



Just another brick in the wall? From 'bondage' to living on the street in this unforgivable heat

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New Delhi: Aman (names of all children have been changed) is all of six, but has no toys as children of his age do. He has only seen kids of his age and older turn bricks at kilns. He offers a blank look at the mention of school. Born in an Uttar Pradesh brick kiln where his parents worked at the time, the boy has lived a life on the move as his family migrated from Nariyara village in Chhattisgarh to one city or the other to find work as labourers, exploited by contractors who see through their poverty and trap them in a vicious cycle of debt and denial of wages in the name of recovery of loans.

Aman was among the 53 men, women and children from different villages in Chhattisgarh who escaped the clutches of an exploitative contractor in a brick kiln in Faridabad on April 27 only to find themselves on Delhi streets, living under a tree at a night shelter in Sarai Kale Khan. While the heatwave is taking a toll on them, they shrugged that working in the heat in the brick kiln was anyway a never-ending summer.



NO RESPITE? Fifty-three men, women and children who escaped a brick kiln in Faridabad have now found themselves on Delhi streets

They neither have the resources to linger on nor the money to leave for their villages, where it will be a life of poverty. Most of them have since begun working at construction sites in Delhi-NCR as they wait for the authorities to take note of their demand for justice.

Their pleas and a formal complaint led to the National Human Rights Commission to issue a notice on April 29 and follow-up directions to the state authorities in Haryana, but a solution is awaited as the panel and the state engage in a to-and-fro. Besides Haryana govt, NHRC had al-

so sought the intervention of Delhi govt to provide support to these families struggling for basic needs like food and shelter in the heat.

Thus, Aman and other children battle the summer heat while their parents and grandparents work at construction sites. The six-year-old and his brother Ritesh, 7, tell you how they turned over bricks at the kiln while their parents made bricks. Their sister Meeta, who is 15, too has only known the kilns as home. For the migrant children, education is a distant dream.

Their mother, Sushila, reveals how there is no work in



Nariyara to sustain them through the year, so they keep returning to the cities and work for nearly eight months every year. As for the brick kiln in Faridabad, Sushila and husband Kulbehera Mahesh disclosed that they had taken a loan of Rs 35,000 to meet emergency expenses from the contractor, who then asked them to work at the kiln to pay off the debt.

Amarbai and her husband Chandraveer Mahesh also arrived to repay a loan of Rs 15,000. "We woke up at 1am to get down to work and were at it till 1pm," said Amarbai. "After lunch, we again worked

till 9pm. We did this without getting wages, surviving on a stipend of around Rs 5,000 in two instalments, always hoping to repay the loan. But the debt just didn't end. This is the story of every family."

Complainant Nirmal Gorana, convener, National Campaign Committee for Eradication of Bonded Labour, who was part of the rescue operation with the local administration, has requested NHRC in his complaint to record the statements of the labourers while carrying out a fair investigation.

The rights panel issued its first notice to Haryana on

April 29, asking the state to take immediate action to address the concerns of the stranded workers. In May, the authorities in Ballabgarh in a report to NHRC claimed that an enquiry had been conducted and that the labourers said they had no grievances against the brick kiln owner, that they were being provided basic facilities and that their movement was not restricted. Tellingly, the labourers declined to sign their statements and left without availing the use of a tractor granted to them.

NHRC responded, "The report appears to be contrary to the submission of the complainant. The report suggests that there was no bondage at the brick kiln and the labourers left the brick kiln without signing their statement. The complainant, however, has stated that the labourers were being forced to sign the false statement prepared by the rescue team."

In this backdrop on May 28, NHRC asked the deputy commissioner of Faridabad to initiate proceedings in accordance with the standard operating procedure and submit an action-taken report to it by June 21.

Swarajyamarg

Bengal Post-Poll Violence: What's Stopping Amit Shah From Reading The Riot Act To Mamata Banerjee?

<https://swarajyamag.com/west-bengal/bengal-post-poll-violence-whats-stopping-amit-shah-from-reading-the-riot-act-to-mamata-banerjee>

The BJP leadership's inaction, both in helping out party workers and supporters against Trinamool wrath and acting against the Mamata Banerjee government for failing to curb crimes against opposition activists, has been strange and unexpected.

Horrific post-poll violence is a sickening reality in Bengal.

After every election, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers and supporters are attacked, raped, killed, and driven away from their houses by Trinamool Congress goons.

The bereaved families silently mourn the dead, the injured nurse their wounds, and the displaced return to their homes eventually, but only after paying a stiff fine to the local Trinamool netas.

The cycle repeats after every election.

To be fair, this has been a dreadful practice since the Left Front rule in the state. At that time, it used to be the Congress and Trinamool Congress at the receiving end of the communists' big stick.

Though Mamata Banerjee promised 'badal' (change) and not 'badla' (revenge) when she came to power in Bengal in 2011, the Trinamool has far surpassed the CPI(M)-led Left Front in perpetrating violence on political opponents, primarily the BJP.

The Trinamool's brutality hardly evokes any protest outside Bengal and is hypocritically ignored by the country's 'left-liberal' media. But that is to be expected.

What is unexpected is the BJP leadership's inaction in saving party workers and supporters from Trinamool's wrath and, more importantly, its failure to act against the Banerjee government for failing to curb crimes against opposition activists.

Save for just a few, state BJP leaders have failed to stand by their beleaguered karyakartas on the ground, especially in the rural and semi-urban areas and in the urban slums.

