

एनएचआरसी ने हजारीबाग डीसी एसपी व श्रमायुक्त को भेजा रिमाइंडर

वरीय संवाददाता, रांची

हजारीबाग जिला के केरेडारी प्रखंड में आदिम जनजाति समुदाय की नाबालिग किरणी बिरहोर व बहादुर बिरहोर की मौत मामले में राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने 17 जनवरी को फिर से हजारीबाग डीसी, एसपी व रांची के श्रमायुक्त को रिमाइंडर भेजा है. इसकी प्रतिलिपि मुख्य सचिव को भी भेजी गयी है. आयोग ने मामले में 24 फरवरी तक रिपोर्ट मांगी है. पत्र में आयोग ने कहा है कि अगर

- हजारीबाग के केरेडारी प्रखंड में बिरहोर की मौत का मामला
- मुख्य सचिव को भी आयोग ने रिमाइंडर की प्रतिलिपि भेजी

समय पर रिपोर्ट नहीं भेजी जाती है, तो मानव सुरक्षा कानून 1993 की धारा-13 के तहत कार्रवाई की जायेगी. इससे पहले 25 नवंबर 2024 को आयोग ने हजारीबाग डीसी, एसपी व रांची के श्रमायुक्त से रिपोर्ट मांगी थी. रिपोर्ट नहीं मिलने पर आयोग ने रिमाइंडर भेजा है. मामले में शनिकांत ने आयोग से शिकायत की थी.



एनएचआरसी ने हजारीबाग उपायुक्त, पुलिस अधीक्षक व रांची के श्रमायुक्त को भेजा रिमाइंडर

वरीय संवाददाता, रांची

हजारीबाग जिला के केरेडारी प्रखंड में आदिम जनजाति समुदाय की नाबालिग किरणी बिरहोर व बहादुर बिरहोर की मौत मामले में राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने 17 जनवरी को फिर से हजारीबाग डीसी, एसपी व रांची के श्रमायुक्त को रिमाइंडर

□ हजारीबाग के केरेडारी प्रखंड में बिरहोर की मौत का मामला

□ 24 फरवरी तक आयोग ने रिपोर्ट देने का दिया निर्देश

भेजा है. इसकी प्रतिलिपि मुख्य सचिव को भी भेजी गयी है. आयोग ने दोनों बिरहोर की मौत मामले में 24 फरवरी तक रिपोर्ट मांगी है. साथ ही पत्र में आयोग ने कहा है कि अगर समय पर रिपोर्ट नहीं भेजी जाती है, तो मानव सुरक्षा कानून 1993 की धारा-13 के तहत कार्रवाई की जायेगी. इससे पहले 25 नवंबर 2024 को आयोग ने

हजारीबाग डीसी, एसपी व रांची के श्रमायुक्त से रिपोर्ट मांगी थी. रिपोर्ट नहीं मिलने पर आयोग ने रिमाइंडर भेजा है. मामले में शनिकांत ने आयोग से शिकायत की थी. उल्लेखनीय है कि आदिम जनजाति समुदाय के बिरहोर टोला निवासी नाबालिग किरणी बिरहोर व बहादुर उर्फ दुर्गा बिरहोर की मौत के मामले में सदर अनुमंडल पदाधिकारी की अध्यक्षता में गठित पांच सदस्यीय जांच दल ने हजारीबाग डीसी को रिपोर्ट भेजी थी. रिपोर्ट में कहा गया था कि बिरहोर टोला, पगार से सटे क्षेत्र में खनन व परिवहन का कार्य होने के कारण बहुत अधिक धूलकण हवा में

विद्यमान हैं. इससे प्रदूषण की गंभीर समस्या उत्पन्न हुई है. इसका बिरहोर टोला के निवासियों के स्वास्थ्य पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ रहा है. प्रदूषण के कारण सांस व अन्य बीमारियों की संभावना बनी हुई है. माइनिंग को लेकर किये जा रहे विस्फोट से कोई भी बड़ी दुर्घटना घट सकती है. जांच दल ने रिपोर्ट के साथ मंतव्य दिया था कि जब तक बिरहोर परिवारों को पगार बिरहोर टोला से दूसरी जगह पर शिफ्ट नहीं किया जाता है, तब तक बिरहोर टोला के आसपास माइनिंग का कार्य करना श्रेयस्कर नहीं है. लेकिन इस रिपोर्ट पर कार्रवाई की बात सामने नहीं आयी.

Times of India

NHRC directs Ganjam collector to settle 'ostracised' couple in village

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/nhrc-directs-ganjam-collector-to-settle-ostracised-couple-in-village/articleshow/117360615.cms>

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Berhampur: National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) directed the Ganjam collector on Friday to settle a couple from Badangi village, who were allegedly ostracised by locals. The commission also requested a report in the matter within six weeks.

NHRC also directed for strict action against community members if they are found to be involved in such unlawful activities. "The request for additional information was made to the district collector regarding a petition filed on Sept 19 last year," said Radhakanta Tripathy, a rights activist. In his petition, Tripathy alleged that at least two families in Badangi were ostracised, socially boycotted and excommunicated by other villagers for two years due to some land disputes, and their houses were damaged.

Following NHRC's direction, the Ganjam SP submitted a report on Nov 30, stating that the complaint was investigated by the additional SP. The inquiry determined that Murali Behera and Labani Behera, the victims, are living peacefully in the village. Saraswati Behera and her husband, the other victims, are staying outside Badangi.

It was also determined that there is no issue of social ostracism, excommunication or social boycott by the other villagers against Murali and others. Appropriate action has been taken against the accused. Inspector in-charge of Tarasingi police station has been instructed to visit the village frequently to ensure no untoward incident occurs. The SP also mentioned efforts to settle Saraswati in Badangi by convincing the villagers.

