

Kuki activist, Veerappan hunt victims vouch for Annie Raja in Wayanad

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/kerala/2024/Apr/06/kuki-activist-veerappan-hunt-victims-vouch-for-annie-raja-in-wayanad>

During the past few days, several people from the scheduled tribe community in Sathyamangalam forests have also been campaigning for Annie in the constituency.

KALPETTA: It's not just LDF workers who are pouring all their energy into the campaign of their candidate Annie Raja in Wayanad. Kuki community activist in Manipur, Glady Vaiphei Hunjan, and several victims of the police brutality that unfolded in Sathyamangalam forests over the manhunt for bandit Veerappan are also on Annie's campaign trail as a show of support to the CPI leader who, they say, helped them in their fight for justice.

The LDF's campaign in Wayanad has been focusing on Annie's pan India-level political activities and her fights and protests across the country.

Glady, who has been in Wayanad for the past three days, speaks highly of the support extended by the people of Kerala during the Manipur riots and how the Left parties are raising their voice against the human rights violations faced by the marginalised people.

"This is the first time I'm coming to Kerala, and the primary reason for my visit is Annie Raja and the state's immense support to the Kuki community in Manipur. I come from a place where our people can't even think of an election now. But after seeing the spirit of election campaigns in Wayanad which resembles my hometown, I could feel the strength of democracy once again," said Glady, who is also the vice-president of Manipur Unau Tribal Women's Forum.

"Members of the Kuki-Zo community have been murdered, displaced and looted in the state-sponsored violence in Manipur for the past year. Our documents, properties, assets, everything has gone. Many are still living in relief camps. How can we think of an election right now? That's why we have decided to refrain from the polling this time," said Glady.

'Annie Raja supported us in our fight for justice'

"Annie Raja has been supporting us in our fight against the human rights violations and I decided to support her in the elections," said Glady.

During the past few days, several people from the scheduled tribe community in Sathyamangalam forests have also been campaigning for Annie in the constituency. The group included Chinnammal, Murukeshan, Chinna Kolunth, Nallamma, Ponnarasi,

Periyathai and Sarasu from Mettur in Salem district. They had reportedly faced torture at the hands of the joint task force entrusted by the Karnataka and Tamil Nadu governments to nab Veerappan. Three of them had served nine-year jail term as well.

“We didn’t know how to approach the judiciary, as we were tortured by the police system itself. Then we sought help from Annie Raja, whom we met during a public meeting in Madurai. She supported us in our agitations to get justice,” said Chinnammal.

According to them, it was Annie who took the victims to Delhi to meet the then prime minister Manmohan Singh and the National Human Rights Commission chairman.

As a result, a full bench sitting of the commission was held to discuss the issues of the victims. Later, the governments of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu announced compensation of `10 crore as per the report of the Sadashiva commission.

From J K Rowling to Congress Manifesto for 2024: Where is India's queer voter?

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/india-queer-voters-lok-sabha-elections-congress-manifesto-9254729/>

Most transgender persons in the country come from low-income backgrounds and find work only in the informal sector. We need homegrown remedies — focussed on securing and helping implement rights for transgender persons

In its recently released manifesto, Congress promised to expand Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution of India to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The other and only mention of queer rights is in the promise that the party will bring in a law, “after consultation”, legalising civil unions for LGBTQ+ couples in India. On the other side of the globe, another storm with J K Rowling's name on it is brewing.

Yet again, capitalising on the language of clout, she dared the Scotland police to take action against her with a post in which she misgenders 10 trans people. This is in reaction to a recent hate crime law passed in Scotland which recognises transgender persons as a targeted community. “Freedom of speech and belief are at an end in Scotland if the accurate description of biological sex is deemed criminal”. Amongst others, Rishi Sunak has defended Rowling.

Online drama, real life trauma

Watching this all unfold on social media, as most Rowling drama does, reminded me why these spaces are not conducive for substantive debate — just for shock-value-based reductive statements meant to offend. I also realised that I was likely among many people who saw more content – much more – around Rowling than the Congress manifesto's LGBTQ+ agenda. Perhaps this is a function of drama winning over policy discussion on social media platforms. Perhaps it's a function of who gets to use social media and be “progressive” in India.

Back home, multiple messages have been circulating on WhatsApp chats with close friends, seeking a myriad of support for acquaintances and friends who all happen to be trans. Hospitals are notorious places — full of worry, alarm, vulnerability. If you're at a hospital, it's likely because something is wrong. It's the place you go for care and safety.

Yet, save a few, hospitals in India do not have separate wards (or washrooms) for trans patients as mandated by Transgender Persons Rules, 2020. These were to be made available by 2022. Unless this was a stealth mission, or somehow 2024 precedes 2022, implementation on this front has been abysmal. I have seen how trans people are “shuttlecocked” from one ward to another simply because trained professionals are at a

loss about how to handle the patient, medically or administratively. Being denied care or having it delayed because those in charge can't decide which "gender" ward to put you in would hardly qualify as a dignified experience. Last year, AIIMS Delhi became the first and only government hospital with a Centre for Excellence for transgender healthcare.

