

NHRC warns, personal appearance of Odisha CS ,Railway Board Chairman on Bahanaga Train tragedy

<https://mobilenews24x7.com/2023/featured/nhrc-warns-personal-appearance-of-odisha-cs-railway-board-chairman-on-bahanaga-train-tragedy/>

Kendrapara, Sep 19 : The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has warned the Odisha Chief Secretary and the Railway Board Chairman to invoke its coercive power u/s 13 of the PHR Act, 1993 calling for their personal appearances before the Commission in connection with the Bahanaga Train tragedy report.

The coercive power u/s 13 of the PHR Act, 1993 for their personal appearances will be invoked if the Odisha Chief Secretary and the Railway Board Chairman failed to submit the requisite report related to Balasore Train accident within a period of four weeks.

The NHRC passed the order last week on a petition filed by Human Rights Activist Radhakanta Tripathy.

Tripathy in his petition stated that the rare and tragic train accident happened in Bahanaga road station in Odisha Balasore district on June 2 last due to gross negligence of Railways. There has been subsequent violation of human rights of the passengers, both dead and alive, due to lack of appropriate and timely action by the Railways and State administration, he alleged.

Tripathy said that the rights of deceased/ victims are being violated by the State Government/Railways as the authorities have failed to preserve the bodies till identification of the same by their kins.

He said dead bodies are still lying for disposal and fake claimants are coming forward to stake claims for which the compensation cases to the next of kin of the deceased victims are pending.

The petitioner requested the NHRC for an in-depth analysis, independent and impartial investigation of the incident and sought for heavy compensation to the family members of the deceased, dignified farewell of the dead bodies and compensation with proper medical care to the injured ones.

He also sought for intervention of the administration and Railways for proper documentation of all the passengers for loss of documents and preparation of further documents for claiming insurance and service benefits, Students, children care etc.

The petitioner sought for preventive, compensatory and rehabilitating action with some permanent solution to prevent such incidents.

Earlier the NHRC had sought Action Taken Reports from the Odisha Chief Secretary and the Chairman, Railway Board within a period of four weeks.

However, despite direction neither the state Chief Secretary nor the Railway board chairman submitted any report till date.

Only one internal communication on September 2 last has been endorsed to the Commission by the Additional Secretary, Home Department of Odisha government where a request has been made to Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Health & Family Welfare Department, DGP, Odisha, Collector & District Magistrate, Balasore and Superintendent of Police, Balasore for submission of action taken report in the icase, the NHRC noted.

New Delhi: Prez Droupadi Murmu to inaugurate National Human Rights Institutions conference on 20th September

<https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=New-Delhi%3A-Prez-Droupadi-Murmu-to-inaugurate-National-Human-Rights-Institutions-conference-on-20th-September&id=468006>

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President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate the conference of National Human Rights Institutions of the Asia Pacific region in New Delhi tomorrow. The two-day conference will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and 30 years of National Human Rights Institutions and the Paris Principles.

A sub-theme on the environment and climate change will also be held. Additionally, the National Human Rights Commission will organize a seminar on Business and Human Rights. The event aims to ensure that businesses prioritize human rights and environmental sustainability in their operations.

NHRC warns personal appearance of Odisha CS ,Railway Board Chairman on Bahanaga Train tragedy report

<http://www.uniindia.com/nhrc-warns-personal-appearance-of-odisha-cs-railway-board-chairman-on-bahanaga-train-tragedy-report/east/news/3053714.html>

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एशिया प्रशांत की राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार संस्थाओं का सम्मेलन आज

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 19 सितंबर।

एशिया प्रशांत क्षेत्र के देशों की राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार संस्थाओं के दो दिन के सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन 20 सितंबर को राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू करेंगी। विज्ञान भवन में होने वाले इस सम्मेलन का आयोजन राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने किया है।

सम्मेलन में व्यापार व मानवाधिकार विषय पर एक सेमीनार भी होगी। पहले एशिया प्रशांत फोरम की वार्षिक

आमसभा की बैठक होगी। उसके बाद दो दिन का सम्मेलन होगा। आयोग के प्रवक्ता जैमिनी कुमार श्रीवास्तव के मुताबिक दो दिन के इस सम्मेलन में मानवाधिकारों पर वैश्विक घोषणा की 75वीं वर्षगांठ भी मनाई जाएगी।

