

Hindustan Times

NHRC notice to Panipat SP over girl student's suicide

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/chandigarh-news/nhrc-notice-to-panipat-sp-over-girl-student-s-suicide-101705519360340.html>

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Wednesday issued a notice to Panipat superintendent of police (SP) seeking an action taken report (ATR) in the alleged suicide by a ninth class student last month.

According to the notice, the girl, who was from the district, had died by suicide after she was blackmailed by miscreants, who threatened to upload her obscene video on social media.

The AISU alleged that the miscreants had extorted ₹2,000 from the victim and her elder sister, a Class 11 student. Due to repeated threats and demand for money by the persons, the victim ended her life, the commission said in the notice.

The notice comes over a month after AISU, a students' rights body, filed a complaint before the commission citing a newspaper report.

The commission's law division, while forwarding the complaint, sought an investigation and an ATR within four weeks of the notice.

According to social activist Savita Arya, on December 18, the younger sister consumed poison and later died at a hospital, where her statements were recorded.

Based on the complaint, a case was lodged under section 305 of the IPC at Old Industrial police station and two men Sahil and Manish were arrested the next day, police said.

Rising Kakshmir

Eyes of Kashmiri Pandits remain fixed on Kashmir

<https://risingkashmir.com/eyes-of-kashmiri-pandits-remain-fixed-on-kashmir-6b3ab234-5330-48ea-be99-866f7d498252>

In all circumstances, the eyes of the Kashmiri Pandits will surely remain fixed on Kashmir, their historical habitat for the last ten thousand years

FRAGRANCE OF IDEAS

The 19th January 2024 marks the 35th Holocaust Day of the Kashmiri Pandits. Their genocide and ethnic cleansing during the period 1989-90 and thereafter are an integral part of their history and civilization. The forced extermination from Kashmir led Kashmiri Pandits to an unwanted dispersal eventually. They are facing hard questions relating to their survival, issues of identity and the existential concerns. Despite losing much of their hope all these years regarding their resettlement in Kashmir, their eyes remain fixed on Kashmir all the time. Their soul and the inner voice keep them alive to maintain dreaming about their cherished homeland in Kashmir.

We have been perpetually hearing the oft-repeated quotations like, "Kashmiri Pandits have been forced to live as refugees in their own country", "Kashmiri Pandits need to be resettled in Kashmir with honour, dignity and security", "Kashmir is incomplete without Kashmiri Pandits" etc over the last more than three decades of exile. Leaders of all hues, thinkers of various shades and key officials of the government have been observed using these phrases quite often whenever need be. For the last more than three decades, nothing tangible could be done beyond expression of these vague terms to suit the situation. In order to arrive at a plausible solution, it is important to analyze the key factors that affected the community of Kashmiri Pandits for the last four decades.

Extremism in Kashmir was not a sudden happening, it had its history, and the minority community of Kashmiri Pandits became a natural victim of this extremism in the valley. In absence of any responsible response to extremism and radicalism in Kashmir by the then government/s, these monsters overshadowed every sphere of activity in Kashmir. There is hardly any field of activity that hasn't come under their influence, directly or indirectly. Terrorism was introduced in Kashmir valley in the late eighties only when the ground was already thriving with extremism and radical ideology.

It needs to be made amply clear here that all the governments at the Centre right from 1947 up to 1990 failed to gauge the situation in Kashmir particularly in regard to the Kashmiri Pandits -the indigenous people of Kashmir. They ignored the alarming bells that sent regular messages about the indefinite future of the minority community in the valley. The governments both at the centre and in the state ignored the plight of the community in Kashmir and pursued a "policy of no-policy" about them, always and ever.

There was no major change of policy even after the forced mass exodus of the Pandits from Kashmir in 1989-90. Instead, their exodus was called "migration" and they were officially recognised as "migrants". This author led a relentless struggle in the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) for almost a decade during the 1990s pleading for recognition of genocide of the displaced community of Kashmir. The NHRC after a prolonged discussion, debate and hearing in its court (constituted for the purpose) said in its decision in June 1999, "the Commission is constrained to say that acts akin to genocide were committed against the Kashmiri Pandit community and.....A genocide type design may exist against them in the minds and utterances of the terrorists and militants in Kashmir valley....they (Kashmiri Pandits) have not been given due understanding and relief that they deserved.....the excesses committed against them are stark and tragic".

The Supreme Court of India, in its recent judgement on Article 370 also dwelt upon the issue of displacement of the Kashmiri Pandits. There are instances when a number of High courts made important observations about the banishment of Kashmiri Pandits. While J&K High Court said that "the migration of Kashmiri Pandits was unparalleled and cannot be compared with any other migration", the Delhi High Court called the displacement as "ethnic cleansing". The former Home Secretary of the government of India called the barbarism committed against the Pandits as "Genocide". Amnesty International, Global Human Rights Defence and several other human rights bodies also expressed their genuine concerns about the mass exodus and human rights violations of Kashmiri Pandits.

All the above observations, pronouncements and decisions about the neglected community of Kashmiri Pandits were not taken to any logical conclusion by the powers that be. Ever since the displacement of the Kashmiri Pandit community in 1989-90, the displaced people of Kashmir have been demanding a statutory political representation in the Legislative bodies of the state and the country. Again, this author was instrumental in pursuing this cause with the Delimitation Commission and the government of India for the last five years persistently; and ultimately, the Parliament of India passed the Bill to provide two nominations to the displaced community in the J&K Legislative Assembly. With this opens the debate in regard to the final resettlement of the Kashmiri Pandits -the original inhabitants of Kashmir in the valley they belong to for the last thousands of years.

Earlier a few efforts were made in this direction that were called "rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits in the Kashmir valley" but all such attempts failed on the ground. One such attempt was the monetary incentive for rebuilding the damaged houses and the second was the linkage of PM's employment package for the displaced youth with the issue of "rehabilitation". It needs to be noted here that the resettlement of the Kashmiri Pandits in the valley is fundamentally a political issue that needs a political solution. Their resettlement in Kashmir, keeping in view their past and recent history, have to be realistic in essence and implementable in approach. It has to cater to the following four factors essentially: Land, constitutional guarantees for future, security, and economic viable

opportunities. It is only on the basis of these factors together that the obligatory 'sense of security' will follow.

The demand of the Kashmiri Pandits for a homeland in Kashmir as enunciated in the Margdarshan-1991 resolution deliberated extensively on this subject. This government led by the PM Narendra Modi showed great guts to implement the Resolution 'partially' when it took historic steps on 5-6 August 2019 in the Parliament of India. The J&K state stands reorganised, Article 370 has been made dysfunctional, both Ladakh and J&K have been brought under central administration with the declaration of Union Territories and separatism based constitutional mechanism (separate constitution-flag-symbol, Article 35A and permanent resident concept) has also been done away with forever. Public order has been restored by and large and law and order situation has also improved. The next step at the highest level should be to think in terms of the resettlement of the displaced Pandit community in Kashmir.

In order to arrive at the right situation in this regard, the government of India should initiate an appropriate dialogue and discussion on the subject directly with the credible representation of the Kashmiri Pandit community. The focus should be directly on the four factors i.e. land, constitutional guarantees, security and economic opportunities. The Margdarshan Resolution of 1991 can be the guiding policy document to achieve the desired results. This government led by the PM Modi is having both the intent and the capability to get it done. We have parliamentary elections on our head now and will wish that the government led by PM Narendra Modi comes back to power with a renewed and superior strength to take this intended process to the next level. In all circumstances, the eyes of the Kashmiri Pandits will surely remain fixed on Kashmir, their historical habitat for the last ten thousand years.

(The author is a senior BJP and KP leader, Human Rights Defender, author and columnist and can be reached at ashwanikc2012@gmail.com)

NDTV

Manipur Asks Centre For Choppers; Commando Killed, Protester Injured In Border Town Moreh Violence

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/manipur-asks-centre-for-choppers-commando-killed-protester-injured-in-border-town-moreh-violence-4879680>

Moreh/Imphal/New Delhi:

The Manipur government has asked the Centre to send helicopters to the state capital Imphal on a day fresh violence broke out in the border town Moreh.

In a letter to the Home Ministry, the Manipur government said the helicopters will come in handy to evacuate injured people from Moreh, and to send reinforcements and ammunition to the India-Myanmar border town where police commandos are fighting suspected insurgents.

There is a high risk of ambush on reinforcements sent by road to Moreh, sources said, pointing to several attacks by suspected insurgents in recent months.

A police commando, Wangkhem Somorjit, was killed in action today. He was with the Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB), attached to the police commando unit in Moreh.

Commandos under attack

The police commandos came under intense gunfire this morning, including attacks using rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), sources said. The commandos returned effective fire, but the presence of numerous protesters on the open roads made the situation more volatile as gunfire from the attackers continued, they said.

A school and other structures have been set on fire in the border town, 110 km from Imphal.

Hundreds of people from the Kuki tribes came out on the streets in Moreh today, demanding the release of two men from their community who are in police custody over the killing of a senior police officer on October 31, 2023.

Woman injured

An elderly woman was injured in the violence today, local reports said. Sources said the circumstances under which the woman got injured is unknown. The security forces, however, are expected to give a statement later on this, sources said.

The protesters have also been demanding the Centre to remove the state forces from Moreh, which comes under the hill district Tengnoupal.