Most BJP leaders and functionaries have stuck to condemning the Trinamool's atrocities on social media. Except in some cases, the party has failed to help workers and supporters rebuild their lives after their properties and homes were damaged by rampaging Trinamool goons.

This is the case even though it is well known that the BJP does not face a dearth of funds.

The BJP central leadership, while issuing statements condemning political violence in Bengal, has been stressing that the Trinamool's barbarism will be countered "legally."

This has meant filing cases and petitions seeking intervention by the courts and complaining to bodies like the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

But the legal route is a long and expensive one, without guaranteed outcomes, and entities like the NHRC are unable to take any action against the state government.

The BJP central leadership's timid stance is best exemplified by party president J P Nadda's statement after visiting the family members of slain BJP karyakarta Abhijit Sarkar in early May 2021.

Sarkar, a popular and active BJP worker, was killed by Trinamool goons in front of his family members at his home in Kolkata's Beliaghata. The attack occurred immediately after the results of the assembly election, which the Trinamool Congress had swept, were announced.

Nadda, after meeting the bereaved family members, told reporters that "Mamata Banerjee has blood on her hands." Asked if the Union government would take any measures against the state government, he said the BJP would fight the Trinamool in a "samvaidhanik tarika" (constitutional manner).

That response from the BJP national president was seen as inadequate in the face of atrocities committed by the Trinamool against Nadda's own party workers and supporters.

A senior state BJP leader who is well known for advocating a tough stand against the Trinamool told Swarajya that the party president's feeble response wasn't surprising.

"During campaigning (for the 2021 assembly polls), the convoy of Nadda and other senior BJP leaders was attacked in South 24 Parganas district. The vehicle carrying Nadda took direct hits. It was an outrageous incident. But all that the party central leadership did was condemn the attack," said the state BJP leader.

"Now imagine if the same had happened to Mamata Banerjee or her nephew. She would have created a huge ruckus and whipped up a storm over it. She would not have said she'd fight back 'constitutionally'. Our central leadership has to realise that Mamata Banerjee does not understand constitutional niceties and legal procedures. She needs to be paid back in the same coin," he explained.

This sentiment was echoed by a BJP worker from Diamond Harbour, Dulal Das, who had been forced to flee his home due to attacks by Trinamool goons. Swarajya met him at a shelter arranged by a senior state leader.

"I am disgusted with the inaction by our party leadership. I had to leave my house and take shelter with my relatives in 2019 (after the Lok Sabha polls) and 2021 (after the assembly elections) as well. I could return months later only after paying a 'fine' to local Trinamool leaders. One BJP leader, whom I know personally, helped me financially. But

that is not enough. I want strong action to be taken against the Trinamool goons. It's unfortunate that our party leadership is impotent to take action against Mamata Banerjee," he told Swarajya.

His outburst drew a functionary of the BJP's South 24 Parganas district unit to our conversation at a party office in South Kolkata. This party leader, who did not want to give his name, counselled Das: "There is a proper procedure to be followed. Just because they (the Trinamool) are breaking the law, we also cannot do the same. Justice will be done; it may take time, but the guilty will be punished."

Das' counter to this advice was interesting. "Had Mamata Banerjee been in power at the Centre and the BJP in power in Bengal, and if Trinamool workers were being beaten up in the state, would Mamata Banerjee have issued mere statements condemning the violence and relied on the law? She would have made life hell for the BJP and would have even imposed President's Rule in the state," he said.

This feeling has been expressed by a large number of BJP workers and functionaries who spoke to Swarajya over the past week.

Even senior leaders are criticising the BJP central leadership for its soft stand against the Banerjee government.

"Not taking a tough stand against Mamata Banerjee and her government has completely demoralised our cadres and supporters. Most of our workers have dissociated themselves from the party after the 2021 post-poll violence due to the leadership's failure to stand by them. That affected our performance this time as we didn't have enough workers on the ground to mobilise people and to resist the Trinamool's rigging and muscle power," said a senior office-bearer of the party.

He added that after the current spell of violence against BJP workers and supporters, there will be very few workers left in the party. "Mark my words: we will be wiped out in the 2026 assembly election because we won't have any workers on the ground," he prophesied.

Former state party president Tathagata Roy, who also served as the Governor of Tripura and Meghalaya, foretells this, as well. In a [post on X](#), he wrote: "Dear BJP central leadership! BJP workers in West Bengal are so demoralised that in 10 years no BJP will be left in Bengal. In 20 years WB will become a Muslim-dominated state. And in 30 years WB, plus the Northeast, will become part of Islamic Bangladesh."

"Mamata Banerjee has gone scot-free after all the terrible atrocities, including murders and rapes of our supporters and workers. She is least bothered about condemnations and court cases. The only language she understands is action, and unless the Union government takes action, nothing will change in Bengal," said a former state secretary.

"What stops (Home Minister) Amit Shah from speaking directly to Mamata Banerjee and warning her that attacks on BJP workers and supporters in Bengal will meet with strong

counter-action, which may even include the imposition of Article 355, which will mean the Union government taking direct control of the law and order machinery in the state? Mamata Banerjee will only understand such tough threats," the former state secretary added.

Even if the threat of the imposition of Article 355 is not issued directly, BJP leaders say, Shah can always tell Banerjee that violence against opposition workers will not be tolerated and will invite retaliation.

If such a warning is issued in all seriousness, it will have an immediate effect, the leaders say.

Issuing mere condemnations and displaying helplessness (by the central leadership) will only imperil the BJP in Bengal and pave the way for a disastrous performance in the 2026 assembly election, BJP leaders and supporters warn.