साथ ही राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार संगठनों की 30वीं वर्षगांठ और पर्यावरण व जलवायु परिवर्तन पर पेरिस सिद्धांतों की बाबत 21 सितंबर को विस्तार से चर्चा होगी। आयोग ने 20 सितंबर को व्यापार मानवाधिकार विषय पर एक सेमीनार का भी आयोजन किया गया है।

जनसत्ता

Wed, 20 September 2023

<https://epaper.jansatta.com/>



एशिया प्रशांत क्षेत्र के राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार संस्थानों के सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन करेंगी राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू

<https://newsonair.gov.in/hindi/Hindi-News?title=%E0%A4%8F%E0%A4%B6%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%B6%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%82%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%A4%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0-%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B7%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%9F%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%AF%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%82%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%82%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%B2%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%89%E0%A4%A6%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%98%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%9F%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%82%E0%A4%97%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B7%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%9F%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%AA%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A6%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8C%E0%A4%AA%E0%A4%A6%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%82&id=142073>

[News?title=%E0%A4%8F%E0%A4%B6%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%B6%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%82%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%A4%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0-%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B7%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%9F%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%AF%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%82%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%82%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%B2%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%89%E0%A4%A6%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%98%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%9F%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%82%E0%A4%97%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B7%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%9F%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%AA%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A6%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8C%E0%A4%AA%E0%A4%A6%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%82&id=142073](https://newsonair.gov.in/hindi/Hindi-News?title=%E0%A4%8F%E0%A4%B6%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%AF%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%B6%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%82%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B7%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%A4%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0-%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B7%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%9F%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%AF%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%82%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%82%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%B2%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%89%E0%A4%A6%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%98%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%9F%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%82%E0%A4%97%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B7%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%9F%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%AA%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A6%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8C%E0%A4%AA%E0%A4%A6%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%82&id=142073)

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राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू कल नई दिल्ली में एशिया प्रशांत क्षेत्र के राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार संस्थानों के सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन करेंगी। दो दिन का यह सम्मेलन मानवाधिकारों की सार्वभौम घोषणा की 75वीं वर्षगांठ और राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार संस्थानों तथा पेरिस नियमों के 30 साल पूरे होने के सिलसिले में आयोजित किया जा रहा है। पर्यावरण और जलवायु परिवर्तन से संबंधित उप-विषय पर भी चर्चा की जाएगी। इसके अतिरिक्त, राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग, व्यवसाय और मानवाधिकार पर एक सेमिनार का आयोजन करेगा। इस आयोजन का उद्देश्य यह सुनिश्चित करना है कि व्यवसाय मानवाधिकारों और पर्यावरणीय स्थिरता को प्राथमिकता दें।

NGOs flay APF for allowing NHRC to host meet in Delhi

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The All India Network of NGOs and Individuals has condemned the Asia Pacific Forum (APF) for acceding to the National Human Rights Commission of India's request to host the 28th biannual conference in New Delhi on September 20 and 21. This happened at a time when the NHRC has recently been deferred its accreditation by the sub-committee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI).

"This is deeply troubling as the hosting of this prestigious conference by the NHRC will not aid the important cause of human rights protection in India but only provide the NHRC a fig leaf of international legitimacy to cover up its dismal performance," a statement from the Network, working with national and state Human Rights Commission, said.

Its members said the NHRC had been silent on the situation of human rights defenders in India.

मान्यता स्थगित होने के बावजूद एनएचआरसी को वैश्विक बैठक की मेजबानी मिलने का विरोध

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग 20-21 सितंबर को नई दिल्ली में 28वें द्विवार्षिक एशिया प्रशांत फोरम सम्मेलन की मेजबानी कर रहा है। इसके विरोध में करीब 2,000 सिविल सोसाइटी संगठनों और व्यक्तियों ने एक बयान जारी करके हाल के समय में सामने आए मानवाधिकार संबंधी मामलों में एनएचआरसी के ढीले रवैये पर भी सवाल उठाए हैं।

<https://thewirehindi.com/257829/nhrc-asia-pacific-forum-global-meet-accreditation/>

