

Modi will win with record margin if he contests from TN: Annamalai

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/madurai/modis-potential-triumph-in-tamil-nadu-elections-annamalais-prediction/articleshow/106606547.cms>

Madurai: If Prime Minister Narendra Modi contested from Tamil Nadu in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections, he would win with a record margin with the support of the people, said BJP state president K Annamalai after taking part in a meeting with party cadre on Saturday.

Interacting with journalists, Annamalai, when asked about alliances for the Lok Sabha elections, said the year 2024 belonged to PM Modi. Though it is too early to speak about alliances, whoever accepted Modi as the PM candidate is welcome to join the alliance, said Annamalai. Stating that the number of parties in an alliance was not important, he said the DMK, which has 'a big alliance', would face defeat in the forthcoming elections.

Annamalai said his focus was not on strengthening the alliance but on strengthening the party in Tamil Nadu. He said support of the people for BJP is evident from the large gathering during his 'En Mann En Makkal' padayatra. He said he did not know whether Modi would contest from Tamil Nadu in the forthcoming elections. "But people and the party in Tamil Nadu are ready for it," he said. If Modi contests from any of the 39 constituencies in the state, he would win with a record margin with the support of the people by breaking the record of BJP's C R Patil, who won with the biggest margin in Gujarat, said Annamalai.

On the transport corporation employees' union's proposed strike from January 9, Annamalai said one of their important demands is to fill up nearly 35,000 vacant posts of drivers and conductors. "As the vacancies are not filled up, the employees are overburdened. The strike will have an adverse impact on the people, who would travel to their hometown during the Pongal festival," he said. The state government must resolve the issue by fulfilling the demands of the employees, he said.

Annamalai criticised the government's new jallikattu arena in Keelakarai village, saying the events are traditionally conducted in Alanganallur and Palamedu. He said the bull owners and tamers are not ready to go to the newly constructed arena. "The state government must drop this move and decide on how to put the arena to better use," he said.

We also published the following articles recently

Periyar University VC was arrested due to pressure from former TN minister Ponmudy, BJP leader Annamalai says
BJP state president K Annamalai alleges that Periyar

University vice-chancellor R Jagannathan was arrested by the Salem city police under the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act due to pressure from former higher education minister K Ponmudy. Annamalai plans to write to Union home minister Amit Shah urging action against Tamil Nadu DGP and the Salem city commissioner of police for arresting the VC. BJP will also request the National Human Rights Commission to treat this as a suo motu case, as the police kept the VC in a jeep for nearly four hours at an undisclosed location, which is against the law.106518398

PM Narendra Modi says Centre stands with Tamil Nadu people, extends all possible support to flood-hit statePrime Minister Narendra Modi extends support to Tamil Nadu in tackling the damage caused by recent floods. He inaugurates a new international terminal at Trichy airport and launches projects worth Rs 20,140 crore. The central government stands with the people of Tamil Nadu, providing every possible support and funds. Modi emphasizes the significance of Tamil Nadu's contribution to India's development and calls for making India a developed nation. He attends the convocation of Bharathidasan University, highlighting the role of universities in the rise of India today.106480118

Rajinikanth to grace the Ram Mandir Inauguration ceremony in Ayodhya, here's what the actor saidThe Ayodhya Ram Mandir Inauguration ceremony is scheduled for January 22. Actor Rajinikanth has been personally invited to attend with his family. Rajinikanth has expressed his privilege to be a part of the event and has confirmed his participation. Other Tamil cinema stars are also expected to be invited. Rajinikanth is currently working on 'Vettaiyan' directed by TJ Gnanavel, where he plays a cop in the social drama.106502955

NHRC issues show cause to Odisha chief secretary on vasectomy of speech impaired tribal youth

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/nhrc-issues-show-cause-to-odisha-chief-secretary-on-vasectomy-of-speech-impaired-tribal-youth/articleshow/106615302.cms>

BHUBANESHWAR: National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued show cause notice to Odisha chief secretary in a case related to vasectomy of a speech impaired tribal unmarried youth from Malkangiri district on August 3 last year. The NHRC has issued notice to the top government official directing him to show cause within six weeks as to why the Commission should not recommend payment of compensation of Rs 1 lakh to the victim. "If the officer does not submit the reply within the scheduled time frame, the Commission will presume that the state government has no objection in grant of said compensation and it will proceed accordingly," said the NHRC order.

The Commission passed this order on December 28 last year after hearing a petition filed by human rights activist and lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy. He alleged that health officials of Mathili sub-divisional hospital in Malkangiri district had performed vasectomy on physically challenged Ganga Durua for the sake of highlighting increased cases of vasectomies in the area. The petitioner stated that the operation was carried out on the basis of accredited social health activist (ASHA) worker's report instead of taking any consent of the victim. "Hence, I am seeking intervention of the Commission in the matter for impartial investigation of the case and compensation to the victim," he added.

The Commission took cognizance of the case and started hearing on the matter. After going through the reports of government officials, it found that Durua did not have a bank account and government assistance of Rs 2000 was given to the ASHA worker. "This was found to be against direct benefit transfer (DBT) and the amount disbursed to ASHA had to be recovered and to be paid directly to the bank account of the actual beneficiary," read the order.

The operating surgeon has been issued show-cause notice by the chief district medical and public health officer, Malkangiri regarding lapse in determining eligibility and conducting of surgery without proper screening of clients. The doctor in his response said the negligence had been done unknowingly by him.

The recanalization of the no-scalpel vasectomy in case of the tribal youth should have been done after obtaining voluntary consent from the client.

The Commission has considered the report submitted by the government authorities. It found lapse on the part of the treating doctor and the ASHA worker. The NHRC considered this case to be a fit case for award of

नितेश लोहरा के शव के साथ परिजनों नेलालपुर चौक को किया जाम, डीसी नेदिये न्यायिक जांच के आदेश

<https://www.prabhatkhabar.com/state/jharkhand/ranchi/lalpur-chowk-block-with-body-of-nitesh-lohra-died-in-excise-custody-ranchi-dc-orders-judicial-inquiry-mti>

जिस वक्त नितेश लोहरा को सदर अस्पताल लाया गया, वहांड्यूटी डॉक्टर के तौर पर डॉक्टर लक्ष्मीकांत साय तैनात थे. परिजन इस बात को लेकर विरोध कर रहेथेकि उन्हेंजो जानकारी मिली हैऔर डॉक्टर और मेडिकल स्टाफ जो बता रहेहैं, दोनों विरोधाभासी हैं.

नितेश लोहरा के शव के साथ उसके परिजनों नेरविवार (सात जनवरी) की शाम को लालपुर चौक को जाम कर दिया. येलोग प्रशासन और सरकार सेन्याय की मांग कर रहेहैं. कथित तौर पर उत्पाद भवन की हाजत मेंउसनेफांसी लगाकर आत्महत्या कर ली थी. शनिवार को उत्पाद विभाग की टीम नेउसेगिरफ्तार किया था. डंगरा टोली के रहनेवालेनितेश लोहरा समेत पांच लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया गया था. चार लोगों को पाइन लेनेके बाद छोड़ दिया गया. नितेश को उत्पाद भवन के हाजत मेंबंद कर दिया गया. कथित तौर पर उसनेशनिवार

की शाम को हाजत के बाथरूम मेंलगेहुक मेंफंदा डालकर उससेझूल गया. बताया जा रहा हैकि उत्पाद विभाग के अधिकारियों नेआनन-फानन मेंनितेश लोहरा को सदर अस्पताल पहुंचाया. अस्पताल मेंडॉक्टरों नेउसेमृत घोषित कर दिया. रांची के सहायक उत्पाद आयुक्त नेविभाग के दो पदाधिकारियों की अगुवा गु ई मेंएक जांच टीम का गठन कर दिया. लेकिन, रविवार को भी यह मामला थमा नहीं. नितेश के परिजनों नेपहलेसदर अस्पताल मेंजमकर हंगामा किया और बाद मेंलालपुर चौक पर शव के साथ प्रदर्शन किया.