Inventiva

Joining The Dots, NEET Controversy, NTA's Refusal To Answer Important Questions, And The Apathy Of SC's Verdict; NTA A Failure Right From Its Incorporation 2017-2024, Score Card, ZERO!

<https://www.inventiva.co.in/trends/joining-the-dots-neet-controversy-ntas-refusal-to-answer-important-questions-and-the-apathy-of-scs-verdict-nta-a-failure-right-from-its-incorporation-2017-2024-score-card-zero/>

The NTA and NEET examinations have become a sore point in the hopes and aspirations of many students across the country. From the NTA's inception in 2017 under the Modi government, there is little "good" that it has done; instead, it has become a mockery and bane for students and parents through the years. It is time we question NTA's utter failure and NEET's recurring horrors. The actions of those in the NTA's governance body are also in question - what are they doing, and are "bucks greasing hands"?

The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test has always been a controversial exam, capturing the attention of the entire country. While NEET is supposed to fulfill the dreams of medical aspirants, it has instead been marred by issues.

The NTA was established to ensure fair selection with minimal problems, but the NEET exam has turned into a nightmare for many students, surrounded by countless controversies over the years.

The controversy over this year's NEET exam highlights longstanding systemic deficits.

The NTA reversed the grace marks of more than 1,500 candidates, offering them the option of a re-test after initially giving them the wrong question paper.

These students were awarded compensatory marks for the time lost switching to the correct paper. It took the Supreme Court's intervention, in response to numerous petitions, for the NTA to acknowledge this "technical glitch."

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan admitted the error occurred in only six of the more than 4,500 examination centers.

But there seems to be more to this story.

First, let's revisit some facts.

One of the major controversies was fueled by a particular physics question that purportedly had two valid answers.

The situation escalated when 44 of the 67 toppers were among the grace marks beneficiaries due to incorrectly marking this specific physics question.

The problem came to light when an astounding 67 students clinched the prestigious title of "topper" this year, attaining a perfect score of 720 out of 720 marks, compared to the usual two or three toppers achieving this score in previous years.

This unexpected turn of events astonished aspirants and stakeholders, breaking the norm of having just a couple of toppers each year.

On the 13th, the Centre announced its decision to retract the grace marks given to more than 1,500 candidates who appeared for the NEET-UG 2024 examination.

This decision was communicated to the Supreme Court on Thursday, prompting a wave of unrest and concern among students who were already satisfied with their results.

The government's move comes after widespread protests nationwide over alleged irregularities in the declaration of NEET 2024 results.

NEET results are crucial for securing entries into various medical courses throughout India. The court has announced that the re-test will likely be on June 23.

Additional concerns about the examination, including alleged instances of paper leaks, have surfaced, though Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has vehemently denied these claims.

Pradhan stated that the error occurred in only six of the more than 4,500 examination centers. Even so, such a mess is consequential, especially in a high-stakes examination where every mark is decisive.

NTA – A Failure

The NTA was created in 2017 to conduct national-level examinations for higher institutions of learning under the Modi government. If one assumes that it is only this year that the NTA has failed the “sanctity” of conducting fair exams, think again.

As one scrolls below, they will find a chronology of NEET controversies over the years.

But before that here are some important questions:

- 1) Why has the NTA repeatedly diverged and faltered in its role?
- 2) Why have there been countless allegations of paper leaks, grace marking, and controversies around toppers?
- 3) Why should the NTA not be dissolved considering it has grossly failed in its responsibility from the time it was formed, 2017-2024?
- 4) Is someone at the NTA taking bribes for selective paper leaks? If so, who is involved and how far up does this chain go?
- 5) Why should the CBI not conduct an inquiry into the NTA?
- 6) Why has the judiciary repeatedly failed to find a solution, instead being drawn into one controversy after another?

To understand why we are asking these questions, one can gauge from the chronology of events regarding NEET and the NTA's utter failure.

September 2017

NEET 2018 faced significant political and social protests in Tamil Nadu due to the suicide of 17-year-old Anitha. Anitha, a medical aspirant from an economically and socially underprivileged family, filed a case against NEET in the Supreme Court.

The Tamil Nadu government had been challenging NEET, arguing that it disadvantaged rural and poorer students from government schools.

Anitha, who scored 1176 out of 1200 in her 12th class exam, could not afford rigorous NEET training due to her family's financial condition.

Protesters claimed that without NEET, Anitha could have become a doctor based on her 12th class performance.

August 2017

In 2017, it was announced that NEET 2017 would be conducted in 10 languages listed in the NEET online form, excluding Urdu.

The Students Islamic Organization of India (SIO) filed a case in the Supreme Court demanding Urdu's inclusion. The Court ruled in favor, mandating Urdu's inclusion in the NEET 2018 exam.

June 2017

Another controversy arose when CBSE delayed the release of NEET 2017 results. Petitions filed by the Madras High Court on May 24 and another regarding the correctness of two questions led CBSE to delay the release of answer keys and results, which were eventually declared on June 23, 2017.

May 2017

A major controversy in NEET 2017 involved the stringent dress code. CBSE instructed candidates to wear light-colored clothes, half-sleeved shirts, and only slippers or sandals.

Candidates failing the metal detector test were barred from entering the exam center.

In Kerala, a female candidate was forced to remove her innerwear, and another in jeans was asked to change because the metal detector went off.

Female candidates were also asked to remove hairpins, bands, earrings, and nose rings.