नई दिल्ली: करीब 2,000 सिविल सोसाइटी संगठनों और व्यक्तियों ने इस तथ्य की निंदा करते हुए एक बयान पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं कि एशिया प्रशांत फोरम (एपीएफ) ने भारत के राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग को दिल्ली में अपने अगले सम्मेलन की मेजबानी करने की अनुमति दी है, बावजूद इसके कि मानवाधिकार संगठनों के वैश्विक गठबंधन इसकी मान्यता स्थगित कर दी है।

मई में कई रिपोर्ट में बताया गया था कि राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार संस्थानों के वैश्विक गठबंधन ने कर्मचारियों और नेतृत्व में विविधता की कमी, नियुक्तियों में राजनीतिक हस्तक्षेप, मानवाधिकार उल्लंघनों की जांच में पुलिस अधिकारियों की भागीदारी, और अन्य कारणों का हवाला देते हुए एनएचआरसी की मान्यता स्थगित कर दी थी। 1999 में अंतरराष्ट्रीय निकाय से मान्यता प्राप्त होने के बाद से यह दूसरी बार था जब इसकी मान्यता को स्थगित किया गया हो।

रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, 1,877 सिविल सोसाइटी संगठनों और व्यक्तियों के बयान में कहा गया है, 'मार्च 2023 के बाद से एनएचआरसी इंडिया में सिविल सोसाइटी के सदस्यों के साथ बैठक बुलाने का साहस नहीं है, जिससे कि हमारे साथ मिलकर रणनीति तैयार की जा सके और इसके बजाय उसने इस मुद्दे का राजनीतिकरण करने के लिए एपीएफ सम्मेलन का इस्तेमाल किया है।'

संगठनों ने कहा कि 20-21 सितंबर को नई दिल्ली में 28वें द्विवार्षिक एपीएफ सम्मेलन की मेजबानी एनएचआरसी को अपने निराशाजनक प्रदर्शन को छिपाने के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय वैधता का एक मौका देगी।

अपनी विस्तृत प्रेस विज्ञप्ति में संगठनों ने इस तथ्य का हवाला दिया है कि गैरकानूनी गतिविधियां (संरक्षण) अधिनियम (यूएपीए) जैसे आतंकवाद विरोधी कानूनों का इस्तेमाल मानवाधिकार रक्षकों, वकीलों, कार्यकर्ताओं और पत्रकारों को निशाना बनाने और चुप कराने के लिए किया गया है, सबसे प्रमुख उदाहरण एल्गार परिषद मामले का है।

विज्ञप्ति में मणिपुर में एनएचआरसी की भूमिका का भी उल्लेख किया गया है।

इसमें कहा गया है, 'मानवाधिकारों को खतरे में डालने वाली ऐसी खौफनाक घटनाओं के बावजूद एनएचआरसी चुप था। कुकी-जो समुदाय के सदस्यों के खिलाफ यौन हिंसा की शिकायत के बाद सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा स्वतः संज्ञान लेकर कार्रवाई शुरू करने के बाद ही एनएचआरसी नींद से जागा और मणिपुर राज्य को नोटिस जारी किया। हाल के वर्षों की सबसे गंभीर मानवाधिकार चुनौतियों में से एक, जिसमें जातीय सफाये (Ethnic Cleansing), यौन अपराध और यहां तक कि संभवतः मानवता के खिलाफ अपराध के आयाम हैं,

एनएचआरसी की प्रतिक्रिया (देर से और कमजोर) इसके संवैधानिक और कानूनी दायित्वों से मुंह मोड़ने के समान रही.'

उन्होंने कहा कि अन्य परिस्थितियां जिनमें यह चुप रहा है, वह तब देखी गई जब 'सरकार ने मुस्लिम अल्पसंख्यकों के साथ-साथ अपने से असहमति व्यक्त करने वालों के घर तोड़ने के लिए उत्तर प्रदेश, मध्य प्रदेश, दिल्ली और हरियाणा में बुलडोजर तैनात कर दिए.'

संगठनों ने आगे कहा कि एनएसआरसी पूरे भारत में नियमित तौर पर हो रहे मुस्लिम अल्पसंख्यकों के खिलाफ अपराधों की वृद्धि पर भी चुप रहा, साथ ही उन्होंने तीस्ता सीतलवाड जैसे मानवाधिकार रक्षकों और खुर्रम परवेज जैसे पत्रकारों की गिरफ्तारी पर आयोग की चुप्पी के बारे में भी बात की.