सदर अस्पताल मेंपरिजनों नेकिया विरोध परिजनों नेपूछा कि नितेश को जब रांची के सदर अस्पताल लाया गया था, तब क्या वह ठीक था. परिजनों नेडॉक्टर और मेडिकल स्टाफ पर भ्रामक बयान जारी कर गुमगु राह करनेऔर केस को दबानेकी कोशिश करनेका आरोप लगाया. जिस वक्त नितेश लोहरा को सदर अस्पताल लाया गया, वहांड्यूटी डॉक्टर के तौर पर डॉक्टर लक्ष्मीकांत साय तैनात थे. परिजन इस बात को लेकर विरोध कर रहेथेकि उन्हेंजो जानकारी मिली हैऔर डॉक्टर और मेडिकल स्टाफ जो बता रहेहैं, दोनों विरोधाभासी हैं. परिजन कह रहेहैंकि युवक की मौत पहले ही हो गई थी. वहीं, अस्पताल मेंतैनात मेडिकलकर्मियों का कहना था कि जब उसेयहांलाया गया था, उस वक्त उसकी नब्ज हल्की-हल्की चल रही थी.

हॉस्पिटल स्टाफ के बीच परिजनों नेकी बहस नितेश लोहरा की मौत के बाद परिजनों नेमौके पर मौजूद मेडिकल स्टाफ और डॉक्टर पर इलाज मेंलापरवाही करनेका आरोप लगाया. इस दौरान बड़ी संख्या मेंमहिलाएं भी मौके पर पहुंच गयीं. परिजनों और हॉस्पिटल स्टाफ के बीच जमकर बहस हुई. हंगामा बढ़नेपर नजदीकी थाना सेपुलिस और पीसीआर वैन मौके पर पहुंची. बाद मेंनितेश लोहरा के परिजन वहांसेकोकर चौक पहुंचेऔर यहां भी जोरदार प्रदर्शन किया

नितेश की मौत की होगी न्यायिक जांच उत्पाद भवन के हाजत के बाथरूम में फांसी लगाने से हुई नितेश की मौत की न्यायिक जांच की होगी. इस संबंध में उपायुक्त राहुल कुमार सिन्हा ने रविवार को आवश्यक दिशा-निर्देश दिये. इसके साथ ही नितेश की मौत की रिपोर्ट राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग को भेज दिया गया.

NHRC-National Human Rights Online News

One India

Kerala Police Book Ex-Principal, 2 Teachers In CUSAT Stampede Case

<https://www.oneindia.com/thiruvananthapuram/kerala-police-book-ex-principal-2-teachers-in-cusat-stampede-case-3721125.html>

In the Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) stamped case, the Kerala police booked a former principal and two teachers of the school of engineering on Sunday. The stampede happened during the university's annual festival, in which, four people died, while 60 got injured in November last year.

Shedding light on the latest development, a senior police official told media that the former principal of the school of engineering, Deepak Kumar Sahu, and two teachers of CUSAT have been booked under IPC section 304 A (causing death by negligence). According to the reports, students in a mass number were gathered to attend renowned singer Nikita Gandhi's live concert in the open-air auditorium of CUSAT. The auditorium has a capacity of accommodating 1,000 to 1,500 people.

Authorities stated that the ex-principal and certain teachers were charged following an investigation that uncovered significant shortcomings on their behalf. A comprehensive report outlining these deficiencies has been filed by the police in a nearby court. The Kerala High Court emphasized that the stampede occurring at the annual tech festival was undeniably a result of "certain lapses" and was an incident that "ought to have been prevented."

Among the casualties were three individuals linked to CUSAT: Athul Thampi (23), Sara Thomas (19), and Ann Riffa Roy (20). The fourth victim, Alwin from Palakkad, was an electrician who had coincidentally found himself at the festival. The complaint before the rights panel underlined that there was only one entrance and exit to the hall.

Earlier, after the saddening incident, the Kerala State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) registered a case in connection with the stampede at Cochin University's annual tech festival and sought a report from the state government. The SHRC had also issued notices to the Aluva Rural Superintendent of Police and the Registrar of the University in the wake of the saddening incident.

India Today

'India a trusted friend, gave us shelter': Sheikh Hasina as Bangladesh votes today

<https://www.indiatoday.in/world/story/bangladesh-election-sheikh-hasina-prime-minister-india-narendra-modi-relationship-2485298-2024-01-07>

As Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is poised to retain power while the country voted today without any opposition, the 76-year-old leader said, "India is a trusted friend". She also mentioned it was India that "gave shelter" to the people of Bangladesh during the Liberation War in 1971.

Asked about her message to India on election day, Hasina said, "We are very lucky. India is our trusted friend. During our Liberation War, they supported us. After 1975, when we lost our whole family, they gave us shelter. Our best wishes to the people of India."

India and Bangladesh share a close and multifaceted relationship marked by historical, cultural, and economic ties, which has strengthened more in the recent past. Hasina and Prime Minister Narendra Modi also share an evolving relationship marked by frequent personal interactions and progress on key bilateral issues, including connectivity projects, trade liberalisation, as well as border management, among other areas.

Hasina, the leader of the ruling Awami League, is set to win a fourth straight term as the Prime Minister, marking the fifth overall victory for her party. The election is being boycotted by the country's main opposition, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

The BNP of the ailing former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia decided to boycott the poll after Hasina refused its demand to resign and let a caretaker government run the election. The country saw a series of violence in the days leading to the poll, and several polling booths were set on fire on election eve.

Experts credit Hasina for the exceptional economic growth in a country that was once grappling with poverty. However, her government has been accused of rampant human rights abuses and a ruthless crackdown on the opposition.

The Hindu

Over 10,000 cases of trafficking but only 1,031 convictions between 2018-2022

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/over-10000-cases-of-trafficking-but-only-1031-convictions-between-2018-2022/article67713302.ece>

India recorded as many as 10,659 cases of human trafficking between 2018 and 2022. The data tabled by the Ministry of Home Affairs in response to a question from Lok Sabha MP Manish Tewari on December 5 reveals that an average of about 2,000 cases were recorded every year, with 2022 registering the highest of 2250 cases.

In response to another question on the same day by MP Omprakash Bhupalsinh alias Pawan Rajenimbalkar, the MHA revealed details of the number of persons arrested (PAR), person charge-sheeted (PCS), persons convicted (PCT) and persons acquitted (PAC) for the crime between 2018 and 2022. In these five years, 26,840 persons — an average of 5,000 persons per year — were arrested for being involved in human trafficking; the highest was in 2022 — 5648 persons.

The number of persons charge-sheeted stands at 19,821, with an average of 3,500-4,000 persons charge-sheeted every year. The number of persons convicted for the crime, however, remains low — 1,031 convictions in five years, just 4.8% of the persons arrested in the same period. The number of accused who have been acquitted by different courts in the five years stands at 4,936.

Kaushik Gupta, an advocate of the Calcutta High Court and member of the anti-trafficking consortium Taftesh, said that despite the high number of persons charge-sheeted, the low conviction rate indicated poor investigation by the police.

“These charge sheets do not stand before the court during the trial and thus the acquittal is high and convictions are low,” he said.

Victims turning hostile during the trial process is another reason, he suggested. “There are delays in the disbursement of victim compensation funds and the victims who have been trafficked and have nothing to fall back upon, turn hostile,” he explained.

Trafficking hotspots Maharashtra registered the highest number of cases — 1,392 — in the past five years, followed by Telangana (1,301) and Andhra Pradesh (987).

“When it comes to trafficking, certain States are source and some are destination States. Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have become both source and destination,” noted Rammohan, secretary of HELP, a non-governmental organisation based out of Andhra Pradesh. This is because there is a huge population that comes to work in the capital cities of the two States, especially in the construction sector that has boomed since the division of the erstwhile State in 2014, explained the activist, also a member of Taftesh.