The women's wing of the Kuki civil society group Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF) held a sit-in today demanding the release of their leaders Hemkholal Mate and Philip

Khaikholal Khongsai, who were arrested in the murder case of police officer Chingtham Anand Kumar.

In the protest today, Kuki Women's Union for Human Rights leader Ngaineikim Haokip alleged Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh does not recognise the Kuki tribes as the people of Manipur. "... So he has no right to interfere in the affairs of the hills, which belong to the Kukis," she said, and asked the protesters to remain steadfast in their demand for a separate administration carved out of Manipur.

The Kuki civil society group in a statement said it has requested the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to take up cases of alleged rights violation by state forces in Moreh.

Tensions between the hill-majority Kuki tribes and the valley-majority Meiteis have been lingering on eight months since clashes broke out between the two communities over disagreements on land, resources, political representation, and affirmative action policies.

Over 180 people have died in the violence, and thousands have been internally displaced. The two communities are sharply divided now, with people from either community not going to areas where those from the other community live.

The Manipur government maintains it is trying to uproot insurgents from the strategic border town, while the Kuki tribes in Moreh - a stone's throw away from Myanmar - have alleged the government wants to occupy the area before a political dialogue has even started on how to end the Manipur violence.

At least 25 Kuki insurgent groups have signed the suspension of operations (SoO) agreement with the centre and the state government. The insurgents are housed in designated camps. Ever since violence broke out in May last year, there have been allegations that full attendance at many of the SoO camps has not been observed.

Tribune

Custodial torture challenges democracy and dignity

The enactment of an anti-torture legislation is a collective burden of the executive, legislative and judicial wings of the Indian state.

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/comment/custodial-torture-challenges-democracy-and-dignity-582194>

Former Union Minister for Law and Justice

THE Prime Minister's recent advice to the police top brass to shun the danda (baton), along with his declaration that the new criminal laws have been crafted with the spirit of 'citizens first, dignity first and justice first', is a hopeful augury for the much-delayed enactment of a comprehensive, standalone legislation to prevent recurring acts of custodial torture that shame the nation. The new year should indeed be an occasion for the country to reinforce its democratic credentials anchored in a steadfast commitment to the advancement of human dignity as the foremost fundamental right.

The much-awaited comprehensive legislation addressing various aspects of the crime of torture will be in furtherance of the guaranteed right to life with dignity under Article 21. Such a law will also enable India to ratify the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT), which has not been possible in the absence of a compliant domestic law. India's ratification of the UNCAT will spare the country the embarrassment of facing repeated calls for accountability at the United Nations Human Rights review meetings, for non-ratification of the convention. Ironically, in a first resolution to be proposed by a third-world country, it was India that had initiated the United Nations Resolution 32/64 of December 8, 1977, calling upon governments to unilaterally comply with the declaration against torture. Over the years, India has been a signatory to several international treaties that prohibit torture in any form and seek its elimination. Articles 51(c) and 253 of the Indian Constitution mandate respect for international law and compliance therewith. Considering its legitimate aspiration for a rightful role in shaping the new world order anchored in democracy and respect for human rights, India cannot be seen standing with the likes of Angola, Bahamas, Brunei, Gambia, Haiti, Palau and Sudan, who have not ratified the UNCAT.

Pertinently, the necessity of a standalone comprehensive legislation, covering several aspects connected with custodial torture, has been recognised by a select committee of Parliament that had, in a demonstration of bipartisan support, recommended such a law in the form of Prevention of Torture Bill, 2010. Regrettably, 14 years hence, the nation still awaits this critical piece of legislation against torture. The Law Commission of India, in its 273rd report (2017), and the National Human Rights Commission, in an affidavit filed before the Supreme Court, have also endorsed the advisability of such a legislation. The need for a comprehensive anti-custodial law, on the lines of UNCAT, as against a

piecemeal tinkering with the wholly inadequate provisions in the existing criminal laws to address several issues arising out of the acts of custodial torture, is self-evident.

These include a comprehensive definition of torture as a specified crime; prosecution of delinquent public servants, including police authorities; mode and manner of lodging of complaints against custodial torture; protection of public officials against vexatious complaints; ensuring fair and impartial investigation; the question of burden of proof; interim compensation and rehabilitation of victims and witnesses of custodial torture; parameters for deciding the quantum of compensation to be awarded to victims; speedy trial and disposal of complaints; grievance redressal mechanism for complaints that may arise from such trials and disposal thereof; protection of victims, witnesses and complainants; education and sensitisation of police authorities and public servants to encourage the use of scientific methods for effective and timely investigation and interrogation. Endorsing the need for legislation as an instrument of policy, the Consultative Council of European Judges stated in its Opinion No. 18 (2015): “A lack of legislation... may be contrary to the principle of legal certainty.” The enactment of requisite legislation, apart from reinforcing the nation’s commitment to constitutionalism and democracy, will disable fugitives from the law, currently abroad, to evade justice in India on the basis of apprehension of torture in custody.

Torture is a crime that scars the soul, mutilates the body, breaks the human will and dehumanises the victim. It leaves behind for its victims, as author Maria Popova has said, “A suffocating penitentiary in which one’s inner scream becomes deafening, deadening...” and the deepest sense of alienation in one’s innermost recesses “cold as ice and heavy as a stone...” There is no scope, therefore, for executive apathy, legislative lassitude and judicial inconsistency/ambivalence in the matter of a joint resolve against torture, anywhere and in any form. The enactment of an anti-torture legislation is a collective burden of the executive, legislative and judicial wings of the Indian state who are mandated by the first principles of constitutional governance to work in unison for the advancement of national goals.

With our debilitating politics generally limited to a constant ‘jostling in the crowd’ over personal vanities and political animosities, the representatives of the people cannot escape their share of responsibility for ignoring the compelling priority of our times. Nor has the highest constitutional court been able to effectively fill a glaring gap in the law and ensure the effectuation of its elevating jurisprudence on human dignity in relation to acts of torture. The landmark court judgments in this regard that demand validation through a purposive effective implementation include Sunil Batra (2017), Francis Coralie Mullin (1981), DK Basu (1997), Prithpal Singh (2012), Shabnam (2015), KS Puttaswamy (2017), Nambi Narayanan (2018) and Romila Thapar (2018).

Indisputably, a nation inspired by the ideals of a dignitarian Constitution cannot carry the burden of an unconscionable indifference to the inadequacy of legal structures to prevent brazen infractions of individual dignity by torture in custody of the state’s agencies. India’s pre-eminence in the global arena will rest on the strength of its democratic edifice

sustained and nurtured by an abiding deference to human rights and accountability of state power. For all the above reasons and more, the logic of an effective anti-torture legislation is unexceptionable. The question is: will keepers of the constitutional faith vindicate the republic's conscience? The resilience of a nation on the move will be tested by whether those responsible for charting the nation's destiny and revitalising its democracy live up to their responsibilities.

NHRC-National Human Rights Online News

UNI India

Building support for and protecting universal human rights key to our diplomacy : Elizabeth Lee

<https://www.uniindia.com/building-support-for-and-protecting-universal-human-rights-key-to-our-diplomacy-elizabeth-lee/east/news/3125986.html>

Kolkata, Jan 17 (UNI) " Building support for and protecting universal human rights is at the very heart of our diplomacy, and we remain committed to advancing human rights for all, with a special focus on LGBTQI+ individuals, " stated American Center Director Elizabeth Lee here on Wednesday.

Addressing "Voices of Diversity – Action for Inclusion" conclave under the "Rainbow Dialogues – All in this Together" project in partnership with U.S. based non-profit StoryCenter at the American Center, Lee said, "Building support for and protecting universal human rights is at the very heart of our diplomacy, and we remain committed to advancing human rights for all, with a special focus on LGBTQI+ individuals.

Since 2018,our Rainbow Dialogues project has provided a safe space for LGBTQI+ community members to discuss issues related to inclusive society, generating employment, and helping build a strong alliance across South Asia for LGBTQIA+ peoples. Dovetailing on a strong U.S. support, this conclave seeks to empower LGBTQI+ individuals who are advocates for inclusive educational and training opportunities as well as safe public spaces."

She added, "It is really heartening today that our gathering brought together both LGBTQI+ representatives and allies. Being an ally is a choice. It is about choosing to stand up for the basic human rights visibly and vocally, call out bias and unacceptable behavior, and use your voice to effect change." The project was implemented in collaboration with local non-profits Prodigal's Home and BRIDGE.

The event marked the culmination of a five-day immersive storytelling workshop at the American Center Kolkata, that brought together ten LGBTQIA+ activists-participants from Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Assam, Jharkhand, and West Bengal to share their personal stories and express their voices through short videos.

The conclave- initiated conversations towards social acceptance, inclusion, and employment opportunities for LGBTQIA+ individuals through evidence-based dialogues, storytelling and network-building. It is the first state-level advocacy conclave under the 'Rainbow Dialogues: All in this Together' project, which is being implemented in seven East and Northeast Indian states: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Manipur, Nagaland, Odhisa, and West Bengal.