Promises unfulfilled

April 15 will mark 10 years to the NALSA v Union of India judgment. It mandated reservation for transgender people, recognising them as "socially and economically backward". There has been no central government policy to this effect.

There is no doubt that the struggle for equality is a global one. Yet, the conversation on the ground here, the challenges, and as a consequence, the policy approach has to be different.

While it is important to speak of injustices seven oceans away, in an election year which has seen next to no mobilisation on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, there are plenty of issues to attend to closer home.

Despite multiple judicial and legislative interventions, Indian society at large has failed to integrate transgender persons so far. LGBTQ+ people, in general, do not constitute a significant voter base in Indian politics if the election issues of the day are any indication.

Underemployed, under-represented

According to a 2017 Kerala Development Society survey sponsored by the National Human Rights Commission, only six per cent of transgender persons are formally employed — all of these were in the private sector or NGOs (provided, the sample size was 450 people).

In 2019, in response to a question in Lok Sabha, then Minister of Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank stated that "there are currently no transgender students in central universities except for the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) where a total of 814 transgender students have been enrolled during the last five years. There is no transgender teaching and non-teaching staff in various central universities of the country."

Then there is the paucity of available data or even tabulation when it comes to transgender people in India.

India is a country rich in localised ritual, stigma, bureaucratic dead ends, and a widening poverty gap. Most transgender persons in the country come from low-income

backgrounds and find work only in the informal sector. Caste also figures in a big way with the KDS study pointing to a majority of trans people belonging to the OBC category and over 10 per cent from SC and ST backgrounds. We need homegrown remedies — focused on securing and helping implement the rights of transgender persons. This is not a novel idea. But in an election year, it does bear repeating.

Less than a month to the first phase of elections, perhaps it is for us to ponder why this election is missing a rainbow — and how the next election can be different.

डॉ.कृति को राष्ट्रीय सेवा रत्न अवॉर्ड से नवाजा

<https://www.dainikreporters.com/rajasthan/jaipur-news/dr-kriti-honored-with-national-seva-ratna-award/>

राजस्थान से एक मात्र सोशल एक्टिविस्ट सारथी ट्रस्ट की डॉ.कृति भारती सम्मानित, आंध्रप्रदेश में राष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रम में किया सम्मान

जोधपुर। आंध्र प्रदेश के पोद्दातुर जिले के ख्यातनाम केसी पुल्लैया फाउंडेशन के संस्थापक दिवस कार्यक्रम में सारथी ट्रस्ट की मैनेजिंग ट्रस्टी एवं पुनर्वास मनोवैज्ञानिक डॉ.कृति भारती को सेवा रत्न अवार्ड से नवाजा गया। वहीं डॉ.कृति के साथ दो पद्मश्री पुरस्कृत शिष्याओं को भी सम्मानित किया गया।

इस मौके पर अतिथियों ने डॉ.कृति भारती की बाल विवाह निरस्त व रोकथाम की साहसिक मुहिम और बाल व महिला संरक्षण के प्रेरक कार्यों की मुक्त कंठ सराहना की। राजस्थान से एकमात्र वर्ल्ड टॉप टेन चाइल्ड एंड ह्यूमन राइट्स एक्टिविस्ट व एडवोकेट डॉ.कृति भारती को अवॉर्ड दिया गया।

केसी पुल्लैया फाउंडेशन की ओर से देश भर से चार क्षेत्रों में नामचीन शिष्याओं को चुना गया। जिसमें केसी पुल्लैया मेमोरियल नेशनल सेवा रत्न अवार्ड 2024 डॉ.कृति भारती को प्रदान किया गया। वहीं नेशनल हरिता रत्न अवार्ड से पद्मश्री बसंती देवी को, नेशनल कला रत्न अवार्ड से पद्मश्री वेलु आनंदाचारी और नेशनल विद्यारत्न अवार्ड से डॉ.सैटम को सम्मानित किया गया।

कार्यक्रम में राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन के विशेष सचिव व महानिदेशक अशोक कुमार, तिरुमाला तिरुपति देवस्थानम के टी मारुति प्रसाद, **राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग** के डॉ.संतोष कुमार क्रालेटी, फाउंडेशन के चेयरमैन सुशील कुमार, सचिव अनिल कुमार और अन्य अतिथि मौजूद थे। इस दौरान बीबीसी टॉप 100 प्रेरणादायी महिलाओं की सूची में शुमार डॉ.कृति भारती के कार्यों पर आधारित डॉक्यूमेंट्री का भी प्रसारण किया गया।