May 2017

There were also complaints about the NEET question paper mix-up. In Warangal, candidates received English and Hindi question papers instead of Telugu.

Other complaints stated that questions in Marathi and Bengali differed significantly (about 85%) from the English paper, with claims that the difficulty level in other languages was higher.

Learning from these issues, CBSE decided that NEET 2018 would be conducted as a single-language exam to avoid translation mistakes.

May 2017

The situation worsened when news broke about the leak of the NEET question paper.

Five people, including two medical students, were arrested in Patna for attempting to leak the question paper. Students filed a petition demanding a re-conduct of the exam. Following numerous petitions, the authorities reached a settlement with the students.

December 2018

The Calcutta High Court decided to award 20 marks to a NEET 2018 candidate after Calcutta University informed the court that 5 questions had been wrongly translated into Bengali.

November 2018

In July, the Madras High Court ordered CBSE to grant 196 marks in the Tamil paper of that year's NEET exam.

However, on the 22nd of November 2018, the Supreme Court rejected this order for all the 24,000 students who took the NEET exam in the Tamil language.

October 2018

With the start of NEET admissions, another controversy arose. The Karnataka High Court ordered the state government to conduct the admission process before the 25th of October 2018 for AYUSH courses.

Initially, those who did not qualify for NEET 2018 were not eligible for AYUSH courses. However, now, both NEET qualified and non-qualified candidates who meet the minimum qualifications can apply to various institutions across the state.

July 2018

In May 2018, several aspirants faced errors in the Tamil version of the NEET exam. Consequently, the Madras High Court ordered CBSE to grant 196 marks to the affected students for 49 controversial questions with errors in the NEET 2018 exam.

Passing the orders on a public interest litigation, the court also instructed CBSE to revise and republish the list of eligible candidates. This decision brought hope to many students who were stranded in despair, although the court left the final decision on the NEET counseling process to the authorities.

June 2018

With the start of NEET Counselling, another NEET controversy emerged. Students applying for the 15% All India Quota (AIQ) from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and some

other states found that 27 government medical colleges were missing from the list provided by the Medical Counselling Committee (MCC).

Out of 222 government medical colleges identified for AIQ seats, only 195 were listed on the MCC website. According to the MCC, these colleges were not included in the first round of counselling due to technical reasons and were added in the second round, which started on July 3, 2019.

May 2018

May 2018 was undoubtedly a month filled with NEET controversies. Adding to the existing disputes, another issue arose when Apala Debnath filed a petition alleging that the Bengali version of NEET 2018 contained over 180 mistakes.

According to Debnath, the English version had no such errors, causing significant difficulties for Bengali aspirants like herself.

She sought a ban on the publication of results until a final verdict was reached. As a result, a vacation bench of the Calcutta High Court instructed NEET to reserve a seat for an examinee until a regular bench could decide on her petition.

The bench clarified, "The result may be published, but one post/position shall be kept open by NEET authorities. This shall not be a blanket ban on the publication of results."

May 2018

Another controversy arose with the release of the NEET 2018 answer key on May 25, 2018. Many students who took the exam were unhappy with the answer key, claiming that some questions had doubtful answers.

Parents supported their children in challenging the answer key.

Previously, several prominent coaching institutes had raised objections against the options provided for some multiple-choice questions, stating that more than one option was correct.

May 2018

On May 11, 2018, the Delhi High Court dismissed pleas against the CBSE notification setting the upper age limit for NEET applicants at 25 years for the general category and 30 years for reserved categories.

The court ruled that this age limit was legal and valid. However, the High Court accepted pleas challenging the notification that barred students from open schools or those who studied privately from appearing in the test.

The court stated, "Students/candidates who have done Class XII from NIOS or recognized open school State boards would not be treated as per se disqualified for selection and appearance in the NEET examination.

Their NEET results, when otherwise eligible, would be declared with other candidates.”

May 2018

The NEET 2018 controversies continued on May 11, 2018, when a female student filed a police complaint about the inconvenience and harassment she faced while appearing for the NEET 2018 exam in Palakkad (Kerala).

The girl alleged that she had to remove her innerwear during security checks and that an external observer had stared at her inappropriately.

The police registered the case under IPC section 509 and began an investigation.

May 2018

On May 9, 2018, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued notices to the CBSE Chairperson and the Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu over alleged harassment and inconvenience experienced by candidates during security checks for the NEET 2018 exam.

In addressing the ongoing NEET 2018 controversy, the NHRC stated: “Cutting the sleeves of shirts and tearing pants to remove buttons, etc., are unethical acts by the staff deployed at the exam centers.

This amounts to a violation of the right to dignity of the aspirants. There is a further need for the authorities to rethink and adopt a certain mechanism to ensure security checks at the exam centers in a dignified manner.”

Previously, on May 8, 2018, the NHRC had issued a notice concerning the difficulties faced by Tamil Nadu candidates in reaching other states to appear for the NEET 2018 exam.

May 2018

On May 6, 2018, the day of the exam, nearly 100 students in Madurai (Tamil Nadu) were given question papers in Hindi, creating panic as they were unable to understand the language.

The question papers were later replaced with bilingual English and Tamil versions.

This issue mirrored a controversy from NEET 2017 when candidates in Warangal (Telangana) received question papers in English and Hindi instead of Telugu.

Similarly, students in Dibrugarh, Assam, faced undue harassment due to a shortage of question papers and were not provided with papers in their preferred language.