The conclave will share findings and insights from the perception survey of 1000+ respondents from the LGBTQ+ community and 200+ from employers, educators, and service providers, across the seven states. The conclave was an advocacy event which was a culmination of a week-long (January 10-15, 2024) immersive storytelling workshop, jointly facilitated by Amy Hill, Silence Speaks Director, StoryCenter, U.S.A., and Raymond Caldwell, Producing Artistic Director, Theater Alliance, U.S.A., that witnessed participation from LGBTQ+ identified individuals from all the seven states.

During the event today, Amy Hill introduced the project objectives. Some participants presented /24, 5:35 AM Building support for and protecting universal human rights key to our diplomacy..All rights reserved. their personal powerful stories through videos, and digital stories, and it was followed by an interactive panel on "What are we doing for inclusion in our own spaces".

The panel was designed based on the survey findings that showed that these four areas - home, education space, workspace, and public/popular media, are the most important spaces that the LGBTQ+ individuals felt as key spaces where advocacy for inclusion are needed, and crucial for a life of dignity and safety.

There was also a presentation on 'Evidence from seven project states' by Prithviraj Nath, Director, BRIDGE India. Amy Hill said, "At a time when trans rights in the U.S. are under fire, StoryCenter and Theater Alliance are proud to be standing in solidarity with queer and trans communities in India, supporting them in building community and sharing stories for advocacy." UNI KK

The Hindu

Kalaburagi Central prison has turned into ganja den, says State Human Rights Commission

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/kalaburagi-central-prison-has-turned-into-ganja-den-says-state-human-rights-commission/article67749155.ece>

Expressing displeasure over the poor functioning of the Kalaburagi district administration, the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission (KSHRC) alleged that Kalaburagi Central prison has turned into ganja den. The Commission Chairman Justice L. Narayana Swamy and its members S.K. Vantigodi and T. Sham Bhatt were interacting with district-level officers here on Wednesday.

Mr. Swamy, who visited Kalaburagi Central Prison, said they got a video clip that showed how ganja was supplied inside the jail and this clearly indicated that ganja was easily accessible across the district. Mr. Swamy directed the district authorities to make all efforts to curb the distribution and sale of ganja in the district.

He said that ganja consumption can affect youngsters in their academics, social life and work productivity. The commission also criticised the prison authorities for forcing inmates to have dinner by 4.30 p.m. and breakfast at 7.30 a.m. next day. He acknowledged that 4.30 p.m. was too early for dinner. Mr. Swamy said that the commission has registered a suo-moto case with regard to serving food to the inmates.

The Commission was grossly upset over the poor maintenance and lack of amenities in the district general hospital. Most of the school building is in shambles with little or no facilities for students. He said the district administration and the officials of the concerned department have turned a blind eye to the pathetic conditions of healthcare facilities and school buildings.

The Commission has urged the officials to consciously develop a positive attitude while discharging their duties while dealing with people approaching them with grievances. Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive officer Bhanvar Singh Meena was present. In the last two-days, the Commission has attended 133 pending cases and disposed of 66 cases.

Mint

US State Secretary Antony Blinken hails PM Modi, says his policies benefited people and allies

<https://www.livemint.com/news/world/world-economic-forum-us-state-secretary-antony-blinken-hails-pm-modi-says-his-policies-benefited-people-and-allies-11705489472027.html>

US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken said on Wednesday that the United States sees India as an "extraordinary success story". He said the US has seen how the policies of the Indian government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi have been benefiting people. He added that India's leadership under PM Modi has benefited the relations of many ally countries.

"We see an extraordinary success story and we see the remarkable achievements that Prime Minister Modi has achieved moving forward under his watch that have materially benefited and positively affected so many of the allies," Secretary Blinken was quoted by ANI as saying at the World Economic Forum.

Blinken said the policies and programmes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi have been very beneficial to the people of India. According to PTI, the US official was replying to a question on whether the rise of Hindu nationalism concerns India despite the country's robust economic growth and infrastructure building under the Modi regime.

Blinken said US President Joe Biden and PM Modi enjoy excellent relations and their conversations cover all aspects. He added the India-US conversation always underscores the significance of democracy and human rights. "We also see our relationship between our countries that is in a new place at a new level. That's been a very deliberate effort by both the Prime Minister and President Biden.

At the same time, a constant and regular part of our conversation is the conversation about democracy and about human rights," Blinken was quoted by ANI as saying. He added, "When President (Biden) took office, he wanted to make sure that we put back into our foreign policy...We do it in different ways in different places.

Because of the nature of relationship, we have with the country, with the government, it's part of very sustain, very real conversation and the conversation that we have off course produces positive change."According to the report, Blinken also commented on the recent Taiwan presidential elections and reaffirmed US support for the status quo of the island country.

He said, "We see a very powerful affirmation of democracy. We congratulated the people of Taiwan. Our fundamental interest is the peace and stability is maintained."

“One of the hallmark of success of the relationship between the United States and China since the establishment of diplomatic relations has actually with the management of the Taiwan issue. The premium we have had in maintaining the status quo,” Blinken
The Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum provides a platform for thought leaders, policymakers, and industry experts to exchange ideas and perspectives on critical global issues.

Aljazeera

Will new criminal bills turn India into a police state ahead of 2024 vote?

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/1/17/will-new-criminal-bills-turn-india-into-a-police-state-ahead-of-2024-vote>

New Delhi, India – Late last month India’s parliament passed two sets of controversial legislation in the biggest overhaul of the criminal justice system and telecom laws that critics say could greatly increase police powers and facilitate mass surveillance. The first set of legislations comprises three criminal laws – Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) of 2023 – that will replace the colonial-era India Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act.

India’s Home Minister Amit Shah asserted that the new bills will free the citizens from “the colonial-era mindset and its symbols”. However, critics claim that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government has used the discourse of decolonisation to enact laws that are more draconian than the laws they are replacing.

The changes, they say, fit into the ruling party’s larger project of Hindu nationalism, with its projection of the past as a time of humiliation for Hindus, and its narrative that it is “shedding colonial baggage”. The second piece of legislation, the Telecommunications Act of 2023, seeks to modernise India’s century-old telecom law. But some experts warn the new bill will enable indiscriminate surveillance and erode privacy.

The new set of crucial laws was passed without substantive debate in the parliament. Critics have accused the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi of pushing through laws in parliament without allowing it to adequately scrutinise them. The new criminal laws will be rolled out in phases by December 2024. The government has not yet notified the implementation of the Telecoms Act.

Al Jazeera reached out to India’s home ministry and telecoms ministry for their response but did not hear from them until the time of publication. Here’s what we know about the new laws so far: What do the laws change — and do they threaten civil liberties? Police Custody: The period for which the police can seek direct custody of an accused — before she or he is sent to a jail — has been increased from 15 days to up to 60 days.

“Courts have traditionally been extremely reluctant in granting bail when there is a possibility of police custody. Now that the window has increased, it may become even more difficult to get bail,” Bharat Chugh, a former judge at Delhi’s criminal courts and Supreme Court lawyer said.

With at least 75 percent of prisoners in India's overcrowded jails being under-trials (those whose trials are yet to begin), the Supreme Court of India has repeatedly emphasised "bail, not jail" as a rule.

With courts hesitant to grant bail during the possibility of police custody, the change in law could have "grave implications for life and personal liberty", said Chugh. Human rights activists have highlighted how most cases of torture usually happen in police custody. A 2020 report by the National Campaign Against Torture, a platform of NGOs, found that an average of five people die in custody each day in India, with some of them succumbing to torture in police or judicial custody. Convictions remain scarce.

Sedition: In 2022, India's Supreme Court had temporarily suspended the 154-year-old law on sedition, a colonial-era provision that criminalises speech or actions against the government or authority with the possibility of a death sentence. Although the new criminal law makes no mention of the word "sedition" anywhere, experts have argued that it brings back a more draconian version through a back door.

The new criminal code criminalises an even more vague action – acts that "endanger sovereignty or unity and integrity of India" – to punish offenders with seven years to life in jail. Experts say such an ambiguous definition of an offence is likely to be misused. Sedition laws are already commonly used against journalists, activists and political dissidents.

"These expressions are indeed wide and not very precise," Chugh, the former judge, said. "This gives too much power to the investigators. A criminal law, given that it impacts personal liberty, has to be specific, precise and unambiguous." While the law clarifies that criticism of government actions is not an offence as long as it calls for change via lawful and democratic means, critics, including Chugh, argue that it "falls short".

Special offences in ordinary law: The new criminal statutes also incorporate special offences, such as "terrorism" and organised crime, governed by special laws, into ordinary criminal statutes without the accompanying safeguards. For instance, India's special "anti-terror" Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act of 1967 (UAPA) requires prior sanction by the government and examination of all evidence by an independent authority to prosecute someone on "terrorism" charges.

The new criminal statutes do not incorporate any such safeguard while bringing "terrorism" as an offence within them. Even with the — however few — safeguards, the UAPA, which prescribes stringent conditions to grant bail, has according to critics been misused by the government to imprison its critics for long periods. Experts fear that police may now choose to invoke ordinary criminal law over special laws to circumvent safeguards, leading to misuse.

"This gives the police officers unchecked discretion to pick one law over the other, or in many cases, invoke both laws. This will lead to a multiplicity of litigation and sometimes,

different courts arriving at different conclusions on the same set of facts/evidence,” Chugh said. Is it the end of colonial-era laws, as the government claims? Despite being dubbed “reforms,” experts Al Jazeera spoke to contend that the new laws mostly preserve provisions from their colonial-era counterparts, presenting an “old wine in a new bottle”. Chugh said the evidence law, which governs the admissibility of evidence in courts, sees almost no modifications.