States like West Bengal and Assam are considered source States while Maharashtra and Karnataka are destination States. The Ministry of Home Affairs, in its reply, has also pointed out the steps taken to combat trafficking. This includes upgrading the infrastructure of district anti-human trafficking units and strengthening special intelligence and surveillance mechanisms to identify gangs and gather information about their history and modus operandi.

Times of India

Focus on cybersecurity, legal reforms as PM meets top cops

<https://m.timesofindia.com/india/focus-on-cybersecurity-legal-reforms-as-pm-meets-top-cops/articleshow/106602897.cms>

JAIPUR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi engaged with the police chief of each state on the second day of the 58th national conference of director generals and inspector generals of police in Jaipur on Saturday.

The annual three-day conference, being held at the Rajasthan International Centre on January 5-7, saw marathon discussions on four key topics - cybersecurity, internal security, legal reforms and human trafficking. Sources said the PM arrived at the venue shortly after 8:30 am and left after 8 pm, following a detailed discussion on a range of subjects. He also addressed the DGPs and motivated them to keep working for the security of the country.

Union home minister Amit Shah and national security advisor Ajit Doval also attended the conference. On Saturday, cybersecurity took the centre stage at the conference for about three hours, featuring the participation of prominent cyber experts and teams from across the country. PM Modi received a detailed briefing on the ongoing efforts in the field of cybersecurity.

At 1 pm, PM Modi and Amit Shah shared a luncheon with all the DGPs and IGPs. During the hour-long lunch break, Modi personally interacted with each officer and exchanged ideas. According to the sources, the Taj Group catered the lunch, with a special emphasis on showcasing the flavours of Rajasthani cuisine. Suggestions were actively sought from the DGPs of all states to address the issue of internal security. Doval shared insightful perspectives during a comprehensive session.

Discussions were held for about four hours on the necessity of changing laws and increasing punishments and fines. Shah and the police chiefs of various states presented their views on this critical subject. A two-hour session was dedicated to deliberations on human trafficking. Minister of state for home Nityanand Rai made an informative presentation on the subject, followed by an in-depth discussion on its root causes and preventive measures.

Sources said as many as 11 sessions were held on multiple subjects during the day. The DGPs and chiefs of different police agencies also shared critical information during the conference. Meanwhile, police took swift action, placing NSUI state president Abhishek Chaudhary under house arrest, for threatening to show black flags to PM Modi. Other members of the student organisation were also detained. "The authorities maintained a strict vigil to ensure the smooth proceedings of the conference," said a senior police officer.

The Wire

‘Excludable Aliens’: The Complex Landscape of Modern Migrations

<https://m.thewire.in/article/world/the-excludable-aliens-the-complex-landscape-of-modern-migrations>

On December 21, 2023, a chartered flight from Dubai to Nicaragua, carrying 303 Indians (mostly from Gujarat), was grounded in France. Subsequent questioning revealed many holes in the story provided by the travellers and also the crew. Eventually most travellers, who had paid considerable amounts (ranging from US\$48,000 to 150,000) for travel documents and fee exacted by dubious local agents, were sent back to India.

The incident was not one of a kind. And, according to The Guardian, the passengers were not being trafficked but had willingly paid to reach Nicaragua and then sneak into the US. The paper reports that in 2023 alone, almost 100,000 illegal Indian immigrants arrived at the US-Mexico border, a number ten times higher than what was recorded in 2019. What were they fleeing, and why, especially from relatively prosperous states like Punjab and Gujarat?

The latter has been labeled time and again as a model state. Even within the country, vast migrations occur throughout the year. The COVID-19 lockdown exposed the reality of millions of workers from economically disadvantaged areas such as Bihar, eastern Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand hills, Bengal, and the northeastern states migrating to Punjab, Gujarat, and the southern states for employment. As we have ‘progressed’ from an agrarian to a capitalist state, regional xenophobia and self-interest have increased, making the distinction between ‘ours’ and ‘strangers’ more pronounced.

Regional leaders contesting elections have weaponised it further. In Maharashtra, hostile comments have been made about ‘bhaiyas’ stealing jobs from the Marathi ‘manooos’, and in the east, several leaders have described groups suspected of illegally migrating from Bangladesh as ‘termites’, despite data showing a larger migration toward Bangladesh.

No one migrates without the promise of a better life. The high frequency of information and images of successful NRI communities all over the globe and OTT films beamed unstoppably on the Net have carried the legend of the liberal democracies in Europe and the US to the very last village in the country.

To the young starved for jobs, it seems that streets there are paved with gold. Even a child in the developed world can see advertising as a hollow sign, but in the Indian subcontinent, it has captured young minds. Google has acquired a holy glow as an infallible source of all information, akin to the Shastras and almanacs interpreted by temple priests in the past.

The parable of the aborted flight to Nicaragua with its 303 hapless wannabes is no different from the stories of hordes of Latino immigrants braving bullets to cross the magic fence between their world and the US. It has come to a point that those that risk life and money to get a seat somehow, are not interested in verification of the credentials of the company or agents ferrying them across.

In addition, migrants are fleeing many war-torn Afro-Asian countries, and numbers are mind boggling. According to the figures released by the State department of the US, in 2019, there were 19,883 interceptions of what it terms as “excludable aliens”. By now India is reported to be the third largest source of illegal migrants. And that is not all. According to the UK Home Office figures, India has become the second largest source of illegal migrants in England.

With two debilitating wars being waged in Ukraine and Gaza, in addition to various minor conflicts in parts of Africa and Asia, empathy and compassion are rapidly depleting in the West. First, it was the Serbo-Croatian war, and now it is Palestine, where communities are shamelessly deemed ‘superfluous’ by a significant number of dominant and armed groups.

Back home we have grown callouses about stories of homes and places of worship being bulldozed, selling of meat on certain days and of roadside carts selling popular non-vegetarian snacks being declared illegal. Nationalism based on clans and tribes have existed since Treta Yug when Ram Rajya was coined to denote all round prosperity and progress of a nation.

But, in 2024, countries that want to prove their credentials as rich progressive and liberal democracies seem to feel the need for institutions and numerous legal means for closing its boundaries to immigrants. So, historical legends are being crafted along ancient ethnic grudges and symbolic religio ethnic structures being raised as symbols of a restored pride. Most such spectacles and public orations are rooted in one man-led empires posing as democracies.

The models are all drawn from a feudal past with little proof. The Ramrajya of Ayodhya’s Ram, the Magadh-Kosal-Kalinga of Ashoka, the vast Chola empire of Rajraj, the Punjab of Ranjit Singh are several such visions. Are we then ultimately going back to where we emerged from in the last two centuries?

Migrations today may be due to poverty and natural calamities but they are more of a demographic bulimia eroding overpopulated lands. Once upon a time, there was great anxiety about ‘brain drain’. One scarcely hears the word today. Those who are poor and less skilled can leave, thank you very much. Just turn off the lights as you leave! The affluent have no problem with the graduates leaving the country. Capital has torn down many erstwhile barriers to its flow.

At the top of the new global work pyramid, Indian corporate or representatives of mega global companies now stride the seas at will and work across continents with a smaller,

highly skilled contractual staff. They actually are thriving on global mobilisation of the best brains headquartered happily in the US and Europe. While the owners sit comfortably cushioned in some meditation camp in Bali or Nepal, or share gourmet meals with other capitalists in global capitals, they can safely urge the young down below to work 70 to 80 hours each week if they wish to go places.

You may ask, what about the 'Swarn Mriga' of the 'demographic dividend'? Well, at the bottom of the pyramid mercantilism is still keeping it alive. On slave wages. Black markets, those great equalisers of pressures between demand and supply flourish on physical border restrictions. So, with ethnic cleansing and the white young demanding more fun and less stress with shorter work hours and choice to work from home, the illegal trafficking of human beings will be thriving.

