

# ‘Violation of human rights’: NHRC takes note of infra gaps in Kerala jails

P RAMDAS @ Kochi

THE National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has initiated suo motu proceedings based on a *The New Indian Express* report highlighting lack of infrastructure and manpower for prisoners to pursue education in prisons in Kerala.

The report – ‘Short-staffed Kerala jails struggle to support inmates’ education dreams’ – published on April 25, based on proceedings in the Kerala High Court, highlighted that a growing number of inmates, including those convicted of grave crimes, are choosing to turn their lives around by enrolling for regular or online educational courses, but authorities are struggling to support their efforts. The commission observed that “the contents of the news report, if true, raise issues of violation of human rights of the prisoners who intend to pursue educational programmes/ courses.”

It issued a notice to the Kerala director general of prisons calling for a detailed report on the matter within four weeks. Opposing the petition filed by



Balamurali N, of Kasaragod, who sought one month’s interim bail to enable him to seek admission in a law college in Mangaluru, the superintendent of Kanur central prison and correctional home had informed the HC that there is no monitoring system in place to ensure that the internet is used solely for educational purposes, raising concerns about potential misuse, which could even affect the security of the prison.

Granting access to online educational facilities could lead to unauthorised access of the internet for illegal communications or other illicit activities.

It is difficult to effectively supervise online learning, which inmates may exploit for unauthorised purposes, thereby compromising security.

There is a need for additional staff and resources, which are currently unavailable at the prison, to ensure proper monitoring and security of online courses, the officer had stated.

The superintendent also submitted that many inmates, including dangerous criminals, are now trying to apply for regular courses as a devious tactic to get interim release and to facilitate their travel outside the prison.



## Bail welcome; why rebuke prof?

**T**he Supreme Court granting interim bail to Ashoka University assistant professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad, arrested for expressing his opinion about Operation Sindoor, may have come as a relief for him, but the conditions and references the court has made trigger a feeling of foreboding regarding the shrinking space for free speech in the country. In contrast, the suo motu intervention of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in the case directing the Haryana state police chief to submit a detailed report on his arrest is to be welcomed.

A plain reading of the Facebook post Prof Mahmudabad wrote would convince anyone that he was attempting to expose the fakery of the right wing's celebration of an Army officer while indulging in lynching of individual citizens and resorting to bulldozer raj. What followed was, however, akin to the developments that can happen only in a banana republic: He was arrested and remanded in judicial custody for 14 days based on a petition of a statutory body. From the lower court to the highest, the judiciary failed to uphold the right to freedom of speech and expression, guaranteed under Article 19 of the Constitution.

Worse, the apex court admonished the academic for the timing of his remarks calling them "dog whistling" and an attempt to get "cheap publicity". It has barred him from talking about Operation Sindoor, an action of the Government of India, too. This is highly regrettable. The mandates of Article 19 have no constraints of timing or subject save pertaining to those mentioned in the Constitution itself. As the NHRC rightly pointed out, the arrest and incarceration of a citizen for expressing his opinion was, prima facie, a violation of his human rights and liberty. It is bit unnerving that the ultra-nationalism whipped up by a section of the people can put a question mark on democratic rights such as life, liberty and free speech. Courts exist to protect those sacred rights, not to endanger them.



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**NHRC takes suo moto cognisance of an incident at Ashoka University**

NHRC came across a news report dated May 20 regarding the arrest and remand to custody of a Professor of Ashoka University in Haryana. The Commission has noted that the report, which contains a gist of the allegations based on which he has been arrested, discloses, prima facie, that the human rights and liberty of the said Professor have been violated.

# SC grants interim bail to Mahmudabad, orders an SIT probe and a gag

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN G**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 21



**Ali Khan Mahmudabad**

DECLINING TO stay the investigation against him over his online posts on Operation Sindoor and restraining him from speaking or writing on the matter, the Supreme Court granted interim bail Wednesday to Ashoka University Professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad who was arrested by Haryana Police.

On Tuesday, a court in

Sonapat, where Ashoka University is located, had sent Mahmudabad to judicial custody until May 27.