In the report, it is acknowledged that Saraswati and her husband have been boycotted and are staying outside the village. This amounts to a violation of the couple's fundamental rights, said the NHRC, which sought an additional report from the collector by March 10 for further consideration.

Rising Kashmir

36th Holocaust Day: Kashmiri Pandits- A saga of broken promises

The saga of broken promises needs to be reversed, sooner than later. Hope that the government is listening on this fateful 36th Holocaust Day....!

<https://risingkashmir.com/36th-holocaust-day-kashmiri-pandits-a-saga-of-broken-promises/>

Last updated: January 19, 2025 2:12 am | 12 Min Read

FRAGRANCE OF IDEAS

19th January 2025 is being observed as the 36th 'Holocaust Day' by the indigenous people of Kashmir, the displaced Kashmiri Pandits. It needs to be mentioned here that the community of Kashmiri Pandits underwent severe genocidal action against them during the period 1989-90, and such heinous actions reached their worst in the valley of Kashmir on 19th January 1990. The whole community living in the valley for the last thousands of years was threatened to get killed in Kashmir if they didn't toe the line of the organized fundamentalist and terrorist elements, supported by Pakistan and active in the Kashmir valley.

"Raliv-Galiv-Chaliv" slogans were openly raised against the Pandit community that asked the members of the community 'to get converted to Islam, accept death or leave Kashmir'. While various mosques were used to announce threatening and deafening loud messages in this connection, lakhs of people came on roads and streets to create fear among the minority community to leave the valley. The womenfolk of the Hindu community were blatantly abused throughout the night between 19-20 January 1990. This humiliation in particular caused a clear reason for the minority community to think in terms of the mass-exodus from the valley in order to save the life and honour of their womenfolk and also the existence of the original inhabitants of Kashmir, the community of Kashmiri Pandits.

After the forced mass exodus, which was also caused due to the utter failure of the then governments that didn't come to their rescue, the displaced community has been observing 19th January every year as the Kashmiri Pandit Holocaust Day (Kashmiri Pandit Nishkasan-Divas). The Hindu minority community of Kashmir observes this day in different cities throughout the country wherever the community took refuge during all these more than three decades after the forced mass exodus from Kashmir. Indoor and outdoor programmes including seminars, on-line webinars, sit-in protests, dharnas, panel discussions & debates and also 'havans' are organised on this day to highlight the issue of genocide and ethnic cleansing against the community. Displaced people living overseas have also been observing the day with deep commitment and dedication.

It is important to review the situation on this day from the Kashmiri Pandit point of view. All these years, the displaced community was promised a lot by the governments in the state and the centre. However, the community has developed a deep feeling of abandonment by the government/s for valid and visible reasons. This feeling has added more pain to their already existing pain of victimhood but the Pandits learnt the art of hiding their pain behind their smiling faces. The best nationalists were treated in the worst way even after their mass-exodus as their dispersal was allowed and encouraged as if it would absolve the government of its responsibilities in terms of their resettlement back in the Kashmir valley. We discuss here five promises, their status as on date and how the government/s failed the displaced community despite showering those promises.

The biggest promise that the community expected from the government and in particular the central government to realize was the official recognition of the genocide of the community in Kashmir. Failure of the government/s to recognize the genocide of the Kashmiri Pandits officially is indeed a tragic saga of the victimhood of the community in exile. This author was instrumental in taking the issue of genocide of the Kashmiri Pandit community in Kashmir to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in 1994. A long struggle was fought at the level of the Commission which referred the matter to the Commission's court, a historic first for the NHRC. Heaps of documentation and presentations were made to the Commission and in the Commission's court. Ultimately, the Commission after a marathon phase of meetings and argumentation delivered its decision in the matter in June 1999.

Though the National Human Rights Commission recognised the ethnic cleansing of the community as 'acts akin to genocide' committed against them by the terrorists and militants in Kashmir, yet the government didn't take any steps consequent upon the decision of the NHRC to take the issue forward. There are also a number of judgements in this regard delivered by the honourable courts in the country describing the displacement of the community as ethnic cleansing and a migration that can't be compared with any other migrations of humans. The State of India is a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and the Convention on Prevention & Punishment of Crime of Genocide as also the two Covenants on Human Rights are an integral part of the customary law in India. However, the government of India, irrespective of which party was in power, dissuaded itself from recognising what was done to the Kashmiri Pandits as genocide.

There is a very strong lobby among the senior bureaucrats of India which believes that the recognition of the issue as genocide would eventually invite international intervention in the internal affairs of India and more so when it pertains to Kashmir, they desist the government from doing so. But what they fail to understand and think is that it would have put Pakistan also in the dock internationally as the perpetrator and progenitor of the

heinous crime. Failure on the part of the government/s in this regard reflects failure to put the historical facts straight and constitutes one of the biggest broken promises of the governments whose vanguard would day in and day out talk about the genocide, human rights violations and ethnic cleansing of the community from all available public platforms all these more than three decades.

On the recommendations of the Delimitation Commission of India and due to our consistent struggle, the government of India got the nominations of the two displaced community members for the J&K Assembly passed in the parliament in December 2023. This author was in the forefront of the struggle in this connection consistently for five years. However, even after the constitution of the new Assembly for the UT in October 2024, the nominations haven't been made by the government which left the displaced community without any representation in the Assembly. In regard to the Pondicherry Assembly, such nominations have already been upheld by the Supreme Court of India in the past which the government, unfortunately, seems to have not taken cognizance of as yet.