The penal code, which defines crimes and provides their punishments, incorporates only a few additional offences and the rearrangement of sections, he says. Some of the changes to the criminal procedure code, such as the increase in duration for which people can be kept in police custody, are “quite troubling,” Chugh said. Chugh said instead of the new bills, the government could have made the changes by introducing new sections or sub-sections within the existing laws.

The Telecommunications Act provides for a simpler licensing regime for telecom networks, a framework for the interception of messages and internet suspension – without safeguards, and introduces the biometric authentication of users, raising concerns about privacy. Apar Gupta, advocate and former executive director of the Internet Freedom Foundation, said the new law “cements authoritarian control over the rights of ordinary citizens”.

“State control is present throughout the Telecom Act without any change to the colonial architecture. Changes within it are a clever rewording of phrases. It extends the colonial powers of interception of your communications without any safeguards,” Gupta told Al Jazeera. The definition of “terrorism” has also been widened. How dangerous is it? Not only has a special offence like “terrorism” been included in the ordinary penal code, but its definition, too, has been widened.

India’s special law for “anti-terror”, the UAPA, requires an act to be a “violent act” to be considered a terrorist act. The new penal code, however, could potentially implicate peaceful, non-violent acts with a definition of terrorism if they meet other criteria, such as any action that could threaten “unity, integrity ... of India ... by using any other means of whatever nature”. “The expression used is indeed pretty wide,” said Chugh.

“In fact, other terms in the section such as ‘damage to the monetary stability of India by way of production ... circulation of ... any other material’ also is extremely vague. As I said earlier, a criminal law, by its very nature, should be precise.” The new definition also includes any act that threatens the “economic security of India” as terrorism. Many fear the provision’s potential misuse in charging individuals who question the government or industrialists close to the government.

Will it put a strain on the already overburdened criminal justice system? Experts express concerns that the new criminal laws, along with their additional provisions, may lead to setbacks and delays in legal proceedings. There are more than 50 million pending cases burdening India’s justice system.

Chugh, the former judge, argues that the new laws have provisions that could potentially introduce “inadmissible and inferior quality of evidence” in a case before a court that will result in a prolonged trial.

He also anticipates challenges in aligning the changes with existing laws and systems. For instance, in ongoing trials, will the previous statutes or the new ones apply? What about evolving situations, such as pending investigations, inquiries and trials?

“For instance, if an investigation is carried out under the earlier criminal procedure code, but further investigation is sought to be done under the new one, which law would apply?” Chugh asked.

These are significant questions that the federal government has left unanswered.

“Addressing these concerns would require subsequent amendments in other laws, updates to proformas, and training for judges, lawyers, police officers, and other stakeholders – efforts that demand significant time and resources,” he said.

Does the new Telecommunication Act extend surveillance to online communications services? Will it affect privacy?

The new law will replace three archaic laws – the Telegraph Act of 1885, the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act of 1933 and The Telegraph Wires (Unlawful Possession) Act of 1950. Communications services like Signal, Zoom, Skype and Gmail were not covered under previous laws. This allowed them to maintain their end-to-end encryption and protect the privacy of their users. However, the new law increases government control over the internet, raising privacy concerns.

Experts said that the new law controls “telecommunication services”, a term that they describe as vague and defined by the new law as “any service for telecommunication”. This could potentially include over the top (OTT) messaging applications such as WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger and Google – but the government has been tight-lipped about this ambiguity. If the government does decide to include OTT platforms as part of “telecommunication services”, it will give it the power to license these platforms.

It would then be able to set “standards” for telecom services regarding encryption and data processing, which experts find problematic. Radhika Roy, a lawyer at the Internet Freedom Foundation, said that by setting these standards for different OTT platforms, the new law can now “potentially authorise the government to obtain identification of first originator of information through backdoor mechanisms or even the creation of lists that could pick up certain words – think mass surveillance”.

“Such identification can hamper free speech over messaging apps – the common man may have to self-censor themselves before even sending a personal message,” Roy warned. The new law could also break encryption and facilitate traceability as it mandates user identification through “verifiable biometric-based identification”. It also penalises citizens who provide false identification details.

Experts said this could have massive implications for journalists and whistleblowers who need to function with some level of secrecy and anonymity. Regarding internet suspension practices, Gupta, the digital rights advocate, criticises the law for reiterating the power to impose internet blackouts without statutory safeguards, despite court cases and recommendations by the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Information Technology.

India has already been ranked the worst country for internet freedom, with the disputed Kashmir region witnessing 49 out of 84 internet shutdowns across the country last year. "These safeguards could have been in the form of mere transparency, such as the duty of the state governments to send copies of its internet suspension orders to the federal government and then for the federal government to maintain a central directory of orders," Gupta said.

Times of India

MPHRC seeks report from CS

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhopal/mphrc-seeks-report-from-cs/articleshow/106912470.cms>

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Human Rights Commission (MPHRC) on Tuesday took cognizance of the incident wherein a seven-month-old was killed by stray dogs and dogs partially ate the child in Bhopal's Ayodhya Nagar on January 10.

The dogs had eaten the baby's left hand and the newborn died in the incident. The HRC called for a report on the incident from the MP chief secretary and additional chief secretary urban administration and development department within three weeks. The commission asked about the financial relief given to the family of deceased and why the earlier recommendations given on stray dog menace were not followed. TNN

We also published the following articles recently

Dogs kill baby: Cops got to know after news went viralPolice are investigating allegations that stray dogs killed and ate a newborn in Bhopal's Ayodhya Nagar. The parents, construction labourers from Bilkhiria, found the remains after leaving the baby unattended for a few minutes. The incident came to light after messages circulated on social media.

Hindustan Times

In for life, a murder convict pens a bestseller

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/in-for-life-a-murder-convict-pens-a-bestseller-101705495178837.html>

Jayanandan's new novel released in December is already sold out. His almost two-decade-long incarceration has sharply divided social and legal opinion. On March 19, 2023, a man named KP Jayanandan, who was serving a sentence for two murders was granted parole to attend his daughter's wedding, after his wife, Indira moved the court with a parole application.

The to-be-married daughter, a new law graduate, argued the case for her father. Such was her power of persuasion that the single judge bench of the Kerala high court (HC) observed that conviction did not reduce a person to a non-human; basic human rights must never be crippled.

"The wedding of a daughter is an auspicious occasion, and the presence of the bride's father at that solemn function is most appropriate. This court believes that the petitioner's husband should be given parole for partaking in his daughter's wedding," justice Bechu Kurian Thomas said.

Hindustan Times

Nicaragua human trafficking case: Raids launched against Amritsar-based travel agent

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/chandigarh-news/nicaragua-human-trafficking-case-raids-launched-against-amritsar-based-travel-agent-101705432093479.html>

Amritsar (rural) senior superintendent of police Satinder Singh said the accused, Tarsem Singh who is a resident of Chowk Mehta area, is on the run. A day after two FIRs were lodged against an Amritsar-based travel agent in the Nicaragua human trafficking case, police launched raids for his arrest.

Amritsar (rural) senior superintendent of police Satinder Singh said the accused, Tarsem Singh who is a resident of Chowk Mehta area, is on the run. The FIRs had been lodged on Monday on the complaint of Kanwarman Singh of Talwandi Nahar village and Damanpreet Singh of Butter Siwian village, who were allegedly duped on the pretext of securing visas of United States and Australia respectively.

Both said that they were stopped at the France airport and later deported after their visas were found to be fake. Cops said they are trying to persuade other victims to get their statements recorded with the police so that more FIRs are registered in this case. So far, no one else has come forward.

Times of India

Raipur police seize Rs 27.5 lakh worth of marijuana, three arrested, including two traffickers from UP

<https://m.timesofindia.com/india/raipur-police-seize-rs-275-lakh-worth-of-marijuana-three-arrested-including-two-traffickers-from-up-latest-news/articleshow/106932366.cms>

RAIPUR: In a major bust, Raipur police successfully apprehended three suspects, including two inter-state traffickers hailing from Uttar Pradesh, leading to the seizure of more than two quintals of marijuana worth about Rs 27,50,000.

The incident unfolded in the Fafadih Chowk area of the state capital, falling under the jurisdiction of the Ganj police station. The suspects were caught red-handed while transporting marijuana in a vehicle. Both traffickers, originally from Uttar Pradesh, were attempting to conceal the contraband inside cartons among helmets placed in the back of the vehicle.

Investigations revealed that the traffickers were transporting the marijuana from Koraput, Odisha, to Uttar Pradesh. A total of two quintals and 15 kilograms of marijuana were confiscated from the accused. Additionally, the vehicle with registration number CG/04/NL/2559 and 88 pieces of helmets used in the trafficking operation were seized.

The estimated value of the seized contraband is approximately Rs 27,50,000. The accused are now facing charges under Section 20(B) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, as per the case registered at the Ganj police station.

Senior Police Superintendent Prashant Agrawal directed a concerted effort to curb the narcotics trade and instructed all police officials, station in-charges, and the Anti-Crime and Cyber Unit to intensify their actions. Acting on this directive, a joint team was formed to gather information about individuals involved in the illegal drug trade.