Locally, the superfluous workforce in Bihar may find opportunities in harvesting in Punjab, polishing diamonds in Surat, and running dairies in Maharashtra. Abroad, they could be employed in harvesting orchards, vineyards, and selling affordable souvenirs made in China, as well as serving hotdogs and ice-cream to the hordes of tourists flooding the fast-aging Europe. Consequently, authorities will frequently ignore the dark hands cleaning their streets, removing their trash, and attending to the elderly with adult diapers.

And as the developed world felicitates young and brilliant IT nerds from India, the star Chinese architects, or some African Nobel laureate in spectacular events online, no one will point out that for the Big Businesses, passport is no problem; no one questions the colour of the Saudi princes' skin either. The Epsteins and their privileged clients in this world recognise no racial or national barriers.

While everything in their world is wrapped in an apathetic silence, the poor remain "excludable aliens". Perhaps those sent back will make another try and make it to the holy land of milk and honey. But one doesn't know in which direction or which country.

The Print

Brick kiln owner booked for forcing man to work as bonded labourer in Thane district

<https://theprint.in/india/brick-kiln-owner-booked-for-forcing-man-to-work-as-bonded-labourer-in-thane-district/1914229/>

Thane, Jan 7 (PTI) The police in Maharashtra's Thane district on Sunday registered a case against a brick kiln owner for allegedly forcibly taking a man and his family to the kiln and making him work there over a financial dispute, an official said.

Accused Sashikant Patil, a resident of Khandpe in Bhiwandi, has been booked under the Indian Penal Code, Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, and The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, he said.

Complainant Rajesh Mukne from Ambivili in Wada taluka had taken loans totalling nearly Rs 50,000 from the accused, the official said. After working for six months, the accused claimed Rs 40,000 was still outstanding. When Mukne disagreed with him over the amount and refused to work, Patil allegedly assaulted him, forcibly took him and his family members to the brick kiln, and compelled him to resume work.

Around Diwali last year, Patil took Mukne to the Wada police station and forced him to give a false statement saying that he had not been subjected to any violence, the official said. Mukne then approached an NGO, which got in touch with the police and ensured that a case was registered against Patil, he said. The station house officer of Padgha police station said they are probing the matter.

Times of India

Rly staffer's postmortem done after delay

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/railway-guards-post-mortem-delayed-drama-continues-in-nagpur/articleshow/106606151.cms>

Nagpur: The drama over death of railway guard-cum-train manager Sunil Nitnaware continued on Saturday at the Government Medical College and Hospital where the post-mortem was conducted after some delays.

On Friday, railway employees had gone on a flash strike alleging Nitnaware had died due to medical negligence at the railway hospital. The protest crippled functioning of the control room for around two-and-half hours. The operations were restored by 9.05pm.

Sadar police, who had registered accidental death, approached the court on Saturday for an order to post a sub-divisional magistrate for the inquest. The cops waited for the court to open at 11am for moving the application. Despite the court's nod, the magistrate declined to conduct the inquest as it was not a custodial death case, thus delaying the post-mortem, said sources.

A team of forensic experts under professor Dr AA Mukherjee later conducted the post-mortem. The viscera and other exhibits were preserved and forwarded to the Regional Forensic Science Laboratory for analysis and histopathological tests.

Police sources stated the forensic experts have reserved their opinion on the cause of death. "After the forensic analysis reports are received, police would send queries to the forensic teams for ascertaining the cause of death," said an official.

Sources said the Central Railway DRM, Nagpur division, Tushar Kant Pandey has formed a three-member panel to probe allegations of medical negligence by the railway employees' unions.

Sources said Pandey has assured action against erring doctors after the post-mortem report is received. Sources stated it may take over a couple of months before the final post-mortem report and the cause of death is known.

Babu Shahi

Canada: Baloch, Sindhis, Pashtun protest against Pak military atrocities, enforced disappearance

<https://www.babushahi.com/view-news.php?id=177156&headline=Canada:-Baloch,-Sindhis,-Pashtun-protest-against-Pak-military-atrocities,-enforced-disappearance>

Toronto [Canada], January 7, 2024 (ANI): The diaspora of Baloch, Sindhis and Pashtuns in Canada organised a demonstration on Saturday to express their solidarity with the thousands of Baloch marchers in Pakistan against atrocities, enforced disappearance, extrajudicial killings, torture by the army and other security agencies.

The joint protest in Toronto was called by the Baloch Human Rights Council of Canada, World Sindhi Council and Pashtun Council Canada to condemn Islamabad's apartheid policy of violence and repression against the Baloch, Sindhis and Pashtuns in the strongest terms.

Thousands of Baloch activists, including women and children, led by Dr Mahrang Baloch have marched from Balochistan to Islamabad following the unlawful arrest, illegal detention, torture, and custodial murder of a 24-year-old Baloch youth, Balaach Mola Bakhsh on November 23, 2023.

Human rights organisations have alleged that Pakistani authorities have arrested and caused the disappearance of Pashtun, Sindhi and Baloch human rights activists. The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Pakistan is involved in the extrajudicial murder of Balaach and several activists in illegal state custody.

Speakers at the Toronto solidarity rally strongly condemned the discriminatory attitude of the Pakistani Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and the Islamabad police in using excessive force, baton charges, water cannons and mass arrests of students and protesters during a peaceful sit-in outside the National Press Club in Islamabad.

Addressing the solidarity gathering, speakers highlighted the discriminative and repressive nature of the Pakistani state towards political dissent and exclusively the oppressed nations of Baloch, Sindhis, and Pashtuns.

A large number of women and families of the diaspora communities also participated in the Toronto rally to send a strong message to Islamabad that state violence and injustices against women will be challenged and the perpetrators of abuse will face justice.

Speakers explained the predatory nature of the Pakistani state and its military in exploiting the natural resources, land-grabbing, militarization, enforced disappearances of political activists, extrajudicial killings, persecution of religious minorities, and state

promotion of terror and extremism with the intent of genocide of Baloch, Sindhis, and Pashtuns. (ANI)

Legal Digest | This is how Supreme Court explains why nomination doesn't override succession law

<https://www.cnbctv18.com/india/nomination-doesnt-override-succession-law-rules-supreme-court-18734251.htm>

Case 1: Nomination doesn't override succession law

In *Shakti Yezdani & Another vs Jayanand Jayant Salgaonkar & Others* matter, the Supreme Court recently reiterated the truism that nomination is only for convenience and doesn't override the law on succession. Thus, when the successors stake their claim to the property of the deceased, the nominee cannot decline.

The facts of the case were that the deceased had shares in a company through the depository mechanism. Both under the depository and the company law, the company and the depository would be justified in handing over the shares to the nominee registered with them by the deceased shareholder. But that doesn't mean the nominee is the legal heir of the deceased unless she or he happens to be the nominee cum successor which often is the case.

However, if the deceased had registered a nominee different from the legal successor, the nominee is only a bailee for the legal successor. The same applies to banks who can on production of the death certificate of an account holder, issue a cheque to or credit the nominee in discharge of the balance in the deceased's account but that act is not final insofar as legal succession is concerned.

Case 2: Convict may be incarcerated but his fundamental rights other than free movement stays intact

In a recent matter — *Kundan Singh vs The State Government of National Capital Territory, Delhi* — the Delhi High Court granted parole to the convict who got married three years earlier and wanted to have a child. This is at once a humanitarian gesture and upholding of the fundamental rights of convicts' other free movement.

In Brazil as well as in a few states of the USA, convicts get conjugal recess time inside the prison. The spouse of the convict or jail-inmate is allotted a separate room during this recess time where the convict or inmate is temporarily moved so that the couple can have privacy besides enjoying intimacy. This is a salutary dispensation that keeps the bonds of a wedlock intact besides incidentally preventing forced homosexuality and rape rampant in prisons.