इसमें कहा गया है कि जब एनएचआरसी से पूर्व में जुड़े रहे हर्ष मंदर को सरकार ने निशाना बनाया, तब भी एनएचआरसी ने मूक दर्शक बने रहने का फैसला किया.

विज्ञप्ति में निंदा करते हुए कहा गया है, 'हाल ही में उच्च न्यायालयों या सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के समक्ष आए पत्रकारों से संबंधित एक भी मामले में एनएचआरसी ने मानवाधिकार रक्षकों की सुरक्षा के लिए एपीएफ की मार्च 2022 की कार्य योजना का पालन करना उचित नहीं समझा. ऐसे कई उदाहरण दिए जा सकते हैं, लेकिन सीधी बात यह है कि आज एनएचआरसी भारत में मानवाधिकारों और कानून के शासन दोनों के जानबूझकर किए जा रहे विनाश का मूकदर्शक बना हुआ है.'

संगठन ने कहा कि एपीएफ सम्मेलन वैश्विक मंच पर एनएचआरसी के लिए अपने पाप धोने का अवसर होगा.

उन्होंने कहा कि एनएचआरसी को मानवाधिकार संरक्षण अधिनियम के साथ-साथ पेरिस सिद्धांतों द्वारा प्रदत्त जनादेश को पूरा करना चाहिए. विज्ञप्ति में कहा गया है, 'हम एपीएफ और एनएचआरआई के सभी अध्यक्षों से भी आह्वान करते हैं कि वे अपने ही सदस्यों में से एक के द्वारा किए जा रहे एपीएफ सम्मेलन के राजनीतिकरण को देखें, जिसका ट्रैक रिकॉर्ड बहुत खराब रहा है.'

साथ ही, इसमें कहा गया है कि इसके खराब ट्रैक रिकॉर्ड का एक संकेतक यह तथ्य भी है कि एनएचआरसी पिछले नौ महीनों से तीन प्रमुख पदों को भरे बिना काम कर रहा है.

Forum against nod granted to NHRC to host conference

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Madurai/forum-against-nod-granted-to-nhrc-to-host-conference/article67323973.ece>

All India Network of NGOs and Individuals Working with National and State Human Rights Institutions (AiNNI) has condemned the permission granted to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) India by the Asia Pacific Forum (APF) to host a conference in New Delhi.

The NHRC has been deferred its accreditation by the Sub Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), said the press statement issued by the members of AiNNI. Over 1,800 activists signed the statement.

The members said that the NHRC had been silent with respect to the situation of the human rights defenders in India and had done nothing to ensure that the human rights defenders were not imprisoned for exercising their right to speech and expression.

Referring to the Human Rights violations in Manipur, the members said that the NHRC had initiated action only after the Supreme Court had initiated *Suo Motu* action. The response of the NHRC had been nothing short of an abdication of its constitutional and legal responsibility, the members said.

The members said that the NHRC in the past had been an intervenor before the Supreme Court in key cases of human rights violations. However, today, in any issue of human rights violations, the NHRC has chosen to maintain a silence. Since the basic condition of fulfilling the mandate conferred by the Protection of Human Rights Act as well as the Paris Principles have not been met by the NHRC, civil society organisations condemn the very holding of the APF Conference in India, the AiNNI members said.

President Droupadi Murmu to inaugurate conference of National Human Rights Institutions of Asia Pacific tomorrow

<https://www.indialegallive.com/top-news-of-the-day/news/president-droupadi-murmu-conference-national-human-rights-institutions-asia-pacific/>

President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate the two-day conference of National Human Rights Institutions of the Asia Pacific region on Wednesday.

The conference, being organised by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India, in collaboration with the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, will be held at the Plenary Hall of Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

The inaugural session will kickstart at 11:00 am with the conference of NHRIs of Asia Pacific and the Annual General Meeting (AGM), 2023, followed by a seminar organised by NHRC, India on 'Business and Human Rights' at 12:30 pm.