The operation took place on January 15, 2024, following information received by the Narcotics Cell regarding individuals transporting marijuana from the Telghani Naka towards the city. Senior police officers, including Lakhna Patle, Additional Police Superintendent of Crimes Pitambar Singh Patel, City Police Superintendent Yogesh Sahu, and Deputy Police Superintendent of Crimes Dinesh Sinha, oversaw the operation.

The joint team, consisting of the Anti-Crime and Cyber Unit and the Ganj police station, successfully intercepted the suspects near the Fafadih Chowk, leading to the arrest of Monish Qureshi, 24 (Pichokada, Bagpath district of UP), Sahil Khan, 20 (Badoud police station area of UP), and Bhojram Sahu alias Bholu, 23, (Amleshwar, Durg district of Chhattisgarh).

The seized contraband, along with the apprehended individuals, were handed over to the Ganj police station for further legal proceedings. SHO Ashish Yadav, Sub-Inspector Mukesh Sori from the Anti-Crime and Cyber Unit, and other key members played a pivotal role in executing the operation.

Deccan Herald

Siddaramaiah launches softwares that integrate AI, machine learning for cops

<https://www.deccanherald.com/india/karnataka/siddaramaiah-launches-softwares-that-integrate-ai-machine-learning-for-cops-2851780>

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday launched several computer softwares that integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) to aid the police in analysing cases and to assist citizens with their queries. What are they? Police IT-V2: This assists the police in performing all functions from registration of first information reports (FIRs) to disposal of cases to carrying out the probe in a 'holistic manner' through state-of-the-art technology.

The police said that the software has been designed using AI and ML. ITPA Saral Mobile App: According to the police, this application will help the authorities to provide easy guidance on the required documents, procedures, applicable laws and shelter homes for the victims of human trafficking, which they termed as a metaphor for 'modern-era slavery'.

Chatbot: The state police have implemented 'Police Mitra' in conjunction with ChatGPT to facilitate the answering of citizens' queries on cybercrime, traffic, issues of women, children and senior citizens. KSPAI: The newly implemented KSPAI software of the police department will revolutionize the analysis of cases by automating the process and dividing the brief facts of the case into sub-facts using AI and ML technologies, the department said.

Using a state-of-the-art AI model trained on extensive historical data, KSPAI effectively identifies applicable laws and sections related to the cases without human intervention. Economic offences investigation software: The department said the software incorporates AI and ML tools to analyse bank statements, which will help the investigators in 'pattern recognition and enable them to identify anomalies, irregularities and potential fraudulent activities within a vast spectrum of bank transaction data sets'.

'Any interference in India's internal matters is unacceptable': New Delhi hits back at Islamabad

<https://www.etvbharat.com/english/international/top-news/any-interference-in-indias-internal-matters-is-unacceptable-new-delhi-hits-back-at-islamabad/na20240117222539725725132>

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Rajkumar Ranjan Singh on Wednesday addressed the 19th summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in Uganda. He slammed Pakistan for raking up the Kashmir issue and asserted that any interference in India's internal affairs is unacceptable.

New Delhi: India on Wednesday slammed Pakistan after Islamabad raked up the Kashmir issue at the ministerial segment of the 19th summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in Uganda. Addressing the summit, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Rajkumar Ranjan Singh said,

"While our focus is on coming together to strengthen NAM collectively, we have been exposed to the unfortunate, misplaced, predictable, and blatant misuse of this august platform by Pakistan, as it propagates false and malicious propaganda against my country". "Any interference in India's internal affairs is unacceptable and we completely reject it," Rajkumar Ranjan Singh said.

India further expressed concern about the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. "We have condemned the loss of civilian lives, most of them women and children, in the Israel-Hamas conflict. India has called for restraint, de-escalation and emphasised peaceful resolution of the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy," he added. He further noted that India has condemned the terrorist attack on Israel on 7 October and called for the immediate and unconditional release of all remaining hostages.

"The humanitarian needs of the people of Gaza must be addressed. In this, we have called for the timely and continued delivery of humanitarian assistance and welcome the international community's de-escalation efforts and delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza," he said at the NAM meeting.

"India too has contributed to this effort. India has always supported a negotiated two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine issue leading to the establishment of a sovereign, independent, and viable State of Palestine living within secure and recognised borders, side-by-side in peace with Israel. We reiterate the need for an early resumption of direct and meaningful negotiations.

Every effort must be made to create conducive conditions for resumption of these talks," the Union Minister of State for External Affairs added. He also appreciated the African Union's induction as the G20 permanent member and said, "Close on the heels of the

African Union's successful induction into the G20 during India's presidency, an African country captaining two important international bodies is a clear reflection of the collective strength of this continent. This is Africa's moment". He pointed out that NAM is one of the world's largest multilateral for mobilising support for the Global South and that "it is crucial to defend and nurture NAM's tradition of independence so that we set our agenda".

"As a developing country with a large young population, migration especially of professionals and the skilled is an important part of our global engagement. Migration is transnational, and it requires cooperation at the international, regional and bilateral levels. In this context, India recognised Global Skill Gaps, Gig and Platform Economy and Social Protection with Sustainable Financing of Social Security as global developmental challenges during its G20 Presidency", Rajkumar Ranjan Singh said.

He highlighted that the Global South's development agenda stares at unfulfilled promises as it bears the pressures of the disproportionate impact of climate change, the pressure of industrialising without carbonising, and the pressure of lifting millions out of poverty - all at the same time. "India utilised its G20 Presidency to redefine the way world looks at development agenda by linking it to each and every major agenda of the world today, be it climate change, energy transitions or digital transformation.

While doing so, India remained anchored in the South-South spirit and convened two Voice of the Global South summits to guide our work", he added. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh also called for the need to highlight the importance of supply chains resilience as it is crucial to growth and development. "

We recognise that, in order to guarantee better-integrated trade and production linkages, supply chain systems that are resilient to future crises connected to health, climate change, and security must be built using the 3Ts principle ('transparency, trusted source, and time frame') as stressed by Prime Minister Modi," the MoS MEA concluded.

SCC Online

‘Foreigners cannot claim right to reside and settle in India as per Article 19(1)(e), their rights limited to Article 21’; Delhi HC dismisses petition against illegal detention

<https://www.scconline.com/blog/post/2024/01/17/foreigners-cannot-claim-right-to-reside-settle-in-india-their-rights-limited-to-article-21-legal-news/>

Delhi High Court: While hearing a writ petition filed by petitioner under Article 226 of the Constitution read with Section 482 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 ('CrPC') to issue an appropriate direction and orders to Respondent 2, Foreign Regional Registration Office (FRRO) for illegal detention and custody of the nephew of petitioner, the Division Bench of Suresh Kumar Kait* and Manoj Jain*,

JJ., dismissed the appeal and held that the power of Government of India to expel foreigners was absolute and unlimited and the fundamental right of foreigners was limited to the one given under Article 21 of the Constitution and such acts of the authorities were in accordance with the law.

Background Petitioner who was the maternal uncle of Azal Chakma, claimed that Azal was born and brought up in India and his mother solemnized marriage with Uttam Kumar, who came from Bangladesh to India. It was further added that Azal acquired his education in India and held Indian Passport, AADHAR Card, PAN Card, driving licence issued by Indian Authorities and had business in Kolkata.

Petitioner further contended that his nephew was in illegal custody of Respondent 2 from 13-10-2022 and was arrested from IGI Airport, New Delhi ('the Airport') while he was boarding the flight to Dhaka. It was claimed that he was in continuous illegal detention and was never produced before any Court or authority and his detention was absolutely illegal and against the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

Per Contra, Respondent 2 contended that Azal was apprehended at the Airport during immigration clearance when he was attempting to depart for Dhaka, Bangladesh based on fraudulently obtained Indian Passport. It was further contended that after enquiry it was found that he was visiting India till 2016 on multiple Indian visas on passport issued by Bangladesh and lastly, he had departed from India on Bangladeshi Passport on 17-06-2016 from Kolkata and there was nothing to show as to how he subsequently sneaked into India.

It was possible that after his last visit he illegally entered into India and obtained fake documents. Respondent 2 further submitted that his passport was revoked by the Indian Authorities on 21-06-2023. It had been proved by several instances that Azal was a Bangladeshi national and a citizen of Bangladesh by birth. His movements had been restricted under Section 3(2)(e) of the Foreigners Act, 1946 ('the FA') read with Section 11(2) of the Foreigners Order, 1948 ('the FO').

It was also claimed that High Commission of Bangladesh had already issued travel permit documents for his returning, and he would be deported as soon as Bangladesh's Embassy sent a confirmed air-ticket to Respondent 2.

Court's Assessment

The Court opined that Azal was found to be travelling on Indian Passport which was fraudulently procured. Documents presented by Respondent 2 indicated that he was holding a Bangladeshi Passport and visited India on multiple occasion on that passport and Iso, while applying for visa, he claimed himself to be a Bangladeshi national by birth.

The Court stated that petitioner had not given any response in reference to the aforesaid documents and had failed to tell as to how and when he entered India after going to Dhaka. It was further opined that an application was made under Section 97 of the CrPC before the Magisterial Court claiming for illegal detention which was disposed of by the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate-II, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi on 17-07- 2023 observing that the alleged confinement did not amount to any offence.