Observing that Mahmudabad's remarks

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## • SC grants interim bail to Mahmudabad, orders SIT

amounted to "dog whistling", the bench of Justices Surya Kant and N K Singh declined to stay the investigation in the two FIRs registered in connection with the posts. It directed the constitution of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) "comprising three directly recruited IPS officers, who do not belong to the States of Haryana or Delhi".

"The SIT shall be headed by an officer at least in the rank of Inspector General of Police, the remaining two members will be officers in rank of Superintendent of Police and above. One of the members of the SIT will be a woman IPS officer," it stated, directing the Director General of Police to constitute the SIT within 24 hours and asking Mahmudabad to "fully cooperate with the investigation".

While granting him interim relief, the bench restrained Mahmudabad from making any online post or writing any article or delivering any speech on the issue, the subject matter of the investigation, or "expressing any opinion in relation to the terrorist attack on Indian soil or the counter response given by our armed forces". Having regard to the contents of the two alleged offending posts uploaded on social media, which have led to the registration of two FIRs against the petitioner, we are satisfied that no case for staying the investigation is made out. However, to holistically understand the complexity of the phraseology employed and for

proper appreciation of some of the expressions used in these two online posts, we direct the Director General of Police, Haryana to constitute an SIT..., the bench said.

It said "one of the objects of granting interim bail is to facilitate the ongoing investigation. If the SIT/Investigating Agency finds any other incriminating material against the petitioner, it shall beat liberty to place it on record and seek modification of the interim order."

Earlier, appearing for Mahmudabad, Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal referred to the post on Facebook and Instagram, and said, "This is a highly patriotic statement." He said the post talks about "right-wing commentators applauding Colonel Sofiya Qureshi" and that they must equally express concern for victims of mob lynching, bulldozing, etc. Justice Surya Kant said while the professor was giving an opinion on the effects of war on civilians and Army personnel, "now he is turning to politics... So after commenting about war, he has turned to politics."

Noting that while all have a right to express themselves, Justice Surya Kant asked if this was the right time to speak on the issue.

"Is this the time to talk... this much communal outburst?... The country has faced a big challenge. The monsters came from an altogether different jurisdiction, and attacked our innocent people. At

that time, when we are united, somebody is trying to... We are not saying you, there are other people also. Unfortunately, why are they trying to gain cheap popularity on this occasion?" he said.

Sibal expressed the view that Mahmudabad "could have waited till after the 10th (May 10 when India, Pakistan agreed to stop military actions). It could have waited, but there's no criminal intent here. That's all. The next day, a complaint is filed, at 6.30 in the morning, and he's arrested."

He said the professor is "saluting them (soldiers). He's not denigrating them. He is questioning... Pakistan."

Justice Surya Kant said, "We don't know what has happened in this society. In the other matter we are dealing with, somebody is saying the right to freedom... There has to be some responsibility... Where is the duty to protect others? Everybody talks of rights, I have the right to do this, right to do that. As if the whole country, from the last 75 years, is only distributing rights without telling you what your duty is towards the nation."

As Sibal intervened to explain Mahmudabad's words, Justice Surya Kant said, "Mr Sibal, with your academic standards, you can understand very well. This is called what? This is called, if we understand in law, dog whistling."

Sibal repeated: "There's no criminal intent. That's clear. It's a very patriotic statement."

At one point during the hear-

ing, Justice Surya Kant asked where Mahmudabad was teaching. Sibal said he was teaching at Ashoka University but had not been going to work for the last three months.

The bench cautioned against "irresponsible statements" by students, faculty on the issue.

"We read in today's paper that the students, the professors... if they dare to do anything, we will pass an order... It is not acceptable to us that some of these so-called private universities open, and then all kinds of elements join hands there, and they start making irresponsible statements. We know how to deal with these people. They are not outside our jurisdiction. They must understand that," Justice Surya Kant said.

The bench was told that there was another write-up in which Mahmudabad had written that "despite a ceasefire there are those who are baying for war" and "war has gone from being somewhat self-contained to now being everywhere and nowhere at the same time".