The seminar is divided into two thematic sessions – 'Harmonising climate change, human rights and business,' and 'Advancing human rights in business and industry.'

On Thursday, a Biennial Conference will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR) and 30 years of National Human Rights Institutions and the Paris Principles, with a sub-theme on the environment and climate change.

The event will serve as a platform for meaningful discussions, knowledge sharing and the development of strategies to ensure that businesses prioritise human rights and environmental sustainability in their operations.

Keynote speakers and panellists include prominent figures from the human rights paraphernalia, senior government functionaries, environmental, and corporate experts and regulators with diverse perspectives and insights.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to engage in interactive sessions and network with like-minded individuals and organisations committed to advancing the cause of human rights in business. All sessions of the conference will be streamed live through webcast.

NGOs flay APF for allowing NHRC to host meet in Delhi

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The All India Network of NGOs and Individuals has condemned the Asia Pacific Forum (APF) for acceding to the National Human Rights Commission of India's request to host the 28th biannual conference in New Delhi on September 20 and 21. This happened at a time when the NHRC has recently been deferred its accreditation by the sub-committee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI).

"This is deeply troubling as the hosting of this prestigious conference by the NHRC will not aid the important cause of human rights protection in India but only provide the NHRC a fig leaf of international legitimacy to cover up its dismal performance," a statement from the Network, working with national and state Human Rights Commission, said.

Its members said the NHRC had been silent on the situation of human rights defenders in India.

15 Years Since Batla House Encounter: On Media, Police, and Impact on Jamia

Human rights groups have argued that the encounter may have been staged to serve political interests.

<https://www.thequint.com/opinion/15-years-since-batla-house-encounter-on-media-police-and-impact-on-jamia>

19 September 2023 marks the 15th anniversary of the Batla House Encounter, a controversial incident that shook the nation and raised serious questions about the role of the media and police in India.

On a fateful evening of 13 September 2008, Delhi was rocked by a series of bombings that targeted crowded markets and public spaces, leaving five bombs detonated within 30 minutes, claiming numerous lives and causing widespread panic. The responsibility for these blasts was claimed by an outfit called the Indian Mujahideen in an email.

In the aftermath of these bombings, the police, particularly the Special Cell of the Delhi Police, launched a high-profile armed operation in Batla House, a locality in Southeast Delhi, specifically in the Jamia Nagar area.

This operation resulted in the death of two people, Atif Amin and Sajid, while two other suspects, Mohammad Saif and Zeeshan, were arrested. The encounter also led to the injury and subsequent death of Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma, an officer of the Delhi Police's Special Cell.

However, what followed the Batla House Encounter was a whirlwind of controversies, accusations, and questions.

Accusations were raised against the Delhi Police by various politicians, media outlets, and civil society organizations, who alleged that the encounter was a staged "fake encounter." They contended that the individuals killed were not terrorists but innocent students and that the encounter was conducted to serve political interests.

For example, a statement released by the fact finding team of the CPI (Marxist Leninist) & All India Students Association said, "In light of these revelations and in the persistent refusal of the NHRC to take into account evidence which vitiates the Delhi Police claims that the 'encounter' was genuine, it is urgent that a judicial probe be ordered into the Batla House 'encounter'."

Additionally, the Jamia Teacher's Solidarity Group (a collective consisting of the PUCL, PUDR, ANHAD, Delhi Union of Journalists and other organisations), stated, "The events of 19th September and subsequent days left the Jamia community shocked, aggrieved and fearful. In particular the manner and the suspicious circumstances in which young boys, many of them students of Jamia Millia Islamia, were picked up by the Special Cell, and pronounced "dreaded terrorists" by a trial by an utterly sensationalist and prejudiced media created an atmosphere of fear and suspicion."

Contradictions in the Police Version

One of the most significant issues with the police's narrative of the encounter was the contradictions in their statements. Different reports from various sources painted a conflicting picture of what transpired during the operation. For instance, the number of officers involved, the sequence of events, and even the presence of bulletproof vests were all subjects of dispute.

The police's initial account suggested that they had gone to the location for a routine investigation and were taken by surprise when they encountered armed terrorists.

However, later statements by the police implied that they had credible intelligence about the presence of dangerous terrorists in the area. These inconsistencies raised questions about the veracity of the police's claims.