The Court relied on the observation of Supreme Court in Hans Muller of Nurenburg v. Superintendent, Presidency Jail, Calcutta, 1955 SCC OnLine SC 35 that power of the Government of India to expel foreigners was absolute and unlimited and no foreign national could claim that he had a right to reside and settle in India in terms of Article 19(1)(e) of the Constitution as fundamental Rights of any such foreigner was limited to Article 21 of the Constitution.

The Court held that Azal himself had to be blamed for his miseries as he failed to explain as to how he came back to India when he left India on a Bangladeshi Passport and his movements had been restricted so that he could be deported back to Bangladesh. On petitioner's contention that Azal could not be deported until his Indian Citizenship was terminated, the Court held that there was no question of termination of citizenship as he never seemed to have acquired it. Thus, the writ petition was found without substance and the same was dismissed.

The Hindu

Supreme Court wants authorities to act tough on incitement to violence, hate speech

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/supreme-court-directs-dms-sps-of-yavatmal-raipur-districts-to-ensure-no-hate-speeches-made-during-rallies/article67747662.ece>

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said authorities need to be “conscious that no incitement to violence and hate speech are permissible”. The top court underscored this while ordering the Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh police and local administrations to keep a close eye on public events planned by the Hindu Janajagruti Samiti on January 18 at Yavatmal and by BJP MLA T. Raja Singh at Raipur for seven days starting from January 19.

A Bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta directed the District Magistrates (DMs) and Superintendents of Police (SPs) at the two places to look into the allegations of repeated instance of hate speech against the Samiti and Mr. Singh, who is organising the public events at Raipur in Chhattisgarh between January 19 and 25.

The Bench was hearing an application filed by Shaheen Abdulla, represented by senior advocate Kapil Sibal and advocate Nizam Pasha, urging the apex court to direct both States to withdraw permissions granted for these events. “We require the authorities to be conscious that no incitement to violence and hate speech are permissible... The DM and the SP, Yavatmal and Raipur, will take notice of the allegations made in the application.

The DMs and SPs concerned will take necessary steps as may be required. If necessary and deemed appropriate, police/administration will install CCTV cameras having recording facility so as to ensure the identification of the perpetrators in the event of any violence/hate speech,” the court order said. Mr. Sibal’s client alleged that the Samiti was “actively involved in organising events where speeches are delivered openly demonising Muslims and calling for their boycott”.

The application said an event organised on January 3 at Solapur (Maharashtra) saw “hate speeches targeting Muslims delivered openly”. It said the “same organisation held several events on January 7, 2024 under the pretext of establishing a Hindu Rashtra”. “They even publish books to spread so-called awareness about the manner in which Muslims engage in ‘love jihad’,” the application noted.

‘Repeat offender’

It alleged that Mr. Singh was a “repeat offender who has continued to deliver hate speeches... and is going to hold a series of rallies in Chhattisgarh from January 19 to January 25”. In the hearing, Mr. Sibal said the apex court’s directions in the Tehseen Poonawala case had failed to arrest the spread of hate speech. Communal vitriol, he said, continues to be voiced with impunity.

Police authorities, in many cases, were mute spectators. Mr. Sibal said the top court ought to intervene. "This is happening again, again and again..." Mr. Sibal said with exasperation. The Bench said authorities had acted against hate speeches in the past. The court's orders had indeed made a difference on the ground. "Why look at it negatively?" the court asked. "We are not looking at it negatively... We are just worried about the future," Mr. Sibal replied.

Justice Datta asked Mr. Sibal whether the organisation or the individual named in the application were impleaded. "You want us to pass orders without hearing them? There are some fundamentals to follow in a hearing," Justice Datta told Mr. Sibal. The senior lawyer said there were "also fundamental rights which need protection" from hate speech spewed during public events. "The police are there when such events happen... Why do they allow these events to happen?" Mr. Sibal asked the court.

In October 2022, the apex court had said it was "tragic what we have reduced religion to" in the 21st century and a "climate of hate prevails in the country" while directing police and authorities to suo motu register cases against hate speech offenders without waiting for someone to file formal complaints.

In 2018, the court had condemned hate crimes and held that it was the "sacrosanct duty" of the state to protect the lives of its citizens. The Tehseen Poonawala judgment had seen the top court issue a slew of guidelines for States, the police to prevent, control and deter mob violence and lynchings.

Economic Times

Joint forum of trade unions, farmers bodies to go on strike on Feb 16

<https://m.economictimes.com/news/india/joint-forum-of-trade-unions-farmers-bodies-to-go-on-strike-on-feb-16/articleshow/106932712.cms>

A joint forum of trade unions and farmers bodies has given a call for a nationwide general strike and Grameen Bandh (rural close down) on February 16, to protest 'against the antiworker, anti-farmer and anti-national policies' of the central government. The forum is pressing for their demands which include higher minimum (crop MSP) support price, minimum wage of Rs 26,000 per month for workers, repeal of four labour codes, repeal amendments made to IPC/CrPC, guaranteed employment as fundamental right etc.

"We appeal to all the like-minded movements of students, youth, teachers, women, the social movements and those in the field of art, culture, literature to extend support to the joint campaigns and culminating actions of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKU) and the platform of Central Trade Unions, Federations/Associations on 16th February," a joint statement said.

It further stated that SKM and CTUs/Federations/Associations call for a countrywide massive mobilisations at different levels along with the Industrial/Sectoral Strike and Grameen Bandh on February 16, 2024 "against the anti-worker, anti-farmer and anti-national policies of the central government."

The sectoral movements and agitations are going on including strikes. We request them to synchronize their agitations with the February 16 nation-wide programme adopted unitedly by the SKM and CTUs, it stated. They are demanding MSP@C2+50 per cent for all crops with guaranteed procurement, dismissal of Ajay Mishra Teni and registration of case on him, Comprehensive loan waiver to small and middle farm households for freedom from indebtedness and minimum wage of Rs 26,000 per month for workers.

The 'C2+50 per cent formula recommends setting the MSP for crops at least 50 per cent above the comprehensive cost of producing a crop (C2) to ensure fair income for farmers. They also demanded the repeal of 4 Labour Codes, repeal amendments made to IPC/CrPC, guaranteed employment as fundamental right, no privatisation of PSUs including railway, defence, electricity, coal, oil, steel, telecom, posts, transport, airports, port & dock, banks, insurance etc.

Their other demands include no to privatisation of education and health, no contractualisation of jobs, scrapping of fixed-term employment, strengthening MGNREGS with 200 days work per person per year and Rs 600 as daily wage, restoring the old pension scheme, pension and social security to all in the formal and informal economy. They also demanded scrapping of Section 104 of newly introduced

BNS, Welfare Boards for all categories of unorganised workers on the lines of construction Workers Welfare Board, Implement the LARR Act 2013 (Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013) among others.

"We call upon the workers, farmers, agricultural workers, women, youth, students, teachers, advocates, civil society and all other sections of the people to join this massive peoples' action to resist and defeat the anti-people, antinational authoritarian policy-regime," it stated. The CTUs, Federations/Associations support the call already given by the SKM for a Tractor/Vehicle Parade at the district headquarters on January 26, 2024.

The workers and farmers are jointly carrying on Jana Jagaran Campaign of house-to-house visits from January 10-20, 2024 in all the villages across India to distribute leaflets, demand charter and ensure massive participation in the struggles. All these jan-sampark (mass contact) actions will lead for nationwide mobilisation against the anti-worker, anti-farmer, anti-national policies being pursued with Corporate communal nexus, it stated.

The Hindu

India's foundational battle on the 'Hindu' question

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/indias-foundational-battle-on-the-hindu-question/article67749160.ece>

A voter from Rajasthan recently said “laabh toh bahut mila hain Congress Sarkar se, lekin Hindu ki tarah hi vote karunga (I have benefited a lot from Congress government's schemes, but I'll vote like a Hindu)”. A superfluous reading of this statement is that the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) and the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) have successfully captured India's “Hindu vote”.

Before that proposition is objectively dissected, we must concede that the RSS-BJP have shifted the nation's political centre so comprehensively that many feel compelled to operate on their terms (or in juxtaposition to them). That is why many privately practising Hindus are now performative in their religiosity, make metaphysical distinctions between Hinduism and Hindutva and are reduced to props to the RSS-BJP's politicisation of religion (as in the Ram Mandir's inauguration).

But that citizen's innocuous statement did raise four fundamental questions that progressive forces are skirting around. First, does India's silent majority see itself as primarily Hindu (obfuscating all other socio-economic and political identities)? Second, does this identification determine political alignments? Third, do Hindus see their socio-political, economic and religious interests as contradictory to all other religious communities? And, finally, how can progressive parties win the “Hindu vote” (if it exists) without resorting to performative religiosity?

India's national pulse

Only a scientific survey can demonstrate whether Indians think and vote exclusively as Hindus. But going by the Lokniti surveys, it is a combination of other factors (including a plethora of developmental issues, the absence of countervailing mass organisations, an anti-establishment angst and the lack of an inspiring alternative vision) which is determining voting patterns. However, it is undeniable that Hinduism genuinely influences the daily interactions and normative worldview of many Indians.