In Assam, at Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, the exam, scheduled from 10 am to 1 pm, was conducted in two sessions. Many students left the exam hall at halftime because the question papers were not in their preferred language, Assamese.

May 2018

With the release of the admit cards on April 17, 2018, a new controversy emerged. Candidates from Tamil Nadu were shocked to find their exam centers were located in states like Rajasthan, Kerala, and Karnataka.

This led to protests from aspirants and political parties.

The case reached the Madras High Court, which directed the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to recall the allotments and provide alternate centers within the same area or at least within the state.

However, CBSE challenged this decision in the Supreme Court. On May 4, 2018, the Supreme Court rejected the petition seeking local exam centers for Tamil Nadu candidates, directing students to appear for the NEET exam at their allotted centers only.

May 2018

In another development, the Supreme Court allowed Sikh candidates appearing for the NEET 2018 exam to wear their 'Kripan' or 'Kara'.

The Court directed that Sikh candidates carrying 'Kripan' should report to their examination centers one hour before the allotted reporting time to ensure they could be properly screened.

February 2018

The official notification released by CBSE on February 8, 2018, regarding NEET eligibility criteria sparked significant controversy.

According to the information bulletin, students from NIOS and Open School Boards were declared ineligible to appear for the exam. This decision led to nationwide protests as it was a major setback for these students.

A petition filed against CBSE was met with a public notice on February 24, in which CBSE stated it would not respond to queries or grievances regarding eligibility criteria and directed all concerns to the Medical Council of India (MCI).

Protestors, including students and their parents, approached the Delhi High Court, resulting in a ruling that allowed NIOS and Open School Board students to appear for NEET 2018.

February 2018

Another protest arose over the upper age limit criteria mentioned in the NEET information bulletin. The criteria restricted candidates older than 25 years from appearing for the exam, a measure taken by the Medical Council of India (MCI) to limit the number of candidates.

Although a five-year relaxation was provided for SC/ST/OBC candidates, the rule faced significant backlash.

On February 28, 2018, the Delhi High Court temporarily altered the criteria for one year, allowing unreserved category candidates older than 25 years to appear for NEET 2018.

Consequently, the upper age limit for SC/ST candidates was set at 30 years after relaxation.

February 2018

Students with Biology/Biotechnology as an optional subject were alarmed by new guidelines in the NEET information bulletin, which stated that such students were not eligible to appear for the exam.

This caused widespread panic among students and their parents.

They approached the Delhi High Court, seeking amendments. The court ruled in favor of the students, allowing those with Biology/Biotechnology as an optional subject to appear for NEET 2018.

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February 2018

The eligibility criteria were not the only contentious issue. According to the official NEET notification, students planning to pursue MBBS and BDS courses in foreign universities must first clear the NEET exam.

Previously, no such rule applied to students enrolling in foreign universities in countries like China, Russia, and Ukraine.

January 2018

On January 17, 2018, the Union government announced that the state curriculum would be considered in the NEET 2018 syllabus.

This announcement angered many parents of CBSE Board students. Following the protests, the Union government reversed its decision, stating that there would be no changes to the syllabus.

Subsequently, CBSE issued a public notice confirming: "The syllabus of NEET (UG) 2018 will be exactly the same as it was for NEET 2017. There is no change in the syllabus for NEET 2018."

April 2019

On the 15th of April 2019, the NTA released NEET 2019 admit cards, which were associated with several controversies.

It was found that the exam date was incorrectly mentioned and the originally allotted exam centers were canceled.

After a series of protests and controversies, candidates learned to be very cautious regarding the Do's and Don'ts of NEET.

The Last Bit, Given that students and their parents are the most affected by these controversies, the chronology of significant events and criticism has made NEET the most debatable exam in the country and equally debatable is NTA's existence!

Times of India

Just another brick in the wall? From 'bondage' to living on the street in this unforgivable heat

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/exploitation-of-labourers-in-brick-kilns-escaping-bondage-for-a-life-on-the-streets/articleshow/111028749.cms>

New Delhi: Aman (names of all children have been changed) is all of six, but has no toys as children of his age do. He has only seen kids of his age and older turn bricks at kilns. He offers a blank look at the mention of school. Born in an Uttar Pradesh brick kiln where his parents worked at the time, the boy has lived a life on the move as his family migrated from Nariyara village in Chhattisgarh to one city or the other to find work as labourers, exploited by contractors who see through their poverty and trap them in a vicious cycle of debt and denial of wages in the name of recovery of loans.

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Their pleas and a formal complaint led to the National Human Rights Commission to issue a notice on April 29 and follow-up directions to the state authorities in Haryana, but a solution is awaited as the panel and the state engage in a to-and-fro. Besides Haryana govt, NHRC had also sought the intervention of Delhi govt to provide support to these families struggling for basic needs like food and shelter in the heat.

Thus, Aman and other children battle the summer heat while their parents and grandparents work at construction sites. The six-year-old and his brother Ritesh, 7, tell you how they turned over bricks at the kiln while their parents made bricks. Their sister Meeta, who is 15, too has only known the kilns as home. For the migrant children, education is a distant dream.

Their mother, Sushila, reveals how there is no work in Nariyara to sustain them through the year, so they keep returning to the cities and work for nearly eight months every year. As for the brick kiln in Faridabad, Sushila and husband Kulbehera Mahesh disclosed that they had taken a loan of Rs 35,000 to meet emergency expenses from the contractor, who then asked them to work at the kiln to pay off the debt.