For the last eight years, the relief-holders in the community have been struggling for enhancement of their monthly relief. Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his last visit to Jammu during the election campaigning promised to enhance the relief without any delay. But nothing has happened in this regard even after four months of the PM's public announcement. Instead the monthly relief should have been linked with the cost of the price index. There is a measure of genuine desperation in this regard among the relief holders for the last more than five years.

The left-over vacancies in the PM's Employment Package for the youth of the displaced community remain unfilled till date even after 16 years of the announcement of the Package. In order to woo the youth, the then government/s in 2008 claimed that the Employment package would pave the way for the so-called rehabilitation of the displaced community back in Kashmir in a phased manner. However, the package has miserably failed in this context all these years and it has provided a bonded-labour type formula to the unemployed educated youth of the community under the J&K government.

No government/s over the last three decades have taken any serious measures to take the displaced community of Kashmiri Hindus into confidence in regard to its final resettlement in the Kashmir valley in order to reverse its ethnic cleansing in Kashmir. The dispersal of the community has further complicated the issue. The community of Kashmiri Pandits in 1990 and 1991, in this context, displayed a great political resolve and courage to ask for its resettlement in the valley of Kashmir as per the Margdarshan Resolution of 1991. A number of demands in the resolution such as abrogation of Article 370, reorganization of the J&K state and conversion of J&K state into a Union Territory have already been met in August 2019 in a revolutionary manner by the present Modi government.

It seems that the government of India (irrespective of parties in power) is not inclined to take any risk in regard to the resettlement of the community in Kashmir. There is surely a lurking fear in the context of terrorism that has not died down and also about the overall socio-political scenario in Kashmir in relation to the displaced community. No government would like to get exposed so far as its confidence in this regard is concerned. The Modi government is perceived as a government to create new history in Kashmir and the displaced community of Kashmiri Hindus looks up to this government with great expectations and hope. The saga of broken promises needs to be reversed, sooner than later. Hope that the government is listening on this fateful 36th Holocaust Day....!

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Indian Express

A murder, a movement, and the search for justice: A timeline of events in the RG Kar Medical College rape and murder case

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/kolkata/rg-kar-rape-murder-case-timeline-justice-movement-9785376/>

January 18, 2025

More than six months later, the country remains on edge, awaiting a verdict in the case as the sessions court in Sealdah, Kolkata, is poised to deliver its judgment on the RG Kar case.

It was a crime that shook the nation to its core.

On an August morning, the body of a 31-year-old junior doctor was found in the seminar hall of the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

More than six months later, the country remains on edge, awaiting a verdict in the case as the sessions court in Sealdah, Kolkata, is poised to deliver its judgment.

However, the story leading up to this moment is as much about what happened after the crime as the crime itself.

August 9, 2024: A discovery, a nightmare

The body of the 31-year-old junior doctor was found in the seminar hall on the fourth floor of the hospital. Her body had 16 external and nine internal injuries. The postmortem would later confirm death by manual strangulation following sexual assault. The accused, a 28-year-old traffic police volunteer named Sanjay Roy, was arrested the next day, August 10, 2024.

Shock turned into anger, and anger into a nationwide movement. Protests erupted not just in Kolkata but across the country. Doctors, medical students, and the Indian Medical Association (IMA) led a fierce campaign, demanding justice for their colleague and increased safety for healthcare professionals.

The demand for justice

Just two days after the body was discovered, the West Bengal government transferred the hospital's Superintendent. But this administrative shuffle was far from enough to quell the growing outcry. The hospital's principal, Sandip Ghosh, stepped down on August 12, following nationwide protests led by the Federation of Resident Doctors Association (FORDA), which brought elective medical services to a grinding halt.

By August 13, the dissatisfaction was palpable. The victim's parents, along with others, filed a petition before the Calcutta High Court. They demanded an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), citing distrust in the Kolkata Police. The High Court agreed, handing over the case to the CBI.

The protests grew. Doctors refused to return to work. Services in hospitals across India were disrupted as medical professionals stood united in their demand for swift action. "We will not be silent," read one banner held aloft during the demonstrations.

The Human Rights Commission and scrutiny

As the nation watched, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) intervened, noting visible signs of struggle on the victim's body. On August 14, the Kolkata Police formally handed Sanjay Roy over to the CBI.

Just a day later, on August 15, as the nation celebrated its Independence Day, another form of protest emerged: 'Reclaim the Night' rallies, organized by women and activists, demanding justice and protection for women. At RG Kar Medical College, however, the protests turned violent. A mob vandalized the hospital and crime scene. Tensions flared further when the National Commission for Women (NCW) accused the authorities of security lapses and raised alarms that the crime site had undergone premature renovations.

Nationwide outrage, strikes, and investigations

August saw a cascade of events: On August 17, the IMA announced a 24-hour nationwide strike in solidarity with the victim. On August 20, the Supreme Court itself weighed in, constituting a 10-member task force to address the safety of healthcare professionals. By the end of the month, the protests had spiralled into larger political movements. The Nabanna Abhijan march to the West Bengal secretariat turned into clashes between police and protestors, leading to a state-wide strike, called by the BJP on August 28.

The Kolkata police used water cannons and tear gas shells to disperse protesters enroute West Bengal secretariat. (Express File Photo: Partha Paul)

The CBI, under intense pressure, raided the homes of Sandip Ghosh and several others connected to the hospital. By mid-September, the agency arrested Ghosh, accusing him of tampering with evidence. The officer-in-charge of the local Tala police station, Abhijit Mondal, was also detained for delaying the filing of the first information report (FIR).

Court battles, protests, and bail

The court formally charged Sanjay Roy only in November. Roy faced charges under India's Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including rape and murder. But even as the trial began in a Sealdah court, it was clear that the road to justice was anything but smooth.