As allegations of a "fake encounter" gained traction, human rights organizations and civil rights groups demanded a thorough and impartial investigation into the Batla House Encounter. They argued that the encounter may have been staged to serve political interests or to deflect attention from other issues.

Media's Role in Shaping Public Perception

In the case of the Batla House Encounter, the media's role was particularly contentious and has been subject to criticism and scrutiny. One of the primary criticisms leveled against the media's coverage of the Batla House Encounter was sensationalism.

News outlets, in their pursuit of higher ratings and readership, often resorted to sensational headlines and speculative reporting. This sensationalism not only fueled public anxiety but also contributed to the demonization of the suspects and the entire Jamia Nagar locality.

The media's portrayal of the encounter as a "thrilling shootout" created a narrative that played into the preconceived notions of terrorism, often painting a one-sided picture of the events. The relentless coverage focused on the police's perspective and rarely questioned the official version of events.

While the media has a vital role in investigative journalism, the Batla House Encounter case highlighted instances where media outlets failed to conduct in-depth investigations independently. Instead, they often relied on official police statements and reports, effectively becoming the mouthpiece for law enforcement agencies.

This lack of independent investigation resulted in a dearth of critical analysis and the acceptance of the police version of events without sufficient scrutiny. Journalists should serve as watchdogs, holding the government and law enforcement agencies accountable, but in this case, they appeared to be more aligned with the official narrative.

Impact on Public Opinion and Community

The aftermath of the Batla House Encounter had severe repercussions, especially for the Azamgarh region and its residents. The media's portrayal of Azamgarh as a "hub of terror" had a detrimental impact on the region, leading to widespread fear, arbitrary arrests, and the unjust suffering of innocent individuals.

Moreover, the false implications of several individuals in terrorism-related cases further exacerbated the situation, tarnishing the reputation of Azamgarh and its residents unjustly.

Additionally, the arrest of Mohammad Talha, an IT professional, raised concerns about the targeting and intimidation of those courageous enough to speak out against injustices in the aftermath of the encounter.

These events collectively contributed to what can be termed as an "Azamgarh phobia," characterized by suspicion, fear, and the erosion of trust within the region.

Impact on Jamia Millia Islamia

Jamia Millia Islamia, a prestigious university located in close proximity to the Batla House encounter site, felt the repercussions of the incident deeply. In the aftermath of the encounter, the police's actions extended beyond the suspects. Several students and faculty members of Jamia Millia Islamia were subjected to harassment, detention, and even torture by the police.

This created an atmosphere of fear and mistrust within the university community. The Batla House Encounter and its aftermath had a chilling effect on the educational environment at Jamia Millia Islamia.

Students and faculty reported feeling targeted and stigmatized, leading to a decline in academic engagement and a sense of insecurity.

The university's reputation suffered as well, with potential students and faculty members reconsidering their association with an institution situated in an area associated with a controversial encounter.

The Batla House Encounter, which occurred 15 years ago, continues to be a contentious and sensitive issue in India. It serves as a stark reminder of the complex interplay between law enforcement, media, and communities, particularly in the context of counterterrorism operations.

The incident raises fundamental questions about the role of the media in shaping public perception, the conduct of the police during such operations, and the impact on affected communities.

Moving forward, it is crucial for Indian society to learn from the lessons of the Batla House Encounter. This involves not only holding those responsible for misconduct accountable but also implementing systemic changes that prevent such incidents from happening in

the first place. It requires a commitment to transparency, accountability, and respect for human rights from all stakeholders, including the media, law enforcement agencies, and policymakers.

As the nation reflects on this anniversary, it should do so with a commitment to ensuring that encounters like Batla House become a thing of the past and that the principles of justice, fairness, and human rights prevail in all aspects of counterterrorism efforts. This is not only a matter of legal and ethical responsibility but also a step toward building a more just and harmonious society.

(Vikram Raj is an independent journalist. This is an opinion piece and the views expressed are the author's own. The Quint neither endorses nor is responsible for them.)

New Delhi: Prez Droupadi Murmu to inaugurate National Human Rights Institutions conference on 20th September

<https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=New-Delhi%3A-Prez-Droupadi-Murmu-to-inaugurate-National-Human-Rights-Institutions-conference-on-20th-September&id=468006>

President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate the conference of National Human Rights Institutions of the Asia Pacific region in New Delhi tomorrow. The two-day conference will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and 30 years of National Human Rights Institutions and the Paris Principles.