Amarbai and her husband Chandraveer Mahesh also arrived to repay a loan of Rs 15,000. “We woke up at 1am to get down to work and were at it till 1pm,” said Amarbai. “After lunch, we again worked till 9pm. We did this without getting wages, surviving on a stipend of around Rs 5,000 in two instalments, always hoping to repay the loan. But the debt just didn’t end. This is the story of every family.”

Complainant Nirmal Gorana, convener, National Campaign Committee for Eradication of Bonded Labour, who was part of the rescue operation with the local administration, has requested NHRC in his complaint to record the statements of the labourers while carrying out a fair investigation.

The rights panel issued its first notice to Haryana on April 29, asking the state to take immediate action to address the concerns of the stranded workers. In May, the authorities in Ballabgarh in a report to NHRC claimed that an enquiry had been conducted and that the labourers said they had no grievances against the brick kiln owner, that they were being provided basic facilities and that their movement was not restricted. Tellingly, the labourers declined to sign their statements and left without availing the use of a tractor granted to them.

NHRC responded, “The report appears to be contrary to the submission of the complainant. The report suggests that there was no bondage at the brick kiln and the labourers left the brick kiln without signing their statement. The complainant, however, has stated that the labourers were being forced to sign the false statement prepared by the rescue team.”

In this backdrop on May 28, NHRC asked the deputy commissioner of Faridabad to initiate proceedings in accordance with the standard operating procedure and submit an action-taken report to it by June 21.

Newstrack

Medical Students Suicide: मेडिकल छात्रों द्वारा आत्महत्या की अनसुनी आवाज

<https://newstrack.com/opinion/unheard-voice-of-sucide-by-medical-students-today-news-in-hindi-448390?infinitescroll=1>

Medical Students Suicide: मंगलुरु मेडिकल कॉलेज की 20 वर्षीय छात्रा ने की आत्महत्या, तेलंगाना में मेडिकल छात्रा ने रैगिंग के कारण आत्महत्या की, आंध्र प्रदेश की छात्रा ने प्रोफेसर पर यौन उत्पीड़न का आरोप लगा आत्महत्या की, बनारस हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय के हॉस्टल में जूनियर डॉक्टर ने फांसी लगाई, 23 वर्षीय डॉक्टर ने की आत्महत्या 3 वरिष्ठों पर लगा आरोप, आंध्र प्रदेश में मेडिकल के छात्र ने हॉस्टल की इमारत से कूद कर आत्महत्या की, उत्तर प्रदेश में मेडिकल कॉलेज की छात्रा ने हॉस्टल में आत्महत्या की और अभी पिछले महीने देहरादून में पीजी मेडिकल के छात्र ने आत्महत्या की..... क्या है यह सब?

लिखने को तो सिर्फ एक समाचार मात्र पर समझे जाने को यह सिर्फ संख्या नहीं, आंकड़ा नहीं, समाचार नहीं बल्कि किसी पिता की जिंदगी भर की कमाई हुई पूंजी का दांव, किसी मां की आस, भाई-बहनों का सपना और समाज का, देश का एक और होनहार भविष्य सब एक झटके में इसके साथ ही खत्म हो जाता है। ये वे डॉक्टर थे या देश के होने वाले डॉक्टर थे जो हमारी जिंदगी को स्वस्थ रखने को तैयार हो रहे थे। मरीजों को समय पर सोना, पूरी नींद लेना, ठीक से पौष्टिक आहार करना, स्वस्थ जीवन शैली अपनाने की हिदायतें देने वाले इन रेजिडेंट डॉक्टरों, मेडिकल के छात्रों को खुद का भोजन सही समय पर करने का, 36-48 घंटे लगातार झूटी कर सोने का समय भी न मिले तो देश के भविष्य के डॉक्टर्स के साथ-साथ देश के स्वास्थ्य के साथ भी यह खुला खिलवाड़ है। कटघरे में है हमारा मेडिकल एजुकेशन सिस्टम और राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग और हमारी सरकारें क्योंकि नीतिगत तौर पर यह जिम्मेदारी तो उन्हीं की है।

मेडिकल शिक्षा में ही क्यों यह हर क्षेत्र में देखा जाता है कि हमारे वरिष्ठों ने अगर पहले कोई खराब माहौल या गलत व्यवहार को झेला है तो वे अपने बाद वालों के साथ भी वैसा ही बर्ताव करने लग जाते हैं और चाहते हैं कि जो उन्हें मिला उसे उनके कनिष्ठ भी सहन करें। अब हमारी जेन जेड या जेन अल्फा पीढ़ी न तो शारीरिक रूप से और न ही मानसिक तौर पर उतनी मजबूत या धैर्यवान है कि वह किसी भी तरह का अधिक दबाव बर्दाश्त कर सके और यह वरिष्ठ पीढ़ी को समझना होगा कि आज के समय में अधिक दबाव में काम करना काम को बेहतर नहीं करता बल्कि उनकी क्षमता को और भी खत्म कर देता है। इसके साथ ही आधारभूत सुविधाओं का अभाव भी मेडिकल छात्रों और रेजिडेंट डॉक्टरों को मानसिक और शारीरिक रूप से परेशान कर देता है।

इस तरह के दबाव एकेडमिक दबाव से कहीं आगे तक फैले हुए होते हैं। कहीं सीनियर छात्रों द्वारा रैगिंग से परेशान कर आत्महत्या के लिए उकसाया और उत्पीड़ित किया जाता है। यहां तक कि कॉलेज और अस्पताल प्रशासन को शिकायत दर्ज करने के बाद भी कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की जाती है। कहीं-कहीं छात्र खुद अपनी बीमारी से भी परेशान होकर आत्महत्या जैसा कदम उठा लेते हैं।