In December, the CBI's case took a blow. The court granted bail to both Sandip Ghosh and Abhijit Mondal after the CBI failed to file its chargesheets within the statutory 90-day period. Allegations swirled that Ghosh had known about the crime earlier than he had reported, and he remained under scrutiny by the Enforcement Directorate for unrelated financial crimes.

For the victim's parents, it was another blow in a long and painful process. They moved the Calcutta High Court, alleging that the investigation had been half-hearted, urging for a new inquiry.

January 2025: Awaiting a verdict

The final hearing at Sealdah court concluded on January 16, 2025. For many, the outcome has far-reaching effects. In the words of one protesting doctor: "This isn't just about her. This is about all of us."

On January 18, the court pronounced Sanjay Roy, the main accused, as guilty, with his sentencing due on Monday (January 20).

Mathrubhumi.com

How can we stop Kasaragod's young girls from being coerced into gold smuggling: A plea for change

<https://english.mathrubhumi.com/features/specials/kerala-gold-smuggling-and-why-kasaragod-girls-and-women-are-made-carriers-1.10264158>

Dr. G. Shreekumar Menon 18 January 2025, 11:31 AM IST

On December 27, 2022, Keralites read with disbelief the news that Kerala Police had arrested a 19-year-old girl smuggling 1.8 kgs of gold worth Rs 1 crore at the Kozhikode international airport. Mariam Shahla Shehnaz a native of Kasaragod, was caught on her arrival from Dubai on an Air India Express flight. Young and beautiful, a college student, she successfully evaded the Customs checks and came out only to be accosted by a team of Police officials, who had reliable information about her carrying contraband gold. A check of her baggage did not yield anything. Repeated questioning by the Police only elicited confident denials that she did not possess any contraband gold. It was then that the Police decided to conduct a physical search, and the cat was out of the bag. She had concealed the gold, which was in a paste form, in her private parts, said officials. Shahla told her parents and neighbours that she had to attend a 'six-day interview' in Dubai and left Kerala. The gold smuggling mafia offered the young girl Rs 1 lakh if successful and paid for her flight tickets. Shahla was made to carry 1886 grams of gold in a paste form stitched inside her underwear in three packets. The contraband was 24-carat gold and was semi-liquid. Police said the undergarment was designed by the gold smuggling mafia and given to the young lady. Gold smugglers had convinced Shahla not to be afraid since Customs rarely frisk women clad in hijab. They were right. Shahla confused the Customs officials, as she was specially instructed, not to seem nervous no matter how hard the officers questioned her. The authorities were also baffled as Shahla refused to admit the crime. They said that the lady never changed the expression on her face despite being interrogated. But, the Police saw through her game quickly and she earned notoriety as Roop ki Rani, kaam hai behmani?

Soon after, another gold smuggling team, which included a woman, was caught after being chased in Kozhikode. Deena, 30, smuggled 146 grams of gold from Dubai. She also managed to dupe the Customs, and drove away with her two friends, who came to receive her. But the Police caught her after a chase, arrested her and seized gold worth nearly ₹8,00,000.

In June 2020 Mangalore Customs officials arrested two persons for smuggling gold from Dubai. The accused were arrested at Mangalore International Airport and identified as Zeenath Banu (45) and Muhammad Iqbal (47). Both are Kasaragod residents and arrived on an Air India Express flight from Dubai smuggling gold weighing around 2.648 kgs. Banu carried the smuggled gold in her sanitary pads, while Iqbal concealed the gold inside his rectum as four balls wrapped in tape and a condom. The contraband was worth around Rs 1.40 crore.

In March 2021 officials of Mangalore Customs arrested a woman passenger, and her husband, Fousiya Missiriya Moideen Kunhi (33) and Moideen Kunhi Cheroor (44) hailing from Cheroor of Kasaragod in Kerala on the charge of smuggling gold in powder form mixed with solid gum and by concealing it in her inner garments. Gold weighing 851 grams valued at ₹39.48 lakh was seized from them.

Again in March 2021, Customs officials arrested a woman for smuggling gold worth Rs 1 crore in her underwear and socks at Mangalore airport. The accused has been identified as Sameera who hails from Kasaragod. She arrived at Mangalore on an Air India flight from Dubai. It was upon inspection, that the lady was found to be carrying gold. A total of 2.41 kg of gold worth Rs 1 crore 10 lakh and a pack of foreign cigarettes were seized from her.

Who are the people compelling Kasaragod's young girls and women to conceal gold inside their private parts? Surprisingly it is their father, husband or brother, who out of greed for accumulating wealth, are coercing their own kin to undergo these demeaning acts.

Mariam Shahla Shehnaz's father is reportedly a businessman based in Dubai. At least he must be reasonably rich, but is it ethical on his part to coerce his own daughter into concealing gold in her private parts? The young girl's photograph and of her innerwear are splashed all over social media and in many evening newspapers. It is going to be a lifetime burden and stigma for the girl. The entire procedure of inserting the gold in private parts is absolutely revolting. Girls have to completely shave their private parts, so that the gold does not get entangled with the pubic hair, or if the gold is in paste form it does not stick to the hair.

Gold is usually powdered, mixed with maida, made into capsules and either inserted into the vaginal or anal canal. Most of the time, the gold is carried and attached to the body, which is safer. Sometimes the gold powder in paste form is mixed with Maida, or even iron powder and potassium, and applied to the vagina. A solvent is added to the mixture to give it a semi-solid jelly-like form. Thereafter it is packed in plastic pouches and strapped or inserted into sensitive parts of the body, to avoid detection.

When it is concealed inside the panties, the assistance of a professional tailor is needed. Normal panties will not be able to carry the weight of the gold, as also remain body-fit. For this purpose, special measurements are taken, location of pouches identified for inserting gold, and trials conducted, before absolute strangers, who are in charge of executing these operations.