Sibal said, "He is commenting on what contemporary India is doing. And it's an opinion."

Justice Surya Kant said what's happening is unfortunate. "When the choice of words is deliberately made to insult, humiliate or cause some kind of discomfort to others... a learned professor cannot have a lack of words. He could convey these very feelings in a very simple language without hurting anyone."

"You have a right to express, but please keep the sentiments of

others also in mind. Have some respect for them also. Use such terminology, which is simple, respectful. Very neutral kind of language," he said.

Following the grant of interim bail to Mahmudabad, Ashoka University, in a statement, said: "We are relieved and heartened by Prof Ali Khan Mahmudabad being granted interim bail by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. It has provided great comfort to his family and all of us at Ashoka University."

Meanwhile, the National Human Rights Commission, in a statement to the press, said it had sought a detailed report from the Haryana DGP within a week on the arrest and custodial remand of Mahmudabad.

"The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India has come across a news report dated 20th May, 2025 regarding the arrest and remand to custody of a Professor of Ashoka University (a deemed to be University) in Haryana," its statement said.

"The Commission has noted that the report, which contains a gist of the allegations on the basis of which he has been arrested, discloses, prima facie, that the human rights and liberty of the said Professor have been violated. Therefore, it has deemed it to be a fit case for taking suo motu cognizance of the reported incident. Accordingly, it has issued a notice to the Director General of Police, Haryana, calling for a detailed report in the matter within one week," the NHRC said.

—WITH ENS, NEW DELHI

## New Indian Express

### Fill top position in state disability panel, improve Asha Kiran, says NHRC

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/delhi/2025/May/22/fill-top-position-in-state-disability-panel-improve-asha-kiran-says-nhrc>

Ashish Srivastava

The panel has asked the top bureaucrat to submit an action taken report by July 11.

NEW DELHI: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the Delhi Chief Secretary to speed up appointment of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD), a post that has been lying vacant for over a year. The panel has asked the top bureaucrat to submit an action taken report by July 11.

In its communication, the Commission also called for urgent action to address the severe shortage of healthcare staff at the Asha Kiran shelter home, which came under scrutiny last year after 28 inmates died within a month.

The directive comes after a complaint from a member of the NHRC's Core Group on Disability – Dr Satendra Singh – who is also part of the advisory committee assisting the Delhi SCPD.

The complaint raised grave concerns over neglect of the rights and welfare of people with disabilities in the capital. Dr Singh highlighted the non-functioning of District Level Committees, absense of meetings of State Advisory Board on disability, and lack of policy implementation for individuals with high support needs.

The NHRC took cognisance of the matter on October 8, 2024, and asked the government to submit an action taken report within four weeks. In response, the Social Welfare Department submitted a report in February 2025, stating that the recruitment process for the SCPD was initiated on October 30, 2024 while the department secretary has been given interim charge of the position. The NHRC noted that while some progress has been made since its intervention, a response was triggered only after the panel took notice.

#### 'Asha Kiran staff being recruited'

The Delhi govt report stated that steps are being taken to recruit staff for Asha Kiran, and a proposal to hire workers on outsourced basis has been submitted to address the urgent lack of health workers. However, key posts including that of the Superintendent remain unfilled

#### Cabinet nod to aid disabled

A Cabinet note for a financial aid scheme for people with disabilities requiring high support was approved in October 2024.

## India Today

### Ashoka University relieved as Supreme Court grants interim bail to professor

<https://bestcolleges.indiatoday.in/news-detail/ashoka-university-relieved-as-supreme-court-grants-interim-bail-to-professor-3576>

Arunima Jha

The university reassured after the Supreme Court granted interim bail to Prof Ali Khan Mahmudabad, as NHRC questions rights violations in the arrest over Operation Sindoor remarks

The Ashoka University on Wednesday expressed relief after the Supreme Court granted its member of faculty, Professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad, interim bail. In the meantime, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognisance of a report in the media that, on the face of it, indicates a breach of human rights and personal liberty of the professor.