However, the moral compass of the silent majority still overwhelmingly leans towards India's Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb and vasudhaiva kutumbakam. Mahatma Gandhi's distinction between communalism (the othering of communities for politico-ideological ends) and religion as a way of life is a helpful yardstick to understand this further. Gandhi consciously positioned himself within India's socio-cultural mainstream.

Drawing on that mainstream's norms, he ensured that the Congress movement scrupulously followed sarva dharma samabhava (equal respect for all religions), ahimsa (non-violence), aparagriha (non-possessiveness), asaucha (control of diet including abstinence from alcohol) and satya (truth). Consequently, the Congress exemplified

morality, public service and tapasya (self-control and sacrifice) in popular consciousness. This societal embedding allowed for mass association. Thus, Indians from any caste, creed, gender, ideology and region could be in the Congress provided they scrupulously adhered to maitreya fraternity) and identified with the nation. This balance between ideological sharpness and suppleness made the Congress Party hegemonic.

But if the Congress was solidly aligned with India's national pulse, why is BJP a beneficiary of the "Hindu-vote" today? This is partly because of the political stasis post Babri Masjid. While stridently defending secularism, progressive parties abdicated the responsibility of programmatically countering communalism to civil society. Unfortunately, civil society does not have a uniform pan-India presence, the financial wherewithal or the State's instruments to pose a comprehensive ideological counter.

Meanwhile, the RSS-BJP silently indoctrinated society by appropriating Dalit-Other Backward Classes-Adivasi icons, and through religio-cultural programmes, educational institutions and popular culture. Essentially, the Sangh Parivar tactically aligned itself with the mainstream to inject its ideology onto and into society. It is no coincidence that the Sangh exclusively leverages (even weaponises) Vaishnavite norms or iconography (as opposed to Shaivite norms which make insurmountable demands including sanyas or renunciation).

The BJP undoubtedly complements this by stacking the electoral field, employing vast resources and deploying the state machinery. But it is the socially integrated Sangh that it leans on the most.

Recapturing the mainstream

To reclaim the hearts and minds of our people, we progressives must interrogate our class and moral privileges. We must continue proffering economic/ developmental/ welfare, linguistic and federal prescriptions. They will work, especially if we make concerted efforts to emphasise the commonality of interests between all communities. But that can only happen if we also re-capture the national pulse (without resorting to the symbolic or performative).

This is the ultimate project of national integration. Because society structurally resists change, enlightened leadership has to patiently inspire it to transform. But for an effective re-calibration, that leadership must first be socially accepted as moral arbitrators. This is crucial because while the State has struggled to actualise India's constitutional social revolution for the past 70 years, the only way it will succeed is if that revolution is seeded from below.

As Dr. Ambedkar said "social conscience is the only safeguard of all rights, fundamental or non-fundamental". Therefore, progressive parties must reintegrate themselves at the most granular level, creatively leveraging the mainstream's norms. For example, the Congress Party still has a presence in nearly every village across India. It can thus

revitalise its village and mandal units which were originally rooted in socio-cultural life (unlike booth and block units, which are essentially electoral and patronage units). These institutionalised socio-ideological systems can work with sub-caste Dalits, Other Backward Classes and Adivasis; with popular culture; with local religious/spiritual organisations; and organise community activities.

Progressives also have the rare opportunity to mould the “Hindu vote” at the macro level. Ironically, it is the BJP which has provided this opening. In reducing Hinduism to an object of electoral and commercial utility, the BJP has alienated key religious stakeholders (including all four Shankaracharyas, akharas, mutts, ashrams and religious trusts) who are legitimately disillusioned by the disregard for Hinduism’s sanctities.

Additionally, some feel threatened by the BJP’s efforts to appropriate their temporal, functional and financial powers, which they fear is a subversive endeavour to restructure Hinduism irrevocably. Further, the BJP is estranging India’s silent majority which sees through its divisive instrumentalities. It is to circumvent this disenchantment that the BJP is frantically manufacturing fresh controversies in Mathura-Kashi, and raking up Akhand Bharat.

Progressives should ideally leverage this crisis to re-engage religious/spiritual trusts and induce them to implement structural reforms within Hinduism by shedding atavistic dogmas (and thus permanently eschew casteism, patriarchy, communalism and illiberality). This becomes especially imperative because the Supreme Court of India’s verdict on the Babri Masjid has clearly not halted the weaponisation of religion or attacks on other religions.

Frontally tackling the Sangh’s cultural nationalism could also prove to be a golden opportunity for cultivating a constitutional consciousness. After all, Mahatma Phule, Babasaheb Ambedkar (before he converted), Mahatma Gandhi and Rammohan Roy also engaged, challenged and changed Hinduism. In furthering the national interest, shouldn’t we?

Foster a sense of Indianness

Even though there is no silver bullet to counter the potent mixture of Hindutva (politicised Hinduism) and Rashtrawaad (nationalism) today, progressives can reclaim popular support by fostering a sense of Indianness. We need to reassert what it means to be Indian, and demonstrate common bonds of kinship. This cannot happen through a pan-Indian hawa (narrative), which is resource intensive and puts the onus of psychological association on the disinterested.

Therefore, progressives must embed themselves in the nation’s socio-cultural mainstream and build an ideological superstructure that works top down and bottom up. This normative work requires a high degree of self-insulation from the immediate, and necessitates dynamic entrepreneurship (and hence, boldly disruptive programmes).

It is likely that this could be caricatured as soft-peddalling Hindutva or moral defeatism. It is not. This is a bugle to steel ourselves for the more foundational battle which can stem the weaponisation of Hinduism, and enable the reclamation of India's soul. Any further hesitation will cause irrevocable damage to India's civilisational and constitutional ethos.

News Click

Rohith Vemula: Life and Death of a Dalit Scholar in 'New India'

<https://www.newsclick.in/rohith-vemula-life-and-death-dalit-scholar-new-india>

On January 17, 2016, Rohith Vemula, a research scholar at University of Hyderabad (UoH), was found dead in a hostel room. His death sparked a series of protests across the country. It was termed an 'institutional murder' by those who were demanding justice for Rohith.

Rohith, along with his friends, was being investigated for "casteist" and "anti-national" activities as members of Ambedkar Students Association (ASA). They were suspended and thrown out of their hostel and were forced to live on the street.

After his death Rohith was subjected to even more humiliation by the BJP-led union government when his dalit identity was questioned. It's been 8 years since Rohith took his life, leaving behind a life of struggle and a haunting last letter.

Times of India

Dalit boy thrashed, urinated on face over cricket fight in Lucknow

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/dalit-boy-thrashed-urinated-on-face-over-cricket-fight-lucknow-news/articleshow/106911509.cms>

LUCKNOW: A brawl during a cricket match turned violent when a group of youngsters thrashed an 18-year-old dalit boy and allegedly urinated on his face under the Indiranagar police station. Though the incident occurred on January 13 an FIR was lodged on Tuesday evening after victim's father Sandeep Kumar Rawat, a daily wage labourer, submitted a written complaint to the police.

The main accused, identified as Fardeen and his 25-30 accomplices were booked under IPC sections 506 (criminal intimidation), 504 (insult), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) and 147 (rioting). The SC/ST Act was also invoked against the accused. Rawat, a resident of Chadan village in Indiranagar, stated in his FIR that his son Lucky, 18, who works as an AC mechanic, had gone to play cricket near Khurram Nagar along with his friends.

"During their match someone hit a big shot and the ball landed in the area where some other youngsters were playing. When Lucky went there to take the ball the youngsters of that group refused to hand it over to him. Soon a verbal spat ensued and my son tried to escape from the spot. But they caught him and started thrashing him severely. They also passed casteist remarks against him."

Rawat further said that his son, somehow, managed to escape from their clutches and reached home, but he did not disclose the incident to them. The same day Lucky was again intercepted by the youths who once again beat him. "This time he told the entire episode to us.

We were discussing the matter when the same group again reached there and tried to drag my son outside the house. However, my neighbours came to our rescue, forcing the miscreants to flee from the spot." Rawat added. The complainant told the police that the next day his son had gone to Takrohi to take his sister back from school when the miscreants once again intercepted him near Kanausa.

"They thrashed him until he turned unconscious. They also urinated on his face. Since then he has been in trauma and is not stepping out," Rawat added. Deputy commissioner of police, north zone, Qasim Abidi said that the matter is being probed and action would be taken against the miscreants.

The Print

UP: Minor Dalit girl raped, man held

<https://theprint.in/india/up-minor-dalit-girl-raped-man-held/1927505/>

Maharajganj (UP) Jan 17 (PTI) A 14-year-old Dalit girl was allegedly raped by a man from her village here, police said on Wednesday. The incident took place on Monday night when the girl had gone to the field for defecation. Devendra Singh stuffed a cloth in her mouth and raped her, they said.

On the complaint of the victim's mother, a case was registered and the accused was arrested, Additional Superintendent of Police (Maharajganj) Atish Kumar Singh said. The accused has been booked under sections of the IPC, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the official said.

Further investigation is underway, he added. PTI CORR ABN ABN NB NB

Deccan Herald

Woman found dead at Greater Noida home in suspected dowry murder

<https://www.deccanherald.com/india/uttar-pradesh/woman-found-dead-at-greater-noida-home-in-suspected-dowry-murder-2852501>

Noida: A 25-year-old woman's body was found at her rented accommodation in Greater Noida in a suspected case of dowry killing, police officials said on Wednesday. The couple hailed from Agra and had moved here just six days ago, Greater Noida Additional DCP Ashok Kumar Sharma said.

