

Kiren Rijiju's remarks over Chakma-Hajong resettlement draws flak, Himanta says no talks held

<https://www.deccanherald.com/india/assam/no-talks-with-centre-on-relocating-chakma-hajong-refugees-in-assam-says-cm-himanta-sarma-2990442>

Kiren Rijiju recently said that there has been talks to relocate these "refugees" from Arunachal Pradesh to Assam after the implementation of the CAA.

guwahati: Union Minister Kiren Rijiju's recent remarks that over 60,000 Chakma-Hajong "refugees" could be relocated from Arunachal Pradesh to neighbouring Assam has apparently put the ruling BJP in a tight spot ahead of the second phase of Lok Sabha elections on April 26.

The Opposition parties in Assam attacked the BJP after Rijiju said that the Chakma-Hajongs would be given citizenship through the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and said that he held talks with Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma to find land for their relocation. As the heat of the Opposition parties grew, Sarma on Tuesday tried to downplay Rijiju's remarks saying no talks have taken place between the Centre and Assam government over the issue.

"Rijiju might have said something in view of the political situation in Arunachal Pradesh. But there has been no talks with the Centre on this issue yet. And there is no land in Assam for settlement of the Chakmas and Hajongs," Sarma told reporters on Tuesday following the rebuke, mainly from two regional Opposition parties -- Asom Jatiya Parishad (AJP) and Akhil Gogoi-led Rajgor Dal. The two parties, which came into being out of the anti-CAA agitation in Assam in 2020, have been leading a campaign against BJP over the issue of CAA. "Rijiju's statement has exposed what we have been saying for long that a large number of illegal migrants from Bangladesh would be given citizenship through the CAA for settlement in Assam," Akhil Gogoi said. Anti-foreigner sentiments play a key role in elections in Assam. Chakma-Hajongs The Buddhist Chakmas and Hindu Hajongs were settled in the 1960s in parts of Changlang and Papum Pare districts of Arunachal Pradesh after they had fled Chittagong Hill Tracts of present Bangladesh following an ethnic clash and a dam disaster. Population of the two communities are now estimated to be around 65,000.

The BJP government in Arunachal Pradesh said that the Chakmas and Hajongs would be relocated outside the state in view of the strong opposition by the local tribes. Chakma organisations, however, have been demanding citizenship certificates to the Chakma and Hajongs as directed by the Supreme Court in 1996 in its order regarding the NHRC Vs Arunachal Pradesh government case.

Suhas Chakma, the founder of Chakma Development Foundation of India told DH on Tuesday that there was a political motive behind Rijiju's statement ahead of Lok Sabha polls. Rijiju is seeking re-election from Arunachal West constituency. "On the so-called relocation of the Chakmas and Hajongs, Home Minister Amit Shah never made a

statement, while the Prime Minister's Office had specifically directed the Arunachal Pradesh government to stop the census of only the Chakmas and Hajongs because it amounts to racial profiling. About 95 per cent of the Chakmas and Hajongs of Arunachal Pradesh are citizens of the country (by birth) and no government has the authority or power to relocate a citizen against their will," Chakma said.

Chakmas-Hajong Row: Union Minister Kiren Rijiju Says Refugees Should Be Relocated To Assam

<https://www.etvbharat.com/en/!state/chakmas-hajong-row-union-minister-kiren-rijiju-enn24042303124>

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju stated that the Chakma Hajong refugees have been staying there as guests and were not entitled to receive a permanent resident certificate (PRC) of citizenship there. He said that he has also initiated talks with Union Home Minister Amit Shah regarding the same and will send the refugees to Assam once a suitable piece of land is found.

Tezpur (Assam): Union Minister Kiren Rijiju said that the Chakma Hajong refugees would be relocated outside the frontier state before being granted Indian citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) 2019.

Over 67,000 members of the Hajong and Chakma communities who are currently residents of Arunachal Pradesh will relocate to Assam. "They are staying here as guests. They are not entitled to get a permanent resident certificate (PRC) of citizenship here," Rijiju said in the presence of state home minister Bamang Felix and BJP MLA from Itanagar, Tech Kacho.

After the enactment of the Citizenship Act, according to that law, the Government of India will grant citizenship to those who have been living in India after being divided into three nations of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh due to religious persecution.

Accordingly, even if no person has been settled in Assam from outside, the Chief Minister of Assam, in consultation with Arunachal Pradesh, has made it clear that Chakma-Hajongs should be settled in Assam, said Rijiju.

The burning issue: As directed by the Supreme Court in the 1996 case of **National Human Rights Commission** v. Arunachal Pradesh government, the Chakmas and Hajongs have been demanding Indian citizenship since then.

"We have already talked to the Assam chief minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma about the resettlement of Chakmas in Assam. It is a big issue. There is also resistance from local residents here," the Union minister said.

Rijiju countered that although the Hajong and Chakma people were settled under the administrations of Indira Gandhi and Nehru, the BJP opposed granting them citizenship in Arunachal Pradesh. They claimed that because of the opposition from majority of the tribals, many Chakma and Hajongs' applications for citizenship have remained pending.

"Defaming the minorities brings votes of the majority tribals and Rijiju is playing the same card ahead of the elections," said Suhas Chakma, rights activist and founder of Chakma Development Foundation of India (CDFI). However, the BJP is optimistic that it

will win both Lok Sabha seats once more and hold onto power in the state for another consecutive term.

“We also initiated talks with Union Home Minister Amit Shah. However, we don’t want to make We have been trying for their resettlement for the past three years. We are looking for a suitable land for it. We will tell them to leave once we finalise the land there,” Rijiju said.

He also said that they have been working silently on the issue and and Assam government has been urged to identify an appropriate location for their relocation.