"Prof Ali Khan Mahmudabad's being granted interim bail by the Hon'ble Supreme Court is a relief and a source of heartening for us. It has brought immense solace to his family and all of us at Ashoka University," said the university in a statement. This is after its previous clarification that Prof Mahmudabad's social media posts were made in his capacity.

Department of Political Science head Professor Mahmudabad was detained after the Haryana State Commission for Women took suo motu cognisance of his social media post on Operation Sindoor on May 12. In his blog, he had recognised the importance of the media briefing by Colonel Sofiya Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, but cautioned against the danger of "hypocrisy" if symbolic optics did not lead to real change. The commission interpreted the statements as a bid to scandalise national military achievements.

As the Supreme Court allowed interim bail, it labelled the professor's comments as "dog whistling" and declined to stay the investigation. The court also asked the Haryana Director General of Police to form a three-member Special Investigation Team.

The NHRC, based on a report of May 20, said the arrest of the Ashoka University professor was serious. "The report, which details the charges for his arrest, prima facie indicates that the said Professor's human rights and freedom have been violated. So, the Commission has found it proper to take suo motu cognisance of the episode," it said. The Commission has directed a notice to the Haryana DGP, requesting a detailed report within seven days.

The Committee for Academic Freedom (CAF) at Ashoka University had earlier denounced the arrest as a "disproportionate punishment made on flimsy grounds" and "a fundamental attack on academic freedom." Calling on the university to stand by its professor, the committee asserted, "This is a clear curtailment of his freedom as an academic and public intellectual."

A second statement released on May 16, one that was signed by more than 1,000 members of the academic community, demanded the retraction of the notice sent to Prof Mahmudabad by the Haryana State Commission for Women and an apology. "A plain reading of his initial postings indicates that Prof Khan lauded the strategic restraint of the military... Rather than being anti-national or misogynistic, his postings evince a moral commitment to the ideals of good citizenship," the statement concluded.

## Deccan Chronicle

### DC Edit | Bail Welcome; Why Rebuke Prof?

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/opinion/dc-comment/dc-edit-bail-welcome-why-rebuke-prof-1880715>

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The Supreme Court granting interim bail to Ashoka University assistant professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad, arrested for expressing his opinion about Operation Sindoor, may have come as a relief for him, but the conditions and references the court has made trigger a feeling of foreboding regarding the shrinking space for free speech in the country. In contrast, the suo motu intervention of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in the case directing the Haryana state police chief to submit a detailed report on his arrest is to be welcomed.

A plain reading of the Facebook post Prof Mahmudabad wrote would convince anyone that he was attempting to expose the fakery of the right wing's celebration of an Army officer while indulging in lynching of individual citizens and resorting to bulldozer raj. What followed was, however, akin to the developments that can happen only in a banana republic: He was arrested and remanded in judicial custody for 14 days based on a petition of a statutory body. From the lower court to the highest, the judiciary failed to uphold the right to freedom of speech and expression, guaranteed under Article 19 of the Constitution.

Worse, the apex court admonished the academic for the timing of his remarks calling them "dog whistling" and an attempt to get "cheap publicity". It has barred him from talking about Operation Sindoor, an action of the Government of India, too. This is highly regrettable. The mandates of Article 19 have no constraints of timing or subject save pertaining to those mentioned in the Constitution itself. As the NHRC rightly pointed out, the arrest and incarceration of a citizen for expressing his opinion was, prima facie, a violation of his human rights and liberty. It is bit unnerving that the ultra-nationalism whipped up by a section of the people can put a question mark on democratic rights such as life, liberty and free speech. Courts exist to protect those sacred rights, not to endanger them.

## One India

### Ashoka University Professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad Walks Out Of Sonapat Jail After SC Grants Him Bail

<https://www.oneindia.com/india/ashoka-university-professor-ali-khan-mahmudabad-walks-out-of-sonapat-jail-after-sc-grants-him-bail-4160959.html>

Devika Shankar

Ashoka University associate professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad has been released from Sonapat district jail following the Supreme Court's decision to grant him interim bail on Wednesday.