A sub-theme on the environment and climate change will also be held. Additionally, the National Human Rights Commission will organize a seminar on Business and Human Rights. The event aims to ensure that businesses prioritize human rights and environmental sustainability in their operations.

जोहड़ के सौंदर्यकरण के लिए मानवाधिकार आयोग को भेजा पत्र

<https://www.bhaskar.com/local/haryana/rewari/news/letter-sent-to-human-rights-commission-for-beautification-of-johar-131866830.html>

रेवाड़ी। चांदावास के जोहड़ की सफाई व सौन्दर्यकरण को लेकर अब ग्रामीणों ने मानवाधिकार आयोग को पत्र भेजा है। ग्रामीणों के आरोप हैं कि जिला प्रशासन को तालाब एवं अपशिष्ट जल प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण पंचकूला 3 बार रिमांडर भेज चुका है, लेकिन इस पर कोई कार्रवाई नहीं की गई। परेशान होकर ग्रामीणों ने अब मानव अधिकार आयोग का दरवाजा खट-खटाया है। संजीव कुमार ने बताया कि पिछले 1 साल से इस जोहड़ की कई बार लिखित शिकायत दी जा चुकी है लेकिन प्रशासन की ओर से अभी तक कोई कदम नहीं उठाया गया।

NGOs condemn NHRC, call it 'silent spectator' to human rights violations

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ngos-condemn-nhrc-call-it-silent-spectator-to-human-rights-violations/article67323637.ece>

Hosting the 28th bi-annual APF conference at New Delhi on September 20-21 will give the NHRC a fig leaf of international legitimacy to cover up its dismal performance, the civil society groups said

Members of Indian civil society condemn the Asia Pacific Forum (APF) for acceding to the National Human Rights Commission of India (NHRC) request to host 28th Biannual Conference in New Delhi on 20th and 21st September 2023. This happened at a time when NHRC-India has recently been deferred its Accreditation by the Sub Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI).

In its edition of May 25th, The Hindu had published that for the second time in a decade, GANHRI deferred the accreditation of NHRC-India citing objections like political interference in appointments, involving police in Human Rights violations probe and poor cooperation with civil societies. The GANHRI's letter for the same also cited lack of diversity in staff and leadership and Insufficient action to protect marginalised groups, as reasons for the deferment of the accreditation.

"This is deeply troubling as the hosting of this prestigious conference by the NHRC will not aid the important cause of human rights protection in India but only provide the NHRC a fig leaf of international legitimacy to cover up its dismal performance," a statement from All India Network of NGOs and Individuals working with national and state Human Rights Commission (AiNNI) said.

The members of the AiNNI said that the NHRC has been silent with respect to the situation of human rights defenders in India,. They alleged that NHRC was roused from its slumber to issue notice to the state of Manipur, only after the Supreme Court initiated suo motu action on the complaint of sexual violence against members of the Kuki Zo community. Also, that the NHRC remained silent when homes of Muslims were bulldozed and has never issued a statement regarding the sexual harassment complaints by female wrestlers against a member of parliament belonging to the ruling party.

"The self-chosen role of silent spectator to human rights violations by the state has meant that the functions of the NHRC under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 are sadly under utilized. The NHRC in the past has been an intervenor before the Supreme Court in key cases of human rights violations in the Gujarat riots of 2002. However, today, in any issue of human rights violations, which have come before the Supreme Court with important ramifications, be it the abrogation of Article 370, marriage equality, hate speech or Manipur the NHRC has chosen to maintain an amoral and indeed unconstitutional silence," the letter said.

The members of the AiNNI added that hosting of the APF conference will be an opportunity for the NHRC to further white wash its sins at global stage.

“We also call upon APF and all chairperson members of NHRIs to see through the politicization of this APF conference by one of your own members whose track record has been extremely poor . An indicator of its poor track record is the fact that the NHRC has functioned without filling in three key positions for the past nine months,” the letter added which was issued by Henri Tiphagne, National Working Secretary, AiNNI.