Case 3: Reservation benefits only in the state of origin

In *Reena Kumari Rana vs The State of Jharkhand & Others* case, the Jharkhand High Court rejected the right to claim selection under the Scheduled Tribes category in teachers' selection by a woman who had migrated from Bihar post marriage.

She (the petitioner) pressed her claim also on the strength of her husband's ST status. However, the Court rejected her claim. Incidentally, it is for the Parliament to examine if such straightjacketing of the reservation benefit is warranted as it affects the reservation rights of people moving to other states which are admittedly part of the Indian union. Women especially are more bound to be done in by such hyper interpretation of the law designed to overcome social barriers.

Case 4: Don't distribute flood relief in cash but do DBT

On December 19, immediately in the aftermath of Cyclone Michaung, Justice Ramasamy of the Madras High Court directed the Tamil Nadu government not to distribute cash to the victims of such cyclone as well as to the beneficiaries entitled to Pongal gifts as chances of swindling and syphoning off of funds were very bright. Instead, Direct benefit transfer (DBT) is what the Court has ordered.

Chennai for example is witnessing serpentine queues in front of ration shops where the so-called rice-card holders get ₹6,000 as cyclone relief. Next, they would line up soon for Pongal cash, dhoti etc. The Court's directive hasn't come a day too soon as crooks in cahoots with the ration shop owners and officials could swindle the amounts of those who don't present themselves.

Times of India

HC dismisses Swiss citizen's plea against adoption firm

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/hc-dismisses-swiss-citizens-plea-against-adoption-firm-calcutta-high-court/articleshow/106606119.cms>

Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court on Friday held that the right to privacy of birth parents overrides the right to search for one's roots, dismissing the plea of a Swiss citizen against an adoption agency.

Adopted from India by Swiss parents in 1988, the petitioner raised the plea alleging non-cooperation from Specialized Adoption Agency — from where he was adopted — when he sought details of his biological parents.

The single bench of Justice Sabyasachi Bhattacharya held that although the right to know one's roots is enshrined in the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution, "however...the rights of privacy and protection of identity of biological parents of adoptee are more fundamental and basic insofar as the said right protects the very survival of the biological parents.

It is all the more so when an unwed mother surrenders her child due to extreme social pressures," observed the Court, concluding that the right to confidentiality of the unwed biological mother has primacy over the right of the adoptee.

The petitioner's mother was unmarried during his adoption in 1988. The court noted that Regulation 47(6) of the Adoption Regulations of 2022 stipulates that the right to privacy of biological parents shall not be infringed by the right of the adopted child.

The regulations provide for confidentiality in respect to all the documents regarding the biological parents unless the said parent has expressed the willingness to divulge information.

Times Now

67-Day Old Baby Dies After Circumcision In Kerala, Police Register FIR

<https://www.timesnownews.com/india/67-day-old-baby-dies-after-circumcision-in-kerala-police-register-fir-article-106616044>

Thiruvananthapuram: A 67-day old baby died after undergoing circumcision in Kerala's Idukki district. The incident took place on January 2 and has come to light only recently. The baby was one among twins born to Sheneer and Nusrath.

On January 2, the baby underwent circumcision at Nusrath's home in Kadayaloor village in the evening. Soon after, the baby started bleeding. He was rushed to a hospital in Adilabad. The next day, the child was shifted to the Thodupuzha Chazikattu Hospital after the child seemed to suffer from breathlessness.

The baby passed away on January 4 around 11:45 am. Police have taken suo motu cognisance of the case and have registered a First Information Report (FIR). Circumcision is a surgical procedure that removes the foreskin of the penis. In 2023, a Kerala-based organisation called Non-Religious Citizens filed a public interest litigation (PIL) before the Kerala High Court seeking a ban on circumcision of children.

The petitioner had argued that the practice of non-therapeutic circumcision is illegal and violates the rights of children. The PIL contended that non-therapeutic circumcision violates the fundamental rights of children and amounts to human rights violation. Circumcision causes psychological trauma including "disrupted attachment, cognitive delays and impaired emotional regulation," the PIL had claimed.

The Kerala High Court had dismissed the PIL saying the petitioners have relied on news reports to make their arguments and have not substantiated their case. Circumcision is part of religious practice in Islam and Jewish faiths. There has also been scientific research that points to reduced risk of HIV AIDS among circumcised males. The World Health Organization claims circumcision can reduce a male's chances of acquiring HIV

Times of India

HC: Divorced Muslim woman entitled to maintenance even if she remarries

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/hc-divorced-muslim-woman-entitled-to-maintenance-even-if-she-remarries/articleshow/106605924.cms>

Mumbai: The Bombay high court has held that a divorced Muslim woman is entitled to receive maintenance that was due to her from her former husband under the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act (MWPA), 1986, even if she had remarried.

“The essence of the Act is that a divorced woman is entitled to a reasonable and fair provision and maintenance regardless of her remarriage. The fact of divorce between the husband and wife is in itself sufficient for the wife to claim maintenance under section 3 (1) (a). Such entitlement... is crystallised on the date of divorce...,” said Justice Rajesh Patil in his January 2 verdict.

He dismissed the husband’s challenge to two orders to pay his ex-wife lump sum maintenance. The couple married in February 2005, and a daughter was born in December 2005. The husband went abroad for work. In June 2007, the wife and their daughter went to live with her parents.

In April 2008, the husband divorced her by registered post. She filed for maintenance under MWPA for herself and their daughter. In August 2014, the Chiplun magistrate granted her Rs 4.3 lakh maintenance. In May 2017, Khed sessions court enhanced it to Rs 9 lakh.

Justice Patil was told the wife remarried in April 2018, and got divorced in October 2018. The husband’s advocates Shaheen Kapadia and Vrushali Maindad said he was not liable to pay her maintenance because she had remarried. Also, she was entitled to the amount only till she remarried. Justice Patil said the protection referred to in MWPA is “unconditional” and nowhere does the Act “intend to limit the protection that is due to the former wife on the ground of remarriage”.

He agreed with the wife’s advocate Saurabh Butala that section 3 does not use the word ‘remarry’. “The Act seeks to prevent the destitution of Muslim women and to ensure their right to lead a normal life even after divorce. Hence, the legislative intent of the Act is clear. It is to protect ‘all’ divorced Muslim women and safeguard their rights,” explained Justice Patil.

He cited the Supreme Court’s 2001 judgement that maintenance should be paid within three months from divorce period. He noted MWPA has no provision to enhance maintenance amount once granted under section 3. “On the date of passing of impugned order, the amount payable by husband got crystallised, therefore, even in future, if the divorced wife remarries, it will not make any difference if the amount is

payable in lump sum,” said Justice Patil, concluding that the sum of Rs 9 lakh is “fair and reasonable”.

The Hindu

Make women self-sufficient before marrying them off: Satheedevi

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/make-women-self-sufficient-before-marrying-them-off-satheedevi/article67716354.ece>

Women should be made self-sufficient before they are married off, Kerala Women's Commission chairperson P. Satheedevi has said. She was speaking after inaugurating a seminar at Kuttichal grama panchayat as part of a Scheduled Tribe zonal camp organised by the commission on Sunday.

Though women could get married at the age of 18 legally, there was no need for any compulsion on this. Women should be given skill training through the Kudumbashree auxiliary groups, she said.

She called on parents to send their children to anganwadis and schools compulsorily. Anganwadis prepared the children for school education. Children not only received education but nutritious food also in anganwadis. Current transportation modes should all be utilised to send children to school.

The tribal community should become aware that chewing tobacco led to cancer. They should also stay away from alcohol that destroyed health and family relationships. The State government, she said, was implementing a number of schemes for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes. These included those with a focus on education.

Tribal promoters should directly interact with tribespeople to create awareness of education and welfare schemes implemented by the government so that their benefits reach the latter.

Commission member V.R. Mahilamani presided over the seminar. Kuttichal grama panchayat president G. Manikanthan was the chief guest. Commission member Indira Raveendran and director Shaji Sugunan spoke.