During the journey itself, the girl has to sit continuously for over three hours, and it is impossible to even answer nature's call. Hence, they are forbidden to even eat or drink several hours before the flight, so that there is no bowel movement or bladder fullness. Food or drinks are not permitted during the flight. While passing through Customs baggage clearance, perfect composure is advised, as well as normal walking, so that

sleuths in plain clothes do not get suspicious. If in the event, they are detained for checking, the procedure is totally embarrassing.

Physical check by Lady Customs officers means a strip search, checking of the vagina and rectum. Suspicion of any kind means taking the girl to a hospital, taking an x-ray of the private parts, and if there is any concealment, it will involve extraction or ejection of the contraband under medical supervision. Imagine the plight of the girl, who has to undergo scrutiny of her private parts by Customs officers, doctors, nurses, and x-ray technicians. Nowadays, because of legal complications, hospital officials may video graph the entire proceedings.

Women face trauma

Imagine the mental and physical trauma of the girl undergoing this shameful embarrassment. If in the event of her passing through Customs, smoothly, the chances of her getting caught by the Police officials while waiting outside the airport terminal, would involve similar physical examination and medical procedures, as narrated in the previous paragraph.

Even assuming that the girl is not detected, by Customs or Police, and she reaches her house, further immediate procedures start happening to extract the contraband. There may not be any medical supervision, for reasons of secrecy, but the assistance of a midwife, may be taken. The contraband if hidden in the vaginal canal may need manual assistance to bring it out without injury. If inside the anal canal, strong laxatives may be needed, as also repeated visits to the toilet. Assistance from close relatives and health workers would be needed. These procedures, if photographed secretly can be used for blackmail and sexual exploitation of young girls.

Who are these 'Grooming Gangs' of Kasaragod? Till now they have been running this exploitation racket unhindered by any law enforcement agency. Is it not time to bring them to book?

Readers may recall that an air hostess was arrested, by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) at the Kannur Airport in Kerala, in May 2024, for allegedly smuggling gold and hiding it in her rectum. The air hostess, identified as Surabhi Khatun, was found concealing around 960 grams of gold in her rectum. Maybe, she was working for some Kasaragod gang, as the airport is near Kasaragod. She was employed with Air India Express and was the cabin crew member of the plane that landed in Kannur from Muscat on May 28.

Imagine the plight of all these girls who have to undergo traumatic physical and mental experience, and extreme stress, displaying their private parts for intense scrutiny, by strangers. It is a harrowing experience, that may leave life-long scars on the psyche of these young girls. Physically, mentally and emotionally, the girls will become absolutely devastated. To add salt to the injury, the long-drawn Court proceedings may take decades, and the intimate body photographs and videos will be seen by the Court staff and the concerned Advocates.

Similar is the case in adjudication proceedings before the IRS officers, going in appeal to the Tribunal and again knocking before the Courts, seeking sympathy and condonation on various grounds. In many cases, these legal proceedings can drag on for a lifetime. The photographs and videos will be available for decades for viewing by total strangers.

Kasaragod itself has gained global notoriety for this kind of trafficking of girls for use by gold smuggling gangs. Except for Nigeria and other African countries, where women are used for carrying contraband, Kasaragod will be the only other major location where women are systematically abused, by their own kith and kin.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE), and more notably Dubai, is the main source of illegal gold in Kerala. African gold is purchased by traders of Indian origin, who then ship it to Dubai, where it is refined and then sold to expatriates, who entrust it to carriers, to carry it clandestinely to Kerala. Unfortunately, in this entire exercise, Kasaragod district and the people residing there, face opprobrium and disrepute.

Legal ordeal

The Customs and the Police have different rules to implement in gold seizure cases.

Under the Customs Act, the gold is liable to absolute confiscation under section 111 (d), (l) and (m) of the Customs Act, 1962. For smuggling of prohibited goods, the person is liable to be arrested. Further, the person is liable to a penalty, which will be around 25% of the value of gold under section 112 of the Customs Act, 1962. If the duty evaded on gold exceeds Rs. 50 lakhs, the offence becomes non-bailable.

The Police are not governed by the Customs Rules and Circulars. Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita has provided more teeth to the police to arrest gold smugglers under stringent sections by bringing it under the category of organised crimes. The first FIR and arrest in a gold smuggling case under BNS was made by Karipur police in Kerala on July 2 2024. The accused, Mohammed Rasheed P, 62, was booked under Section 111(1) (organized crime involving trafficking of illegal goods) and 111(7) (punishment for person in possession of any property on behalf of a member of an organised crime syndicate which he cannot satisfactorily account for). Police have made use of 'trafficking of illegal goods' in the section to clamp down on gold smugglers. Conviction under the Act carries a punishment of not less than five years, which may extend to imprisonment for life, and would also be liable to slap a fine not less than Rs 5 lakh.

These differing modes of action under the Customs Act and BNS are likely to create fresh legal complications. Be that as it may, another issue is why only these young girls are being punished? What about her parents, husband, the tailor at Dubai, the organizers, the accomplices who arrange for the extraction of the gold, the purifiers and melters? All these people can be booked under Protection of Human Rights Act 1993, Chapter XV of the BNS, Sections 270 to 285, which deals with offenses that affect public health, safety, convenience, decency, and morals. Action can also be taken under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005.

A plea for change

Another question that arises is why is the National Human Rights Commission, National Commission for Women, Kerala State Human Rights Commission, Kerala Women's Commission, Kerala State Minorities Rights Commission, not taking any cognizance of the egregious abuse of these Kasaragod girls? What about the role of the Member of Parliament, Member of the Legislative Assembly, Panchayat President of the locality, and NGO's, who are not enquiring into this blatant abuse of these hapless girls?