In absence of “proof of residence” Chakmas and Hajongs are not considered as Indian citizens and, therefore, are ineligible for any official identification documents, Rijiju alleged. The residential proof certificates which were issued by an extra assistant commissioner (EEAC) of Changlang district were also suspended from his service, he added.

On April 24, 2023, Chief Minister Pema Khandu of Arunachal Pradesh declared that, following the settlement of the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh boundary dispute, he would distribute the Chakmas and Hajongs throughout various Indian states. This is because, as refugees, they are not allowed to remain permanently in the state, which is safeguarded as a tribal state by the Indian Constitution.

Country's first woman SC judge, former Union Minister among Padma award winners from Kerala

<https://www.punjabnewsexpress.com/national/news/countrys-first-woman-sc-judge-former-union-minister-among-padma-award-winners-from-kerala-247243>

KOCHI: M. Fathima Beevi, the first woman judge of the Supreme Court who later became the Governor of Tamil Nadu, has been posthumously conferred with the Padma Bhushan award.

96-year-old Fathima Beevi passed away in November 2023. She was also the first woman chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission, and the first Muslim lady Governor.

She enrolled herself as an advocate in 1950 and began her career in the lower judiciary in Kerala. In 1958, she was appointed the Munsiff and was promoted as the Subordinate Judge in 1968. In 1984, she became a permanent Judge of the High Court.

Later, she was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court in October 1989, from where she retired in April 1992.

After almost five years, Fathima Beevi became the Governor of Tamil Nadu in January 1997.

Former Union Minister O. Rajagopal, is the second person from Kerala, who received the Padma Bhushan award.

93-year-old Rajagopal was a Union Minister in Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government from 1999-2004. He was the first BJP candidate to win an assembly election in Kerala in 2016 Assembly polls. He, however, quit active politics after his term in the Assembly ended in 2021.

Besides two Padma Bhushans, Kerala has six Padma Shri recipients which includes member of the Travancore Royal family and author Aswathi Thirunal Gouri Lakshmi Bayi, spiritual guru Muni Narayana Prasad, Kathakali exponent Sadanam Balakrishnan, educationist-author P. Chithran Namboodiripad (posthumously), Theyyam artiste E.P. Narayanan and farmer Sathyanarayana Beleri.



■ NHRC India organised the Statutory Full Commission meeting of all the seven National Commissions, whose Chairpersons are its ex-officio members. The objective was to discuss the issue of ensuring the protection of the rights of the vulnerable and marginalised sections and share best practices.

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग नई दिल्ली के विशेष दूत नेकिया संप्रेक्षण गृहगृ हजारीबाग का निरीक्षण

<https://www.livehindustan.com/jharkhand/hazaribagh/story-special-envoy-of-national-human-rights-commission-new-delhi-inspected-the-observation-home-in-hazaribagh-9835248.html>

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग, नई दिल्ली की विशेष दूत(स्पेशल रिपोर्टियर) सुचित्रा सिन्हा झारखंड परिभ्रमण के दौरान मंगलवार को संप्रेक्षण गृहगृ हजारीबाग...

हजारीबाग, वरीय संवाददाता। **राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग**, नई दिल्ली की विशेष दूत(स्पेशल रिपोर्टियर) सुचित्रा सिन्हा झारखंड परिभ्रमण के दौरान मंगलवार को संप्रेक्षण गृहगृ हजारीबाग में पहुंची। उन्होंने संप्रेक्षण गृहगृ में आवासित किशोरों के साथ बैठक कर गृहगृ में उपलब्ध कराये जा रहे सुविधाओं यथा विधि व्यवस्था, सुरक्षा व्यवस्था, आवासन कक्ष, व्यवसायिक कक्ष, भोजनालय, शौचालय, स्वास्थ्य, स्वच्छता, शिक्षा, खेल सामग्री इत्यादि के बारे में विस्तार से जानकारी ली। संप्रेक्षण गृहगृ में बच्चों ने पुष्प गुच्छ भेंट कर गीत के माध्यम से स्वागत किया। कुछ बच्चों ने अतिथि के सम्मान में कविता एवं समूह गान प्रस्तुत किया। कुछ बच्चों ने संप्रेक्षण गृहगृ में आवासन के दौरान के अनुभवों को साझा किया। संप्रेक्षण गृहगृ में आवासित एक किशोर ने मैट्रिक परीक्षा में 81 प्रतिशत प्राप्त कर प्रथम श्रेणी से उतीर्ण होने पर डिक्शनरी देकर उत्साहवर्धन किया गया। गृहगृ में संचालित पुस्तकालय के लिए 15 प्रेरणादायक पुस्तकें उपलब्ध करायी गईं। सुश्री सिन्हा ने गृहगृ में आवासित किशोरों को मानव अधिकार के संबंध में बताया। संप्रेक्षण गृहगृ परिसर में लगे हरे-भरे फलदार पौधों को देखकर काफी प्रसन्न हुईं। सिन्हा के द्वारा गृहगृ के परिसर में चीकू एवं आंवला का पौधारोपण किया गया। संप्रेक्षण गृहगृ में कार्यरत कर्मियों से चर्चा कर और बेहतर कार्य करने हेतु आवश्यक दिशा-निर्देश दिये। सुश्री सिन्हा के झारखंड परिभ्रमण कार्यक्रम के दौरान जिला समाज कल्याण पदाधिकारी, कार्यपालक दंडाधिकारी, जिला बाल संरक्षण पदाधिकारी, जिला परिवीक्षा पदाधिकारी, सदस्य, किशोर न्याय बोर्ड, हजारीबाग, विधि-सह-परिवीक्षा पदाधिकारी, संरक्षण पदाधिकारी (संस्थागत देखरेख) एवं गृहगृ के कर्मि उपस्थित थे।