S. Shinu, senior superintendent, Dr. Ambedkar Memorial Residential School, Kattela, spoke on 'Projects and policies of Schedules Tribe localities' and B. Girish, Excise Preventive Officer, Aryanaad range, on 'Perils of substance abuse.'

Times of India

‘Woman can’t file DV complaint against daughter-in-law’s kin’

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/woman-cant-file-dv-complaint-against-daughter-in-laws-kin-bombay-high-court-ruling/articleshow/106605939.cms>

Mumbai: The Bombay high court, while holding that a mother-in-law’s domestic violence complaint against her daughter-in-law is maintainable under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, it is, however, not maintainable against the daughter-in-law’s father and brother.

“While the object and purpose of the DV Act is to protect a woman from domestic violence, it does not confer a right on a mother-in-law to prosecute the father and brother of her daughter-in-law under the DV Act,” said Justice Neela Gokhale in a ruling on Friday.

The daughter-in-law, Zareena (name changed), her father and brother moved the HC to quash the complaint and November 2018 summons by a Satara magistrate. Zareena married in May 2016. Since her husband and family ill-treated and subjected her to tremendous cruelty. She had filed a complaint in December 2017, under the DV Act against her husband and his family. Her mother-in-law also filed a DV complaint.

Zareena’s advocate Sushil Upadhyay said there was never any shared household among the parties and his clients do not fit in the categories against whom a DV complaint can be filed. Justice Gokhale said the complaint suggests that Zareena’s father and brother were never in a domestic relationship with her mother-in-law.

The mother-in-law, however, claimed Zareena’s father was her husband’s cousin and hence related to her through marriage. “However, the complaint in its entirety clearly reveals that the allegations made against these petitioners are in their capacity as father and brother of Zareena, and not through her marital relation.

The inept attempt of the mother-in-law, in some way or the other, to fit these petitioners in a domestic relationship is farfetched and hence, fails,” Justice Gokhale added. The mother-in-law alleged Zareena’s father and brother insisted that her son live with them and there were threats against her.

Justice Gokhale said these averments themselves do not bring them both under definition of ‘aggrieved person’, ‘domestic violence’, ‘respondent’ or ‘shared household’ in the Act. “Mere allegations of threats and violence by the father and brother are not sufficient to make them liable for prosecution under the Act,” she added.

Justice Gokhale quashed the complaint against the father and brother and set aside the summons. She said that though the complaint does not indicate Zareena and her mother-in-law lived in a ‘shared household’ for a substantial period, they are related by

marriage and also lived in a joint family for some time. Noting that domestic violence is now gender neutral, she said Zareena will fall within the definition of 'respondent'. Therefore, Justice Gokhale held that the mother-in-law's complaint against Zareena is maintainable, "subject to the satisfaction of other (DV) criteria."

Hindustan Times

Absence of law can't give blanket immunity to adulterer, says HC

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/absence-of-law-can-t-give-blanket-immunity-to-adulterer-says-hc-101704568254299.html>

A woman had alleged that her husband married another woman in 2015 and a daughter was born out of said marriage. Absence of a law that makes adultery an offence cannot provide individuals with a blanket immunity of marrying another person secretly during the subsistence of their first marriage, the Delhi high court said, adding that it was crucial to legally protect those partners who have committed to the sanctity and values of marriage.

The court was of the view that insisting the victim spouse to provide evidence regarding performance of the ceremonies of a second marriage for the offence of bigamy was dangerous for the society and the partner.

“The gravity of the offence of bigamy, which mandates the solemnization of a previous valid marriage and the conduct of a spouse to get married to another person during the lifetime and existence of the first valid marriage is both dangerous for society and for the victim spouse,” a bench of justice Swarana Kanta Sharma said on Wednesday.

To be sure, a five-judge constitution bench in 2018 had struck down Section 497 of the Indian Penal Code that made adultery an offence only with respect to a man who has a relationship with a wife of someone else, declaring it to be unconstitutional and violative of right to equality of women in treating them as chattel (property) and inferior to their husbands. In 2020, the top court had held that its decision of striking down the archaic law from the criminal statute book did not require any reconsideration.

The bench in the verdict made public on Friday noted that such insistence should not be used as a tactic to evade legal consequences since a second marriage during the subsistence of the first would generally be a clandestine marriage and had the capability of producing difficulties in proving whether the persons followed all the rituals or married by any other legally accepted form.

The judge in the 32- page ruling also said, “The mere inability of one partner, either a wife or a husband, to prove performance of Saptapadi qua the second marriage at the summoning stage should not be misused as a loophole to evade legal consequences. In any case, it cannot be expected that the husband of a wife will get married for the second time, during the subsistence of earlier marriage, after informing her first wife or in her presence so that she can collect evidence of his second marriage and the ceremonies performed therein.”

The lady had approached high court against session's court's 2019 order of quashing the summons issued by the Magistrate in a case filed by her against her husband under section 494 (bigamy) of the Indian Penal Code.

She had alleged that her husband married another woman in 2015 in the presence of local priests and their family and a daughter was born out of the said marriage. The lady in her complaint further stated that even the duo's (husband and the second woman) neighbours and security guard acknowledged them as a married couple and the daughter's birth certificate named her husband as the girl's father.

The city court while quashing the summoning order held that though it was mandatory to provide proof of solemnisation of second marriage in accordance with essential religious rites for establishing bigamy, the lady had failed to provide oral or documentary evidence regarding her husband and the other woman performing Saptapadi around the sacred fire.

The city court had further ruled that evidence in the form of photographs or some documents showing parties to be in a relationship akin to marriage was not sufficient to even proceed against the accused adding that mere living in a live-in relationship with the person was not sufficient to attract the offence.

The lady appearing through advocate Malavika Rajkotia submitted that the lower court had erred in holding without even trial that there was no evidence as the court had ignored the photograph of the second marriage and birth of a child from that wedding which was a pivotal piece of evidence.

The husband appearing through advocate Giriraj Subramanian however submitted that the lady had only made bald and vague allegations regarding her husband marrying another woman by a local pundit but failed to disclose details about the same.

The Hindu

Anganwadi workers' protest: Attendance of children and pregnant women plunges in Centres

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/anganwadi-workers-protest-attendance-of-children-and-pregnant-women-plunges-in-centres/article67716347.ece>

The State-wide strike of the Anganwadi workers and helpers has gravely affected the supply of nutritional diet for children, pregnant and lactating women in the Centres. Alleging that a 'raw deal' was being meted out to Anganwadi workers and helpers in the State, about 1.06 lakh women working in 55,607 centers went on an indefinite strike from December 12, 2023.

The protesters are demanding that their salaries be increased to ₹26,000 per month, removal of mini Anganwadi Centres, enhancement of pension and retirement benefits, eligibility for all government schemes, treatment at par with other government employees, the announcement of TD and DA, scrapping of the new apps, and clearance of pending bills. Leaders of AITUC, CITU, IFTU, TDP, CPI, CPI(M), CPI-ML New Democracy, Congress, and other parties extended support to the protesting workers.

A group of ministers and officials of the Women Development and Child Welfare (WD&CW) department, who held discussions with the agitating women thrice said that except for the salary hike, the government has agreed to all the demands. "The government has considered 10 out of their 11 demands and issued the related GOs.

We appeal to the Anganwadi staff to resume duties in the interest of the children and pregnant women," said WD&CW Principal Secretary, G. Jayalakshmi. However, the protesters remain resolute in their demand for a salary hike — from ₹7,500 and ₹11,500 for helpers and workers, respectively.

"Due to the ongoing strike, daily attendance of children has dropped from about 7.5 lakh to 2 lakh. The strike has also affected new registrations of children in Pre-Schools (Anganwadi Centres)," said a WD&CW officer. The strike is adversely affecting essential services like growth monitoring of malnourished children, immunisation, and health check-ups for pregnant women, the official said.