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) needs to be filed before the Supreme Court, bringing to notice that the gold smuggling racket, especially in Kasaragod, involving physical and mental abuse of girls, forced genital and anal manipulation for insertion of gold metal mixed with other metallic compounds, by confining the girls to secret locations where their rights are controlled, and subjected to appalling violation, of their right to physical integrity, which accordingly constitutes torture. An appropriate direction to the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Home Affairs will assist in developing recommendations on how to deter and prevent the exploitation of girls as gold carriers by criminal syndicates, which will be impactful to the criminal justice system, governments and the general public.

The author is former Director General of National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes & Narcotics

Asianet News

Court verdict today in Kolkata's RG Kar rape and murder case: A timeline of events

A Sealdah court in Kolkata will deliver its judgment today in the rape and murder of a trainee doctor at the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in August last year. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which took over the probe from the Kolkata Police on the Calcutta High Court's direction, has sought "maximum punishment" for Sanjay Roy, the sole accused. The trial was complete on January 9.

<https://newsable.asianetnews.com/india/court-verdict-today-in-kolkata-s-rg-kar-rape-and-murder-case-a-timeline-of-events-shk-sq9tns>

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It was a crime that shook the nation to its core. On an August morning, the body of a 31-year-old junior doctor was found in the seminar hall of the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

More than six months later, the country remains on edge, awaiting a verdict in the case as the sessions court in Sealdah, Kolkata, is poised to deliver its judgment. A Sealdah court in Kolkata will deliver its judgment today in the rape and murder of a trainee doctor at the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in August last year.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which took over the probe from the Kolkata Police on the Calcutta High Court's direction, has sought "maximum punishment" for Sanjay Roy, the sole accused. The trial was complete on January 9.

RG Kar doctor rape & murder: A timeline of events in case that shook the nation

August 9, 2024: The body of the 31-year-old junior doctor was found in the seminar hall on the fourth floor of the hospital. Her body had 16 external and nine internal injuries. The postmortem would later confirm death by manual strangulation following sexual assault. The accused, a 28-year-old traffic police volunteer named Sanjay Roy, was arrested the next day, August 10, 2024.

August 12, 2024: Just two days after the body was discovered, the West Bengal government transferred the hospital's Superintendent. But this administrative shuffle was far from enough to quell the growing outcry. The hospital's principal, Sandip Ghosh, stepped down on August 12, following nationwide protests led by the Federation of Resident Doctors Association (FORDA), which brought elective medical services to a grinding halt.

The judgement will be delivered by Anirban Das, the additional district and sessions judge of the Sealdah court. This comes 57 days after the in-camera trial commenced on November 12.

August 13: The victim's parents, along with others, filed a petition before the Calcutta High Court. They demanded an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI),

citing distrust in the Kolkata Police. The High Court agreed, handing over the case to the CBI.

August 14: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) intervened, noting visible signs of struggle on the victim's body. The Kolkata Police formally handed Sanjay Roy over to the CBI.

August 15: The nation celebrated its Independence Day, another form of protest emerged: 'Reclaim the Night' rallies, organized by women and activists, demanding justice and protection for women. At RG Kar Medical College, however, the protests turned violent. A mob vandalized the hospital and crime scene. Tensions flared further when the National Commission for Women (NCW) accused the authorities of security lapses and raised alarms that the crime site had undergone premature renovations.

August 17: The IMA announced a 24-hour nationwide strike in solidarity with the victim.

August 20: The Supreme Court itself weighed in, constituting a 10-member task force to address the safety of healthcare professionals. By the end of the month, the protests had spiralled into larger political movements. The Nabanna Abhijan march to the West Bengal secretariat turned into clashes between police and protestors, leading to a state-wide strike, called by the BJP on August 28.

September: The agency arrested Ghosh, accusing him of tampering with evidence. The officer-in-charge of the local Tala police station, Abhijit Mondal, was also detained for delaying the filing of the FIR.

November: The court formally charged Sanjay Roy only in November. Roy faced charges under India's Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including rape and murder.

December: The court granted bail to both Sandip Ghosh and Abhijit Mondal after the CBI failed to file its chargesheets within the statutory 90-day period.

For the victim's parents, it was another blow. They moved the Calcutta High Court, alleging that the investigation had been half-hearted, urging for a new inquiry.

January 2025: Verdict awaited

The in-camera trial began on November 12 and the hearing in sole accused Sanjay Roy's trial was concluded on January 9, during which 50 witnesses were examined.

Punjab Kesari

कोलकाता के आरजी कर दुष्कर्म मामले में आया कोर्ट का फैसला, आरोपी संजय रॉय दोषी करार

<https://www.punjabkesari.in/national/news/court-verdict-in-kolkata-s-rg-kar-rape-case-accused-sanjay-roy-found-guilty-2091392>

Edited By Parminder Kaur, Updated: 18 Jan, 2025 02:39 PM

कोलकाता के सियालदह स्थित सेशन कोर्ट ने आज आरजी कर मेडिकल कॉलेज और अस्पताल की 31 वर्षीय प्रशिक्षु डॉक्टर के दुष्कर्म और हत्या के मामले में फैसला सुना दिया है। कोर्ट ने आरोपी संजय रॉय को दोषी करार दे दिया है। यह घटना 9 अगस्त, 2024 को हुई थी, जिसने...