यह सन् 2019 की बात है कि मुंबई के मेडिकल कॉलेज में महिला डॉक्टर ने वरिष्ठ सहकर्मियों द्वारा जातिवादी गालियां देने के बाद आत्महत्या कर ली। यह भी एक बड़ी समस्या है कि देश के नेता आरक्षण का प्रतिशत बढ़ाते जाते हैं और सामान्य जाति वर्ग वाले विद्यार्थियों में इस बात का कहीं ना कहीं रोष घर कर जाता है कि अगर यह आरक्षण व्यवस्था न हो तो कितने ही अन्य सामान्य श्रेणी के छात्रों को वहां दाखिला मिलता और इसके कारण वे दाखिला लेने से रह जाते हैं।

चूंकि कहीं भी आरक्षित कोटा वालों के लिए सामान्य वर्ग से दाखिले के लिए प्राप्तांक का प्रतिशत भी कम होता है तो यह भी दोनों के लिए ही मानसिक उत्पीड़न और हीन भावना का कारण बनता है, इससे भी छात्रों का आत्मविश्वास कम हो जाता है और उनकी पढ़ाई में भी है बाधा डालता है। उसके बाद भी कुछ अन्य घटनाओं में यह जातिवादी उत्पीड़न देखने में आया। एक मेडिकल कॉलेज में एक छात्रा को उसके ही विभाग के प्रोफेसर द्वारा यौन पीड़ित किया जा रहा था। उनके खिलाफ शिकायत करने से छात्राओं को जानबूझकर फेल किया जाता रहा। क्योंकि उसके कारण उन्हें अपने प्रोफेसर और परिवार या अन्य सहविद्यार्थियों के द्वारा बुलिंग का सामना करना पड़ता है।

कहीं-कहीं यह भी देखने में आता है कि छात्र परिजनों के दबाव में पीजी में प्रवेश तो ले लेते हैं जबकि करना कुछ और चाहते थे। आत्महत्या के आंकड़ों का एक मुख्य कारण पढ़ाई छोड़ने से हतोत्साहित करने के लिए एक अच्छी खासी रकम जुमाने के तौर पर देनी होती है। कहीं-कहीं तो यह रकम 50 लाख रुपए तक है। इसके साथ ही अगले 2 या 3 साल तक इसके लिए कहीं परीक्षा भी नहीं दे सकते हैं, यह भी उन्हें आत्महत्या के लिए मजबूर भी कर देता है। कमजोर छात्रों के लिए उचित परामर्श सेवाओं का अभाव, परिवार आधारित तनाव, अत्यधिक शैक्षिक भार, परीक्षा का तनाव, पैसे की कमी, अमानवीय रैगिंग, शोषण, रिलेशनशिप और पढ़ाई के बीच सामंजस्य न बिठा पाने का प्रेशर, प्रोफेसर द्वारा परीक्षा में फेल कर देने का यातनापूर्ण दबाव, दैनिक ऊथूटी की अधिक जिम्मेदारियां, कहीं-कहीं पर भाषा संबंधी बाधाएं भी मुख्य रूप से इसके कारक बनते हैं।

मेडिकल छात्रों में कम उम्र की लड़कियों द्वारा अधिक आत्महत्या की गई है। मेडिकल के 24% से भी अधिक छात्र मानसिक तनाव से जूझ रहे होते हैं और उनमें आत्महत्या के लक्षण किसी हद तक पहले से सामने भी आने लग जाते हैं। राष्ट्रीय चिकित्सा आयोग के आंकड़े बताते हैं कि पिछले पांच सालों में कम से कम 122 मेडिकल छात्रों ने आत्महत्या की, जिनमें से 64 एमबीबीएस और 58 पोस्ट-ग्रेजुएट कोर्स के छात्र हैं। जबकि 1,270 ने पढ़ाई बीच में ही छोड़ दी। सिर्फ उनके लिए योग के सेशन अनिवार्य कर देना या साइकोलॉजिस्ट की व्यवस्था कर देना भर ही काफी नहीं होता है। इसके साथ ही उनके लिए अन्य बहुत से बदलावों की भी आवश्यकता है। अगर देश के स्वास्थ्य के साथ खिलवाड़ नहीं करना चाहते हैं तो देश के स्वास्थ्य को संभालने वाले इन डॉक्टरों की समस्याओं के साथ भी कोई खिलवाड़ कैसे संभव हो सकता है?

odishabytes

NHRC Seeks Report On Snakebite Death Of Toddler At Police Station In Odisha

<https://odishabytes.com/nhrc-seeks-report-on-snakebite-death-of-toddler-at-police-station-in-odisha/>

Bhubaneswar: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notice to Puri District Collector and Superintendent of Police regarding the death of a toddler due to snakebite at the premises of Astaranga police station in Odisha's Puri district.

The Commission issued the notice while acting on a petition filed by human rights lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy. The NHRC has sought a report from the authorities concerned within four weeks, sources said.

Notably, a two-year-old child died of snakebite at Astaranga police station while her mother had gone to the police station with the baby to lodge a complaint on May 27.

The petitioner alleged that unsafe environment and improper vigil at the police station led to the kid's tragic death, while police officials were found wanting in immediately shifting the child to a nearby hospital.