"As the supply of nutritional diet to children, pregnant and lactating women are affected, I request the Anganwadi workers to join for duties," NTR District Collector, S. Dilli Rao, said in a statement and asked them to report in the concerned Anganwadi centres.

India Today

Dalit boy, Muslim woman thrashed for sitting together in Karnataka

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/karnataka/story/dalit-boy-muslim-woman-thrashed-sitting-together-karnataka-moral-policing-case-registered-2485380-2024-01-07>

A moral policing case has been registered in Karnataka's Belagavi after a group of Muslim men allegedly attacked a Dalit Hindu boy and a Muslim girl for reportedly sitting together. Nine persons involved in the assault have been taken into custody, said police.

The victims, Sachin Lamani, 18, and Muskan Patel, 22, both were subjected to a prolonged assault by the accused who used pipes and rods. The issue came to light when both the victims, after getting thrashed, filed a complaint with the police. Based on the complaint, the Belagavi Police registered a case under the SC/ST Atrocities Act.

Recounting the horror, Sachin said, "They asked why a Hindu and a Muslim were sitting together. I told them she wasn't a Muslim but my own aunt's daughter. They took both of our phones. They snatched away Rs 7,000."

Sachin revealed that the issue occurred when Muskan and he went to apply for the Siddaramaiah's Yuva Nidhi scheme. "When we went to apply for the scheme, they asked us to come after an hour as it was lunchtime. So, we went to sit by Killa Lake. The miscreants were drunk when they came to us. They took a rod and thrashed us," Sachin told India Today TV.

The incident unfolded near Killa Lake in Belagavi on Saturday noon. The group of miscreants approached Sachin and Muskan, enquiring about their names, according to the complaint. After learning that they belonged to different religions, the attackers began questioning Sachin about sitting next to Muskan.

The verbal abuse escalated to physical violence, with the assailants attempting to strangle Sachin by his neck. They forcibly took the mobile phones of both victims, said Sachin and Muskan, in a police complaint.

Subsequently, 13 more people joined the attackers, taking Sachin and Muskan to a separate room where they subjected Sachin to brutal thrashing till Saturday evening, according to the complaint. Muskan was also attacked during the incident, said the police sources.

Indian Express

Worli riots: How violence killed a Dalit movement

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/worli-riots-1974-dalit-panthers-caste-discrimination-dalit-movement-9098264/>

Studies have shown that whenever an outfit raised by the marginalised gains prominence, violence is utilised to splinter them and keep them in “their place”. Often this violence is in the form of riots. The physical violence then culminates into structural violence which has serious economic, political and cultural implications.

Worli riots rocked the heart of central Mumbai exactly 50 years ago. They began in the BDD chawls on January 5, 1974, during the lifespan of the revolutionary Dalit Panthers, and altered the course of the Dalit movement. The riots continued over two months in phases, from January 5 to February 16 and then from April 6 to April 19.

Hindu and Buddhist chawls, which were adjacent to or facing each other were the epicentre. Sticks, stones, bricks, acid bulbs, and soda bottles were all readily used as projectiles thrown from terraces and corners. The Maharashtra government ordered a judicial inquiry into the matter, and the one-man Inquiry Commission, chaired by Justice S B Bhasme, submitted its findings in 1976.

Witnesses described horrendous injustices such as police officers breaking into Buddhist homes and beating and kicking the residents, as well as desecrating the idols of Buddha and Babasaheb Ambedkar that were inside their homes. Sons of police officers wearing police uniforms had tormented women and the elderly. A rally demanding the release of Raja Dhale and other Panthers was organised on January 9, which was met with ferocious attacks. Stones were hurled from the building’s terraces.

Bhagwat Jadhav, who was struck by a grinding stone while trying to defend the women and children of the morcha, became the first martyr of the Dalit Panthers.

The precursor to this brutal phase of rioting was an episode of struggle for political power. Analysing the function of violence in public life, Hannah Arendt observed that “violence appears where power is in jeopardy.”

Various political and socio-cultural variables were at work that contributed to the 1974 riots, even though the Dalit Panthers were primarily held accountable for their aggressive speeches and insults against the Hindu religion. The Dalit Panthers were gaining ground after their establishment in 1972. In Mumbai, they had begun the process of organising into ward-specific entities. They declared a boycott of the Lok Sabha by-election from the Central Bombay constituency as they wanted to generate political awareness among the Dalit masses.

It was an effort to draw the government’s and the public’s attention to the deplorable circumstances of the Dalits in the nation. This threw the ruling class into a loopy ride and

altered the dynamics. Then began the purposeful spreading of the word about Dalit Panthers' support to the Congress candidate. On January 5, the Panthers held a public meeting to clarify their stance on the by-election.

As the meeting went on and the Panther leaders continued to advocate for a boycott of the election, some audience members began to pelt stones. To control the crowd, the police then began to use lathis and tear gas and what followed was a period of sustained riots. This threw the ruling class into a loopy ride and altered the dynamics. Then began the purposeful spreading of the word about Dalit Panthers' support to the Congress candidate.

On January 5, the Panthers held a public meeting to clarify their stance on the by-election. As the meeting went on and the Panther leaders continued to advocate for a boycott of the election, some audience members began to pelt stones. To control the crowd, the police then began to use lathis and tear gas and what followed was a period of sustained riots.

Dalit Panther leader J V Pawar in his book, *Dalit Panthers: An Authoritative History* (translated from Marathi by Rakshit Sonawane) has observed that "The Dalit Panther was at its prime until 4 January 1974. On 5th January 1974, a masterminded riot engulfed the entire Mumbai metropolis, especially Worli and Naigaon, and claimed the lives of Dalit Panthers Bhagwat Jadhav and Ramesh Deorukhkar."

The word "masterminded" must be highlighted here. This demonstrates that riots are typically organised, intentional attempts to suppress the political assertion of the marginalised and limit their socio-economic ability. After the riots, Dalit youths were largely imprisoned. They either lost their livelihoods or jeopardised their chances of finding employment. The movement and its radical assertion suffered, even though the leaders of the Dalit Panthers gained considerable international recognition.

Being a minority, Buddhists were the main victims of this caste-based imbroglio. Hence, a section of the Panthers began to reevaluate their tactics and methods. Internal conflicts about how to best achieve their objectives, which had lain dormant until the riots, came to light. These internal conflicts caused the Panthers to break up by the end of 1974.

Internal strife, personal ambitions and jealousy among the leaders only work to undermine the movement and serve the interests of the oppressors. The instigation of communal and casteist sentiments is frequently determined by electoral incentives. The conflict between the Sena and the Buddhists was later utilised to strengthen support for the ruling party, thwarting the radical challenge posed by the Dalit Panthers.

Sena which until then had a stronghold in Mumbai was able to expand its base among the rural masses. Today, it has moulded its stance invoking the ideas of Prabodhankar Thackeray. It seems politically prudent for the Buddhists to join hands with Sena

considering that they are a numerical minority. However, the question of the unity of the Dalit leadership remains a major concern.

Also, while remembering the Worli Riots, it is impossible to ignore the role played by Dalit women in leading the agitations and morchas in response to police brutality and for the release of the Dalit Panthers. Dalit women have been part of the Ambedkarite movement since Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's time. It's time for them to take on important leadership positions.

The Hindu

‘Questioning caste violence becoming responsibility of Dalits alone’

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/questioning-caste-violence-becoming-responsibility-of-dalits-alone/article67714030.ece>

The issue of caste-based violence was increasingly becoming a problem which only the Dalits worry about since non-Dalits have been abdicating their responsibility in questioning such atrocities, said writer and historian Stalin Rajangam, here on Saturday.

Addressing the one-day State-level consultation on “Violence against Dalits: Interrogating the social justice in Tamil Nadu” organised by the Dalit Intellectual Collective, he referred to recent instances of violence against Dalits in southern districts and said while the response from the government was inadequate, there was hardly any serious discussions from the civil society as well.