नेशनल डेस्क. कोलकाता के सियालदह स्थित सेशन कोर्ट ने आज आरजी कर मेडिकल कॉलेज और अस्पताल की 31 वर्षीय प्रशिक्षु डॉक्टर के दुष्कर्म और हत्या के मामले में फैसला सुना दिया है। कोर्ट ने आरोपी संजय रॉय को दोषी करार दे दिया है। यह घटना 9 अगस्त, 2024 को हुई थी, जिसने पूरे देश को हिला कर रख दिया था और बड़े पैमाने पर विरोध प्रदर्शन हुए थे।

घटना का पूरा विवरण

9 अगस्त, 2024: प्रशिक्षु डॉक्टर का अर्धनग्न शव अस्पताल के सेमिनार हॉल की तीसरी मंजिल पर मिला।

10 अगस्त: कोलकाता पुलिस ने आरोपी संजय रॉय को हिरासत में लिया। इसके बाद पश्चिम बंगाल में डॉक्टरों का पहला विरोध प्रदर्शन शुरू हुआ।

12 अगस्त: मुख्यमंत्री ममता बनर्जी ने कोलकाता पुलिस को 7 दिनों के भीतर मामला सुलझाने का अल्टीमेटम दिया। साथ ही अस्पताल के प्राचार्य संदीप घोष ने विरोध के चलते अपने पद से इस्तीफा दे दिया।

13 अगस्त: कलकत्ता हाईकोर्ट ने मामले को गंभीरता से लिया और इसे "बहुत ही भयावह" करार दिया। कोर्ट ने डॉक्टरों से अपनी सेवाएं फिर से शुरू करने की अपील की। इसके साथ ही एनएचआरसी (राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग) ने भी इस मामले पर संज्ञान लिया।

14 अगस्त: हाईकोर्ट ने आरजी कर के पूर्व प्राचार्य संदीप घोष को लंबी छुट्टी पर भेज दिया और केस को सीबीआई को सौंप दिया। सीबीआई ने आरोपी को अपनी हिरासत में ले लिया।

15 अगस्त: स्वतंत्रता दिवस की रात आरजी कर अस्पताल पर भीड़ ने हमला किया और आपातकालीन विभाग में तोड़फोड़ की।

16 अगस्त: पुलिस ने तोड़फोड़ के आरोप में 19 लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया।

20 अगस्त: सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार और कोलकाता पुलिस को मामले की स्थिति रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने का आदेश दिया।

24 अगस्त: मुख्य आरोपी और 6 अन्य का लाई डिटेक्टर टेस्ट किया गया।

2 सितंबर: सीबीआई ने वित्तीय अनियमितताओं के आरोप में संदीप घोष को गिरफ्तार किया।

14 सितंबर: सीबीआई ने फिर से संदीप घोष और कोलकाता पुलिस अधिकारी अभिजीत मंडल को एफआईआर में देरी और सबूत गायब करने के आरोप में गिरफ्तार किया।

7 अक्टूबर: सीबीआई ने संजय राँय के खिलाफ दुष्कर्म और हत्या के मामले में चार्जशीट दाखिल की।

11 नवंबर: सियालदह कोर्ट में ट्रायल शुरू हुआ।

18 जनवरी, 2025: सियालदह कोर्ट ने आज इस मामले में फैसला सुनाते हुए आरोपी संजय राँय को दोषी करार दे दिया है।

Lagatar

EXCLUSIVE: आदिम जनजाति बिरहोर मौत मामले में NHRC ने हजारीबाग डीसी, एसपी व रांची श्रमायुक्त को भेजा रिमाइंडर

<https://lagatar.in/national-human-rights-commission-sent-reminder-to-hazaribagh-dc-sp-and-ranchi-labor-commissioner-in-the-case-of-death-of-primitive-tribe-birhor/>

January 18, 2025

Ranchi/Hazaribagh: हजारीबाग जिले के केरेडारी प्रखंड में भारत सरकार की महारत्न कंपनी NTPC के चट्टी बरियातू कोल परियोजना में खनन के दुष्प्रभाव से आदिम जनजाति समुदाय के किरणी बिरहोर और बहादुर बिरहोर की मौत के मामले में राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग द्वारा पूर्व में 25 नवम्बर 2024 को मांगी गई कार्रवाई की रिपोर्ट नहीं भेजे जाने पर हजारीबाग डीसी, एसपी और रांची श्रमायुक्त को रिमाइंडर भेजे हुए 24 फरवरी तक रिपोर्ट मांगा है। अगर समय से रिपोर्ट नहीं भेजा जाता है तो मानव सुरक्षा कानून 1993 की धारा 13 के तहत कार्रवाई की चेतावनी दी गयी है। जिसका प्रति झारखंड के मुख्य सचिव को भी दिया गया है। शनि कांत की शिकायत के पर मानवाधिकार आयोग मामले को संज्ञान में लेकर कार्यवाही चला रही है।

आदिम जनजाति बिरहोरों की मौत पर प्रशासन की भूमिका पर उठते रहे हैं गंभीर सवाल, जांच रिपोर्ट की अनुसंधान पर अब तक क्यों नहीं हुई कार्रवाई?

एनटीपीसी के चट्टी बरियातू कोल परियोजना को लेकर कंपनी और स्थानीय प्रशासन की भूमिका को लेकर लगातार गंभीर सवाल खड़ा किए जाते रहे हैं। जिसमें मुख्य रूप से यह कि चट्टी बरियातू कोल खनन परियोजना के खनन स्थल के समीप आदिम जनजाति समुदाय के बिरहोर टोला निवासी नाबालिग किरणी बिरहोर और बहादुर उर्फ दुर्गा बिरहोर की मौत के मामले में सदर अनुमंडल पदाधिकारी की अध्यक्षता में गठित पांच सदस्यीय जांच दल का रिपोर्ट उपायुक्त हजारीबाग को भेजा गया था।