It further claimed that if police had acted in time, the precious life could have been saved. It is the responsibility of the officials to keep the workplace safe. Neither investigation has been conducted in the case nor has compensation been paid to the mother of the deceased, the petition alleged. The petitioner sought for a safe environment in all the police stations with childcare facilities to avert recurrence of such tragedy in future.

"The Commission shall be constrained to invoke coercive process u/s 13 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 calling for a personal appearance of the authority concerned for submission of the report, in case the report is not received within the stipulated time", the NHRC said in an order on June 13.

Janjwar

प्रदूषित पानी पीने से बीमारी और मौतों पर राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग गंभीर, डीएम सोनभद्र को आठ सप्ताह में कार्रवाई का दिया आदेश

<https://janjwar.com/environment/national-human-rights-commission-serious-on-diseases-and-deaths-due-to-drinking-polluted-water-orders-dm-sonbhadra-to-take-action-within-eight-weeks-uttar-pradesh-912150>

लखनऊ। आल इंडिया पीपुल्स फ्रंट ने सोनभद्र जिले के म्योरपुर ब्लॉक अंतर्गत विभिन्न गांवों में फ्लोराइड, मरकरी, आर्सेनिक व अत्यधिक आयरन युक्त प्रदूषित पानी पीने से विकलांगता और गंभीर बीमारियों से ग्रस्त होकर अकाल मृत्यु होने के मामले में प्रशासनिक लापरवाही का मुद्दा राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग को प्रेषित पत्र के माध्यम से उठाया था, जिसे संज्ञान में लेते हुए केस संख्या 11051/24/69/2024 दर्ज कर राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के सेक्शन ऑफिसर पंकज कुमार केसान ने जिलाधिकारी सोनभद्र को 8 सप्ताह में उचित कार्रवाई करने और कृत कार्यवाही से शिकायतकर्ता को अवगत कराने का आदेश दिया है।

आइपीएफ के जिला संयोजक और शिकायतकर्ता कृपा शंकर पनिका द्वारा एनएचआरसी को प्रेषित पत्र में संज्ञान में लाया गया था कि म्योरपुर ब्लॉक में हालत बहुत बुरी है। पेयजल संकट गंभीर है और लोग आज भी बरसाती नालों, कच्चे कुओं, चुआड और रिहंद बांध के पानी को पीने के लिए मजबूर हैं। इससे लोगों की आए दिन मौतें हो रही हैं और डडियारा, रासपहरी, कुसम्हा, आश्रम जैसे तमाम में फ्लोरोसिस के कारण लोग विकलांग हो रहे हैं। ऐसे ही एक मामले में आइपीएफ की टीम को डडियारा गांव के किए दौरे में एक ही परिवार के तीन सदस्य सगे भाई कपिल देव यादव 34 साल, किशुन देव यादव 31 साल पुत्र धर्मराज एवं उनकी मां मोहनी के फ्लोरोसिस के कारण विकलांग होने और इसी गांव की 13 वर्षीय बच्ची खुशबू पुत्री हुकुमचंद की आंखों की 80 फ़ीसद रोशनी जाने का मामला पता चला था जिस पर कार्रवाई की मांग की गई थी।

आइपीएफ जिला संयोजक कृपा शंकर पनिका ने बताया कि पूर्व में भी राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के हस्तक्षेप पर प्रभावित गांवों में शुद्ध पेयजल के लिए आरओ प्लांट लगे थे और फ्लोरोसिस प्रभावित गांवों में हैंडपंपों के साथ वाटर फिल्टर प्लांट लगाए गए थे, लेकिन आज ज्यादातर आरओ प्लांट और फिल्टर प्लांट खराब पड़े हुए हैं। जिला प्रशासन, जल निगम और उत्तर प्रदेश शासन से बार-बार अनुरोध करने और प्रमुख अखबारों में खबरें प्रकाशित होने के बावजूद इनकी मरम्मत नहीं कराई गई। आल इंडिया पीपुल्स फ्रंट के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष और पूर्व आईपीएस एस आर दारापुरी ने बताया, आइपीएफ की शिकायत पर गई स्वास्थ्य विभाग की टीम ने भी है माना है कि फ्लोरोसिस रिमूवल के लिए हैंडपंपों में लगे हुए प्लांट खराब पड़े हुए हैं, जिसके कारण लोगों को प्रदूषित पानी पीना पड़ रहा है। उन्होंने आगे कहा कि लोगों के विकलांग होने की जो हालत और अकाल मृत्यु की स्थिति पैदा हुई है, जो जिला प्रशासन की प्रशासनिक लापरवाही का नतीजा है। आगे कहा कि यह क्षेत्र आदिवासी व वनाश्रित बाहुल्य है।

ग्रामीण इलाकों में बहुतायत आबादी गरीब है। क्षेत्र में स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं अपर्याप्त हैं और सरकारी सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्रों में मानक के अनुसार विशेषज्ञ डॉक्टर व ईसीजी, एक्स रे, अल्ट्रासाउंड, प्रमुख पैथोलॉजी जांचें आदि का भी अभाव है। परिणामस्वरूप गंभीर रूप से बीमारी की स्थिति में तमाम लोगों की इलाज के अभाव में मौतें होती रहती हैं। ऐसे में अब एनएचआरसी के हस्तक्षेप के बाद जिला प्रशासन को खराब पड़े आरओ प्लांट और फ्लोरोसिस रिमूवल प्लांट को तत्काल प्रभाव से ठीक कराना चाहिए, शुद्ध पेयजल की व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए और आम आदमी के जीवन की रक्षा करनी चाहिए।