"On Tuesday, the local Knowledge Park police station officials were alerted about a woman's body having been found at a house in Tugalpur village. The woman's family has been contacted. Her husband is absconding and searches are on to nab him," Sharma said.

"After the information of the death, forensic experts along with local police went to the spot and carried out legal proceedings. The body was then sent for autopsy," the officer said. Knowledge Park police station in-charge Vipin Kumar on Wednesday said a written complaint has been received from the woman's family.

"On the basis of the allegations, the woman is suspected to have been killed due to dowry-related issues. The couple got married three years ago," he said. Kumar said an FIR was being lodged under relevant provisions of the law for murder and dowry-related offences. Further investigation in the case is underway and the autopsy report is awaited, he added.

Times of India

Ensure justice for women in domestic violence cases: CEO

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/ensure-justice-for-women-in-domestic-violence-cases-ceo/articleshow/106913084.cms>

Mangaluru: Dakshina Kannada zilla panchayat CEO Anandh K directed officials of the women and child development department to ensure justice for women in domestic violence cases. Chairing a meeting of various committees under the women and child development department on Tuesday, the CEO said that officials should consider all cases related to domestic violence seriously.

“The district has recorded 170 domestic violence cases. Justice should be ensured to the survivors in those cases through Santvana Kendras. Meanwhile, the department should emphasize extending necessary legal aid to them in cases that are pending in courts. Officials should help them during trials in courts,” he said.

While the district has recorded 36 cases under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 30 are in the investigation stage, the CEO said and directed the police to expedite the investigation and file chargesheets to the court at the earliest. On manufacturing units of Sthree Shakti groups, the CEO said that steps should be taken to provide a market for their products.

“Help Sthree Shakti group members to obtain FSSAI certificates, and improve packaging and branding. Women self-help groups should focus more on increasing the production activities,” he said.

Toy train at Kadri Park

The toy train Bala Mangala Express of the women and child development department, which remained defunct, has been repaired, said department deputy director A Usman. “The toy train is ready for chugging in the park. However, a safety certificate needs to be obtained from the Palakkad division of the Southern Railway.

Communication in this regard has already been made and a certificate is likely to be sanctioned soon,” he added. DHO Dr HR Thimmaiah, additional superintendent of police Dharmappa MN, and others were present.

We also published the following articles recently

60% of women voters in AP belong to self-help groups According to the latest data from the Election Commission of India, Andhra Pradesh has over 2.07 crore women voters. The state's 10.98 lakh self-help groups boast nearly 1.15 crore female members, with impressive loan recovery rate of 99.7%. Access to capital has increased, with 83% of SHGs taking loans above Rs 5 lakh.

Three officials of education department booked in alleged case of fraud in Yamunanagar Yamunanagar police book three officials, including PGT fine arts teacher, principal, and additional director of education department, in fraudulent state award case. The teacher received financial benefits worth Rs 40 lakh, despite not meeting the required criteria.

Police have registered a case and started an investigation.

Three officials of education department booked in alleged case of fraud in Yamunanagar Yamunanagar police book three officials, including a teacher, for fraudulently taking state award. The officials booked are a PGT fine arts teacher, a principal, and an additional director of the education department. An investigation is underway.

हरदोई: 50 लाख के बाद भी दहेज लोभियों ने बहू पर किया बांके से हमला, घर से निकाला, 9 लोगों के खिलाफ एफआईआर दर्ज

<https://www.amritvichar.com/article/436219/hardoi--even-after-paying-rs-50-lakh--dowry-greedy-people-attacked-the-daughter-in-law-with-a-stick#gsc.tab=0>

हरदोई। शादी में 50 लाख का दहेज दिए जाने के बाद भी लालची ससुराल वालों की लालच कम नहीं हुई, उन्होंने लग्जरी गाड़ी और 5 लाख की मांग करते हुए पहले तो बांके से हमला किया और उसके बाद जबरिया घर से भगा दिया। इस मामले में 9 लोगों के खिलाफ दहेज एक्ट के तहत केस दर्ज किया गया है।

बताया गया है कि टड़ियावां थाने के गोपामऊ कस्बा के बड़ी बाज़ार की सिमरन पुत्री ज़ाहिद ने पुलिस को दी तहरीर में आरोप लगाया है। कि उसकी शादी पिछले साल 14 जून को सीतापुर ज़िले के किशनपुर बेलरिया थाना लहरपुर निवासी आरिफ के साथ हुई थी। आरिफ इन दिनों जोड़ी बंगला कचहरी ज़िला लखीमपुर में रह रहा है।

शादी में उसके ससुराल वालों को करीब 50 लाख का दहेज दिया गया था। लेकिन फिर भी ससुराल वालों की लालच कम नहीं हुई। शादी के कुछ दिनों बाद ही पति आरिफ के अलावा ससुर बशीर, देवर शाहिद, जावेद, इरफान, इसरार, इरशाद, नंदोई शफीक व ननद शबीना दहेज में लग्जरी गाड़ी व 5 लाख रुपये की मांग पर अड़ गए। सिमरन ने अपने ससुराल वालों को काफी समझाया, लेकिन उन्होंने उसकी एक भी नहीं सुनी।

साल 2023, 8 जुलाई को ससुराल वालों ने एक राय होकर उसे लात-घूंसे से मारा-पीटा, ससुर ने जान से मारने की नीयत से उसके ऊपर बांके से हमला कर दिया, जिसमें वह बाल-बाल बच गई। उसके बाद उसके माल-ज़ेवर और कपड़े छीन लिए, उसके बाद उसे पहने हुए कपड़ों में घर से बाहर निकाल कर जबरिया एक गाड़ी में बैठाकर कस्बे से 2 किलोमीटर पहले ही उसके पति व देवर इरफान लात मार कर गाड़ी से सड़क के किनारे धक्का देकर गिरा दिया और धमकी दी कि अगर घर की तरफ दिखाई दी तो जान से मार देंगे।

उसके बाद से सिमरन अपने मायके में रह रही है। इस बारे में एसएचओ टड़ियावां अशोक कुमार सिंह ने बताया दी गई तहरीर के मुताबिक 9 लोगों के खिलाफ दहेज एक्ट के तहत केस दर्ज कर उसकी जांच गोपामऊ चौकी प्रभारी प्रेम सागर सिंह को सौंपी गई है।

दलितों की शादी में पहरेदारी करेगी पुलिस, घोड़े पर होगी खास नजर, आखिर क्यों जारी हुआ ऐसा ऑर्डर?

<https://hindi.news18.com/news/rajasthan/jaipur-police-headquarter-issues-order-to-keep-eye-on-dalit-weddings-groom-not-to-thrown-from-mare-shocking-news-7992451.html>

मलमास खत्म हो गया है. इसके साथ ही देशभर में शादी ब्याह का सिलसिला शुरू हो गया है. शादियों का सीजन शुरू होते ही राजस्थान पुलिस ने एक खास ऑर्डर जारी किया है. राजस्थान पुलिस को ऑर्डर दिया गया है कि वो पता करे कि प्रदेश में कहां कहां दलितों की शादी हो रही है? इन शादियों की पहरेदारी करने की जिम्मेदारी पुलिस को दी गई है.

दलितों की शादी पर पुलिस को खास वजह से नजर रखने का ऑर्डर दिया गया है. दरअसल पिछले दस साल में राजस्थान के अलग अलग जगहों से दलित दूल्हों को घोड़ी से उतारने के 138 मामले सामने आ चुके हैं. शादी में जब कोई दलित दूल्हा घोड़ी चढ़ता है तो ऊंची जाति के लोग उन्हें घोड़ी से उतार देते हैं. इस घटना का दोहराव इस बार ना हो, इसके लिए पुलिस मुख्यालय ने ऑर्डर जारी किया है.

दिए ऐसे निर्देश

राजस्थान पुलिस मुख्यालय ने सभी पुलिस अधिकारियों को आदेश दिया है कि वो पता करें कि इस खरमास के बाद कितने दलित परिवार के घर शादियां हो रही है? इसके साथ ही कांस्टेबल क्षेत्र के पंच, सरपंच, पार्षद, पुलिस मित्र से बातचीत कर इन शादियों पर खास नजर रखे. शादी में ये ध्यान रखा जाए कि किसी दूल्हे को दलित होने की वजह से घोड़ी से ना उतारा जाए.

होगी तुरंत कार्यवाई

ऑर्डर में कहा गया है कि अगर किसी जगह पर दलित दूल्हे को घोड़ी से उतारे जाने का मामला सामने आएगा तो वहां तुरंत एक्शन लिया जाएगा. तुरंत दोषियों के खिलाफ केस दर्ज किया जाएगा और उसपर कार्यवाई की जाएगी. बता दें कि पिछले दस साल में इस तरह के कई मामले सामने आ चुके हैं. अब खरमास खत्म होने के बाद पुलिस मुख्यालय ने इसपर सख्ती बरतते हुए पहले ही पुलिस को दलितों की शादी में निगरानी की जिम्मेदारी दे दी है.