcare and basic hygiene. The secretaries of the two ministries have been given six weeks to submit the reports, or face coercive action.104948624

Swiss woman's murder: Initial autopsy report suggests death due to suffocationThe initial autopsy report of the Swiss woman found dead in West Delhi suggests that she died due to suffocation. The body of Nina Berger, aged around 30 years, was found tied with metal chains near a municipal school. The accused, Gurpreet Singh, who was arrested in the murder case, has been uncooperative and is changing statements. The final autopsy report is expected in a few days. Singh's police custody has been extended by five more days. The body will be cremated and the ashes handed over to the embassy for Berger's family.104830973

Kranti Odisha

राष्ट्रीय मानव अधिकार आयोग ने कहा सेवा निवृत्त के बाद ग्रेज्यूटी एवं फंड का पैसा न देना कर्मचारियों के मानवाधिकारों का है उलंघन

<https://krantiodishanews.in/47343/>

चंदौली (यूपी) राष्ट्रीय मानव अधिकार आयोग ने गांधी आश्रम वाराणसी द्वारा कर्मचारियों का फंड एवं ग्रेज्यूट की धन राशि हड़प लेने की शिकायत पर दिनांक 03/11/2023 को मामले पर सुनवाई करते हुए अपने निर्देश में कहा है कि यह चिंता का विषय है कि क्षेत्रीय श्री गांधी आश्रम, वाराणसी इतने वित्तीय संकट का सामना कर रहा है कि बदले में काम करने वाले कर्मचारियों के साथ – साथ सेवा निवृत्त लोगों के लिए भी कठनाईयों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। आयोग ने अपने निर्देश में कहा है सेवा निवृत्त के बाद वित्तीय संकट के कारण भी वैध देय से इंकार करना सेवानिवृत्त कर्मचारियों के मानवाधिकारों का घोर उलंघन है।

मामला क्षेत्रीय श्री गांधी आश्रम वाराणसी का है। पीड़ित नरसिंह कुशवाहा ग्राम मुगलपुरवा थाना चकिया जनपद चंदौली गांधी आश्रम वाराणसी में कार्यरत थे रिटायरमेंट के बाद नरसिंह कुशवाहा अपने फंड एवं ग्रेज्यूटी के लिए क्षेत्रीय गांधी आश्रम का चक्कर लगाते लगाते थक गए बावजूद उनके फंड एवं ग्रेज्यूटी का भुगतान नहीं किया गया। मामला संज्ञान में आने के बाद मानवाधिकार सी डब्ल्यू ए के चेयरमैन योगेंद्र कुमार सिंह (योगी) ने प्रकरण की शिकायत NHRC ने भेजकर पीड़ित का फंड और ग्रेज्यूटी दिलाने का अनुरोध किया था। अयोग ने मामले पर सुनवाई करते हुए जिलाधिकारी से रिपोर्ट तलब की। अयोग के निर्देश के क्रम में जिलाधिकारी वाराणसी ने अपने पत्र दिनांक 10.10.2023 द्वारा क्षेत्रीय श्री गांधी आश्रम वाराणसी की रिपोर्ट अग्रेषित की है। बताया गया कि रुपए का चेक उसे 11,000/रुपए दिए गए थे जो किन्हीं कारणों से चुकाए नहीं जा सके। हालांकि राशि को व्यक्तिगत कोष में जमा कर दिया गया है। रिपोर्ट में बताया गया है की संस्था आर्थिक वित्तीय संकट से जूझ रही है। लेकिन भुगतान किए जाने वाला बकाया बहुत अधिक है और इस लिए, यदि संभव हो तो संस्था की कुछ अचल संपत्तियों को बेचकर इसका प्रबंधन किया जाएगा। मामले की जानकारी खादी एवं ग्रामोद्योग आयोग को भी दे दी गई है।

अयोग ने रिपोर्ट पर विचार किया है और कहा है कि यह चिंता का विषय है कि कर्मचारियों के सेवानिवृत्ति के बाद वित्तीय संकट के कारण भी वैध देय से इंकार करना सेवानिवृत्त कर्मचारियों के मानवाधिकारों का घोर उलंघन है। पीड़ित का लगभग फंड और ग्रेज्यूटी का पंद्रह लाख बकाया है। अयोग ने मामले पर सुनवाई करते हुए सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यम मंत्रालय भारत सरकार के सचिव को इस मामले को देखने और ऐसे संस्थानों को पुनर्जीवित करने के लिए की जा रही कार्रवाई के बारे में चार सप्ताह के भीतर अयोग को सूचित करने का निर्देश दिया है। साथ ही आयोग ने अपने आदेश में कहा है कि क्षेत्रीय श्री गांधी आश्रम वाराणसी के सेवानिवृत्त कर्मचारियों के फंड और ग्रेज्यूटी के बकाया भुगतान करके मुद्दे को तत्काल हल करने के लिए कदम उठाने का निर्देश दिया जिससे वे सम्मानजनक जीवन जी सकें।

Janta se Rishta

स्टरलाइट गोलीबारी में 13 लोगों की जान, दंडात्मक कार्रवाई पर रिपोर्ट मांगी

मद्रास उच्च न्यायालय ने राज्य को यह जवाब दाखिल करने का निर्देश दिया है कि स्टरलाइट विरोधी प्रदर्शनकारियों पर पुलिस गोलीबारी के संबंध में न्यायमूर्ति अरुणा जगदीसन आयोग की सिफारिश के अनुसार एक जिला कलेक्टर और एक पुलिस महानिरीक्षक सहित 17 अधिकारियों के खिलाफ मुकदमा चलाने के लिए क्या कार्रवाई की गई है। 2018 में थूथुकुडी में 13 लोगों की मौत हो गई थी।

न्यायमूर्ति जे निशा बानू और न्यायमूर्ति एन माला की खंडपीठ ने शुक्रवार को सरकार से यह बताने को कहा कि आयोग की सिफारिश के आधार पर “अभियोजन और अनुशासनात्मक कार्रवाई के संदर्भ में क्या किया गया है”। अदालत का यह निर्देश मानवाधिकार कार्यकर्ता और पीपुल्स वॉच के कार्यकारी निदेशक हेनरी टीफेन द्वारा दायर एक याचिका पर आया, जिसमें गोलीबारी की घटना में राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) द्वारा शुरू की गई स्वतः संज्ञान जांच को बंद करने के फैसले को चुनौती दी गई थी।

टिपाने ने कहा कि आयोग ने 17 पुलिस और राजस्व अधिकारियों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की सिफारिश की थी लेकिन अभी तक कोई कार्रवाई नहीं की गई है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि सीबीआई ने सिर्फ एक पुलिस इंस्पेक्टर के खिलाफ एफआईआर दर्ज की है। एनएचआरसी द्वारा जांच बंद करने के संबंध में, उन्होंने कहा कि अधिकार निकाय ने अपने जांच विभाग की रिपोर्ट को नहीं छुआ है, बल्कि जांच बंद करने के लिए केवल राज्य द्वारा दायर रिपोर्ट का हवाला दिया है। महाधिवक्ता आर शुनमुगसुंदरम ने उच्च न्यायालय को बताया कि राज्य को एनएचआरसी से कोई जांच रिपोर्ट नहीं मिली है। न्यायाधीशों ने मामले की तारीख 17 नवंबर, 2023 तय की।