Drawing a parallel with the fight against racial discrimination faced by the black people in the West, he said many white people too joined the struggle later. However, in the fight against caste in the State, the role played by non-Dalits has shrunk further than what it was a few decades ago, he lamented.

Contending that Dalits become the focus whenever there was a discussion on caste or caste atrocities, he said the mindset, responsibility and changes needed among the powerful non-Dalit communities who were the perpetrators of such violence were seldom discussed. Stating that he has lived for more than two decades in southern Tamil Nadu, he expressed concern that caste identities have strengthened over the years, especially among the younger generation.

Recalling a sensitisation programme she organised for IAS officers in 2006 on handling caste violence and implementation of welfare programmes for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, retired IAS officer P. Sivakami said there was a need for such programmes to be organised regularly.

S. Venkatanarayanan, associate professor and head, Department of International Relations, Political Science and History at Christ University, Bengaluru, wanted the government to bring out a White Paper on implementation of reservation.

The key demands raised as part of the conference included a White Paper on the action taken against caste atrocities in Tamil Nadu, sensitisation programmes for officials and in educational institutions, and reservation for children born to inter-caste couples. The conference was inaugurated by B.G. Kolse Patil, retired Judge, Mumbai High Court.

Indian Express

Parents reject noon meal cooked by Dalit despite court order in Tiruppur

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2024/jan/07/tamil-nadu-parents-reject-noon-meal-cooked-by-dalit-despite-court-order-in-tiruppur-2648749.html#:~:text=COIMBATORE%3A%20Tension%20prevailed%20in%20Tiruppur,food%20cooked%20by%20other%20individuals.>

COIMBATORE: Tension prevailed in Tiruppur after parents of students from a government school in Kuttagam panchayat violated the court's direction by not allowing a dalit woman to cook food for the kids and for making her serve the food cooked by other individuals.

Pappal, the dalit woman, worked as a cook in Tirumalai Kavundampalayam Government High School in Kuttagam near Avinashi. A few parents protested by not sending their children to the school citing that Pappal, a dalit, is preparing food for the kids. Following this, she was transferred. However, the incident caused a stir and she was taken back.

Pappal had filed a complaint based on which a case was registered against 87 people, under sections of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Sewur police also arrested eight people. While the trial of this case was going on in the Tirupur District Chief Court, Judge Sornam Natarajan directed that students and parents should eat the food cooked by Pappal. The cook came back to the school on Saturday and prepared food in the canteen.

However, this food was allegedly kept aside and the parents hired another person for cooking and made Pappal serve it. As the incident caused a stir in the locality, lawyer PB Mohan conducted negotiations between Pappal and the parents. The parents left after saying that Pappal shall resume cooking for the kids after Pongal holidays. "The parents have violated the district court's direction," said Mohan.

Times of India

Iranian woman in India for shopping murdered by kin

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/noida/iranian-woman-in-india-for-shopping-murdered-by-kin/articleshowprint/106605912.cms>

NOIDA: A 22-year-old Iranian woman was stabbed to death after she intervened to save her father who was in a scuffle with his relatives on Friday night. Police took four people into custody and informed the embassy about the incident.

Police received information at the Sector 113 police station about the stabbing. “The call came from Iranian national Firoz, a resident of Sector 116. A team rushed to the house. Firoz said his daughter, Zeenat (22), had been stabbed in the neck. The hospital declared her ‘brought dead on arrival’,” said Manish Mishra, additional DCP, Noida. During the investigation, police found that Firoz had been in the garment business for the past one to one-and-a-half years.

“Zeenat had come to India on a tourist visa about four to five months ago. She planned to marry this year, so she was visiting India for shopping. Firoz’s relatives—Ibrahim and Aslam—also resided in the same building with their families. Firoz indulged in a scuffle with Ibrahim and Aslam on Friday. Zeenat intervened to stop the fight, but Ibrahim had a knife and stabbed her,” said Shavya Goyal, ACP, Noida.

After informing the embassy, police initiated legal proceedings in the case under Indian Penal Code sections 302(Murder), 307(attempt to murder), 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting with a deadly weapon), 149 (unlawful assembly) and 323 (assault) against eight people — Aslam, Ibrahim, Ali, Zahra, Zinat, Zarin, Farshid and Ali.

“Four people, Zahra, Zinat, Zarin and Farshid, have been taken into custody while the others are absconding. Teams are working to arrest them, as well,” Goyal said.

DNA

Maharashtra News: महाराष्ट्र का ये पिता बन गया हैवान, दारू पार्टी के लिए अपने ही 3 साल के बेटे को बेच डाला

<https://www.dnaindia.com/hindi/india/news-maharashtra-news-yavatmal-arni-father-sold-three-year-old-son-for-alcohol-party-police-arrested-4110042>

डीएनए हिंदी: महाराष्ट्र के यवतमाल में एक पिता की खौफनाक हरकत सामने आई है. दारू पार्टी करने के लिए इस शख्स ने 3 साल के बेटे को बेच दिया और फिर उस पैसे से जमकर शराब पी. इस मामले में पुलिस ने आरोपी पिता को गिरफ्तार कर लिया है. बच्चे को बेचने के इस रैकेट में शामिल एक और आरोपी को भी पुलिस ने गिरफ्तार किया है.

आर्णी तालुका में रहने वाले आरोपी ने पैसे के लिए अपने बेटे को तेलंगाना के आदिलाबाद में बेच दिया. बच्चे की मां ने इस मामले में पुलिस से शिकायत दर्ज कराई थी जिसके बाद कार्रवाई हुई. मां ने पुलिस को दिए बयान में बताया कि वह अपने पति से पिछले कुछ महीनों से अलग रह रही है और उसका बच्चा भी उसके साथ ही रहता था. मौका पाकर आरोपी बच्चे को लेकर भाग गया.

महाराष्ट्र पुलिस ने इस मामले में तत्परता से कार्रवाई की और श्रावण दादाराव देवकर (32 वर्ष) जो बच्चे का पिता है और चंद्रभान देवकर (65 वर्ष) को अरेस्ट किया. पुलिस की पूछताछ में श्रावण (पिता) ने बच्चे को बेचने की बात कबूल की और उसके बयान के आधार पर चंद्रभान को अरेस्ट किया गया है. आरोपी आर्णी के कोपरा गांव का रहने वाला है और उसने अपनी पत्नी पुष्पा के सामने बेटे को तेलंगाना में बेचने का दावा किया था. इसके बाद मां ने पुलिस के पास शिकायत दर्ज कराई.

2.5 लाख के लिए जिगर के टुकड़े को बेच दिया
पुलिस की जांच में पता चला है कि आरोपी ने तेलंगाना के एक शख्स को 2.5 लाख में बेटे को बेचा था और उस पैसे से जमकर शराब पी. पुलिस ने मानव तस्करी का केस दर्ज किया है. जांच में यह भी सामने आया है कि बच्चे को कतर में बेचने की पूरी योजना थी. बता दें कि भारत से हर साल हजारों बच्चों की मानव तस्करी हो रही है और उन्हें खाड़ी देशों समेत दुनिया के अलग-अलग देशों में बेच दिया जाता है. पुलिस इस केस में दो और लोगों की तलाश कर रही है.

बच्चे की मां ने दर्ज कराई थी शिकायत
अब तक मिली जानकारी के मुताबिक, बच्चे के माता-पिता की आपस में नहीं बनती थी शराब की लत से परेशान होकर पुष्पा अलग रहने लगी थी. पिछले कुछ महीने से वह अलग रह रही थी और उसका 3 साल का बेटा जय भी उसके साथ ही था.

एक दिन मौका पाकर श्रावण ने उसके बेटे को उठा लिया और तेलंगाना में उसे बेच दिया. शराब के नशे में उसने यह बात पुष्पा को बताई जिसके बाद पुलिस ने केस दर्ज कर मामले की पड़ताल शुरू की और मानव तस्करी का मामला सामने आया.