पांच सदस्यीय जांच दल ने रिपोर्ट में यह कहा है कि NTPC द्वारा खनन कार्य बिरहोर टोला, पगार से सटा हुआ क्षेत्र में किया जा रहा है। इस क्षेत्र में खनन एवं परिवहन का कार्य होने के कारण बहुत अधिक धूलकण हवा में विद्यमान हैं। जिससे प्रदूषण की गंभीर समस्या उत्पन्न हुई है एवं पगार बिरहोर टोला के निवासियों के स्वास्थ्य पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ रहा है। प्रदूषण के कारण स्वांस एवं अन्य बिमारियों की संभावना बना हुआ है। साथ ही साथ माइनिंग करने के लिए विस्फोट (Explosion) किया जाता है, जिसके कारण कोई भी बड़ी दुर्घटना घट सकती है।

इसके साथ जांच दल ने जांच रिपोर्ट के मंतव्य में यह लिखा था कि जब तक बिरहोर परिवारों का पगार बिरहोर टोला से अन्यत्र आवासित नहीं किया जाता है, तब तक बिरहोर टोला के आसपास माइनिंग का कार्य करना श्रेयस्कर नहीं है, कहा गया था। इससे लुप्तप्राय आदिम जनजाति बिरहोर समुदाय की बस्ती पर गंभीर खतरे और जानबूझकर प्रशासनिक अनदेखी की पुष्टि होती है। साथ ही अब तक जांच दल के उक्त मंतव्य के बाद भी खनन कार्य कैसे जारी रखा गया है?

इसके अलावे कोल परियोजना के लिए नियुक्त माइन डेवलपर और ऑपरेटर (MDO) Rithwik- AMR Consortium, के माध्यम से किए जा रहे खनन प्रकरण में स्थानीय प्रशासन, अंचलाधिकारी, थाना प्रभारी,

जिला खनन भूमिका व आदिम जनजाति समुदाय की दो लोगों की मौत के बाद मौत के कारणों को छुपाने और अपनी जिम्मेवारी और दोषियों को बचाने के लिए जिस प्रकार अप्राकृतिक/संदेहास्पद मौत की स्थिति में अनिवार्य पोस्टमार्टम के लिए under section 174(3) of the code of criminal proce,1973 (CRPC) के तहत नहीं कराया गया, उससे जिला प्रशासन की भूमिका स्पष्ट होती है. इसके अलावे पांच सदस्यीय टीम के मंतव्य पर कोई कार्रवाई नहीं करना जिला प्रशासन का आरोपियों से मिलीभगत भी स्पष्ट होता दिखता है.

खनन कार्य से पहले खान सुरक्षा नियमों की अवहेलना क्यों हुई? कोई बताने को तैयार नहीं?

यह कि चट्टी बरियातू परियोजना के खनन के दुष्प्रभाव से नाबालिक किरणी बिरहोर और बहादुर बिरहोर उर्फ दुर्गा बिरहोर की मौत पर जांच के संबंध में एसडीओ को अध्यक्षता वाली जांच रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है “सभी बिरहोर परिवार पास के जंगल में जाना चाहते हैं, लेकिन नोटिफाइड वनभूमि (वनाधिकार अधिनियम 2006) होने के कारण वन विभाग के FRA के तहत भूमि की उपलब्धता प्रक्रियाधीन है” जबकि उक्त परियोजना के लिए फॉरेस्ट क्लियरेंस के लिए वर्ष 2011 में उपायुक्त हजारीबाग के कार्यालय द्वारा जारी प्रमाण पत्र में वनाधिकार अधिनियम 2006 के अंतर्गत settlement of Rights की प्रक्रिया पूर्ण कर लिए जाने की जानकारी बताई गई है.

अब उन्हें बसाने की बात कही जा रही है तो सवाल उठता है कि वर्ष 2011 में वनाधिकार कानून के तहत सेटलमेंट की बात झूठ थी. उसी प्रकार खनन कार्य शुरू करने से पहले खान सुरक्षा का उल्लंघन कर खनन क्यों और कैसे होने दिया गया? पर्यावरण/प्रदूषण और विस्फोटक सुरक्षा मानकों का भी उल्लंघन किया गया था.

बिरहोर बस्ती के आग्रह को किया गया दरकिनार, किसी ने नहीं सुनी

पगार बिरहोर बस्ती के आदिम जनजाति बिरहोर टोला के लोगों ने खनन की शुरुवात से पूर्व संभावित खतरे और नुकसान को देखते हुए दिनांक 22 अप्रैल 2022 को स्थानीय जिला प्रशासन के साथ मुख्यमंत्री झारखण्ड सरकार को उन्हें अन्यत्र बसा कर खनन शुरू करने का मांग किया था, तो उस पर सुनवाई या कार्रवाई क्यों नहीं हुआ? क्यों आदिम जनजाति समुदाय के बिरहोर लोगों की मांग को अनसुना कर उनकी सामूहिक जान को खतरे में डालकर, उनकी चिंता किए वगैर स्थानीय प्रशासन ने खनन कार्य क्यों शुरू होने दिया गया.

इसके अलावे खनन के दुष्प्रभाव से किरणी बिरहोर और दुर्गा उर्फ बहादुर बिरहोर की मौत पर खनन एजेंसियों द्वारा किस आधार पर 40 हजार मुआवजा दिया गया. पूरे प्रकरण के पीछे की कहानी यह बताया जाता है कि कोयला मंत्रालय द्वारा समय और लक्ष्य के मुताबिक चट्टी बरियातू कोयला परियोजना से उत्पादन, खनन और परिवहन में विलंब के लिए बैंक गारंटी का तीस प्रतिशत जब्त कर लिया गया था. इसलिए जिला प्रशासन से मिलीभगत कर प्रयोक्ता एजेंसी द्वारा आनन-फानन में आदिम जनजाति समुदाय पर खतरों को दरकिनार कर खनन कार्य चालू किया गया था.