बाल विवाह निरस्त की साहसिक मुहिम

उल्लेखनीय है कि वर्ल्ड टॉप टेन एक्टिविस्ट और बीबीसी 100 प्रेरणादायक महिलाओं की सूची में शामिल डॉ.कृति भारती ने देश का पहला बाल विवाह निरस्त करवाकर अनूठी पहल की थी। डॉ.कृति ने अब तक 50 जोड़ों के बाल विवाह निरस्त करवाए और 2000 से अधिक बाल विवाह रूकवाए हैं।

बाल विवाह के खिलाफ उनकी मुहिम के अलग-अलग कार्यों को 9 अंतरराष्ट्रीय व राष्ट्रीय रिकॉर्ड्स में दर्ज किया गया है। सीबीएसई बोर्ड ने भी अपने पाठ्यक्रम में डॉ.कृति की मुहिम को शामिल किया। डॉ.कृति को जेनेवा के ह्यूमन राइट्स अवार्ड सहित कई राष्ट्रीय व अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सम्मानों से नवाजा जा चुका है।

Singrauli Hospital : इमरजेंसी वार्ड के बगल में दोपहर तक पड़ा रहता कूड़े-कचरे का ढेर

<https://hurdangnews.in/singrauli-hospital-pile-of-garbage-remains-till/>

Singrauli Hospital : जब कायाकल्प को लेकर मूल्यांकन होता है या किसी वीआईपी के आने की आहट मिलती है तब जिला अस्पताल चकाचक और यहां की व्यवस्थाएं (arrangements) पटरी पर नजर आती हैं, अन्यथा सामान्य दिनों में परिसर व वार्डों में कितनी बार झाड़ू-पोंछा लगता है

इसे देखने की जहमते न तो सहायक अस्पताल प्रबंधक उठाते हैं न आरएमओ। नतीजा, साफ-सफाई व्यवस्था बदहाल रहती है। गुरुवार को करीब 11 बजे यही स्थिति थी। ट्रामा वार्ड की सीढ़ियों से पांच- छह मीटर बगल में कूड़े-कचरे का ढेर जमा था तो मेडिकल वेस्ट भी इधर-उधर बिखरा था।

वहीं बाँयो मेडिकल वेस्ट रखने के लिए बने कक्षों में ताला बंद था तो वेस्ट को पॉलीथिन (polythene) में करके बाहर ही रख दिया गया था। इसके अलावा कम खतरनाक वेस्ट के लिए बनाए गए कचरा संग्रह स्थल के बाहर यूज्य सिरिंज, दवाएं और रैपर बिखरी थी। वहीं तीन-चार गोवंश बैठे थे।

इसी के बगल में पेयजल स्टोर करने के लिए बनाई गई भूमिगत टंकी के बगल में जलापूर्ति पाइपलाइन (line pipe) के वॉल्व से तेजी से पानी बाहर निकल रहा था, जिसके रिसकर टंकी में जाने की आशंका है। आसपास मेडिकल वेस्ट और गंदगी होने से पानी के दूषित होने का भी खतरा है, मगर इस पर किसी का ध्यान नहीं है।

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने पोस्टमार्टम हाउस के लिए गाइडलाइन (guideline) जारी की है। जिसके अनुसार उपकरण के साथ मानव संसाधन, तकनीकी व्यवस्थाएं आदि करने का निर्देश दिया गया है, मगर जिला अस्पताल का अंत्यपरीक्षण कक्ष बदहाल सा है। इसके आसपास गंदगी बिखरी रहती है। नजदीक स्थित बड़े के नाले व नालियों की नियमित सफाई न होने से दुर्गंध के कारण नाक पर रुमाल रखना पड़ जाता है।

करीब चार-पांच दिन पहले सीएमएचओ डॉ. एनके जैन ने भूमिगत पेयजल टंकी का निरीक्षण किया था। तब उन्होंने कहा था कि उसके चारों ओर दो-तीन फीट की दीवार खड़ी कराएंगे, जिससे गंदा पानी व गंदगी रिसकर टंकी में न जा सके।

हालांकि, यह काम भी अभी नहीं कराया गया है। कायदे से बाँयो मेडिकल (Medical) वेस्ट रूम और कूड़ा संग्रह स्थल के पास टंकी नहीं होनी चाहिए। यदि है तो उसके पानी को स्वच्छ व सुरक्षित रखने के गंभीरता से प्रयास होने चाहिए, जो नहीं हो रहा है।

Singrauli Hospital : जिला अस्पताल के विभिन्न वार्डों के साथ और छत से बारिश के पानी की निकासी के लिए भवन के चारों ओर नालियां बनाई गई हैं, जो आजकल गाद व कचरे से पट गई हैं। इस कारण उसका गंदा पानी सड़क पर ओवरफ्लो (overflow) करता है। निचले तल पर ट्रामा वार्ड के मरीज और कर्मचारी उसकी दुर्गंध से परेशान होते हैं।