NGOs flay APF for allowing NHRC to host meet in Delhi

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The All India Network of NGOs and Individuals has condemned the Asia Pacific Forum (APF) for acceding to the National Human Rights Commission of India's request to host the 28th biannual conference in New Delhi on September 20 and 21. This happened at a time when the NHRC has recently been deferred its accreditation by the sub-committee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI).

"This is deeply troubling as the hosting of this prestigious conference by the NHRC will not aid the important cause of human rights protection in India but only provide the NHRC a fig leaf of international legitimacy to cover up its dismal performance," a statement from the Network, working with national and state Human Rights Commission, said.

Its members said the NHRC had been silent on the situation of human rights defenders in India.

आयोग ने बहनागा ट्रेन त्रासदी रिपोर्ट पर मुख्य सचिव , रेलवे बोर्ड अध्यक्ष को उपस्थित होने की चेतावनी दी

<http://www.univarta.com/news/other-states/story/3053856.html>

केंद्रपाड़ा, 19 सितंबर (वार्ता) राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने ओडिशा के मुख्य सचिव और रेलवे बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष को बहनागा ट्रेन त्रासदी रिपोर्ट के संबंध में आयोग के समक्ष व्यक्तिगत रूप से पेश होने के लिए कहा है।

yआयोग ने कहा कि यदि मुख्य सचिव और रेलवे बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष चार सप्ताह की अवधि के भीतर बहनागा ट्रेन दुर्घटना से संबंधित अपेक्षित रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने में विफल रहे, तो पीएचआर अधिनियम, 1993 की धारा 13 के तहत उनकी व्यक्तिगत उपस्थिति के लिए दंडात्मक शक्ति लागू की जाएगी।

BAHANAGA TRAIN TRAGEDY

NHRC warns CS, IRB Chairman

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Sept 19: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has warned the Chief Secretary (CS) of Odisha and the Indian Railway Board (IRB) Chairman to invoke its coercive power u/s 13 of the PHR Act, 1993 calling for their personal appearances before the Commission in connection with the Bahanaga Train tragedy report.

The action will be taken if they fail to submit the requisite report related to the accident within a period of four weeks.

The NHRC passed the order last week on a petition filed by human rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy.

Tripathy in his petition stated that the rare and tragic train accident happened in Bahanaga Bazaar station in Balasore June 2 due to gross negligence of the Railways.

There has been subsequent



violation of human rights of the passengers, both dead and alive, due to lack of appropriate and timely action by the Railways and State administration, he alleged.

Tripathy said that the rights of deceased/ victims are being violated by the state Government/Railways as the authorities have failed to preserve the bodies till identification of the same by their kin.

He said dead bodies are still lying for disposal and fake claimants are coming forward to stake claims for which the compensation cases to the next

of kin of the deceased victims are pending.

The petitioner requested the NHRC for an in-depth analysis, independent and impartial investigation of the incident and sought for heavy compensation to the family members of the deceased, dignified farewell of the dead bodies and compensation with proper medical care to the injured ones.

He also sought for intervention of the administration and Railways for proper documentation of all the passengers for loss of documents and preparation of further documents for claiming insurance and service benefits, Students, children care etc.

Earlier the NHRC had sought Action Taken Reports from the Odisha CS and the IRB Chairman, within a period of four weeks.

However, despite direction neither the CS nor the Chairman submitted any report till date.

NGOs flay APF for allowing NHRC to host meet in Delhi

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

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"This is deeply troubling as the hosting of this prestigious conference by the NHRC will not aid the important cause of human rights protection in India but only provide the NHRC a fig leaf of international legitimacy to cover up its dismal performance," a statement from the Network, working with national and state Human Rights Commission, said.

Its members said the NHRC had been silent on the situation of human rights defenders in India.

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू करेंगी दो दिवसीय सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन, एनएचआरसी ने दी जानकारी

<https://dainikjanwani.com/president-draupadi-murmu-to-inaugurate-a-two-day-conference-of-national-human-rights-institutions-on-september-20/>

जनवाणी ब्यूरो |

नई दिल्ली: आज मंगलवार को एनएचआरसी ने जानकारी दी है। जानकारी देते हुए बताया गया है कि राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू कल यानि 20 सितंबर को राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार संस्थानों के दो दिवसीय सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन करेंगी।

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