Professor Mahmudabad, who leads the Political Science department at Ashoka University, was arrested on 18 May over a social media post related to "Operation Sindoor," India's military retaliation to the 22 April Pahalgam terror attack.

The post resulted in two FIRs being lodged against him by BJP youth leader Yogesh Jatheri and the Chairperson of the Haryana State Commission for Women, Renu Bhatia.

The complaints alleged that his remarks incited enmity and posed a threat to national integrity.

While granting bail, the Supreme Court criticised Mahmudabad's language and stressed the importance of striking a balance between freedom of speech and civic responsibility.

The court also directed the establishment of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to examine the intent and context behind his statements.

His arrest drew major backlash from academics, human rights advocates, and political figures, who deemed it an assault on academic freedom and the right to free expression.

The Faculty Association of Ashoka University denounced the arrest, calling the charges "groundless and untenable."

#### NHRC Seeks Report on Ali Khan Mahmudabad's Arrest

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a notice to the Director General of Police, Haryana, expressing concern about possible violations of Mahmudabad's rights during his arrest and detention.

In a statement, the commission said it had reviewed a media report dated 20 May, which "contains a gist of the allegations on the basis of which he has been arrested."

"It discloses prima facie that the human rights and liberty of the said professor have been violated. Therefore, it has deemed it to be a fit case for taking suo moto cognisance of the reported incident," the statement added.

Ashoka University expressed appreciation for the Supreme Court's intervention.

"We are relieved and heartened by Prof Ali Khan Mahmudabad being granted interim bail by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. It has provided great comfort to his family and all of us at Ashoka University," the university said in a statement.

## ABP

अशोका यूनिवर्सिटी के प्रोफेसर की गिरफ्तारी पर NHRC का हरियाणा DGP को नोटिस, बोला- 'ये मानवाधिकार...'

<https://www.abplive.com/news/india/nhrc-issues-notice-to-haryana-dgp-over-arrest-of-ashoka-university-professor-ali-khan-mahmudabad-pahalgam-terror-attack-operation-sindoor-pakistan-2948525>

Avinash Jha

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने अशोका यूनिवर्सिटी के प्रोफेसर अली खान महमूदाबाद की गिरफ्तारी पर हरियाणा के पुलिस प्रमुख को नोटिस जारी किया है. आयोग ने एक सप्ताह में रिपोर्ट मांगी है.

Ali Khan Mahmudabad Case: राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (NHRC) ने बुधवार को कहा कि उसने अशोका यूनिवर्सिटी (Ashoka University) के एक एसोसिएट प्रोफेसर की गिरफ्तारी और उन्हें हिरासत में भेजे जाने के मामले में हरियाणा के पुलिस प्रमुख को नोटिस जारी किया है और एक सप्ताह के भीतर रिपोर्ट मांगी है. एनएचआरसी ने एक बयान में कहा कि उसने इस गिरफ्तारी से संबंधित खबर का 'स्वतः संज्ञान' लिया है.

एनएचआरसी ने कही ये बात

आयोग ने कहा कि 'खबर में उन आरोपों का सार है जिनके आधार पर उन्हें गिरफ्तार किया गया है और यह खबर प्रथम दृष्टया खुलासा करती है कि उक्त प्रोफेसर के मानवाधिकारों और स्वतंत्रता का उल्लंघन किया गया है.' अशोका यूनिवर्सिटी के राजनीति विज्ञान विभाग के प्रमुख अली खान महमूदाबाद के वकील और पुलिस ने पहले बताया था कि 'ऑपरेशन सिंदूर' के बारे में सोशल मीडिया पर पोस्ट कर संप्रभुता और अखंडता को खतरे में डालने समेत कड़े आरोपों में दो प्राथमिकियां दर्ज किये जाने के बाद रविवार को अली खान को गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया.

NHRC ने पहलगाम हमले का लिया संज्ञान

जम्मू कश्मीर के पहलगाम में 22 अप्रैल को हुए आतंकी हमले (Pahalgam Terror Attack) के बाद भारतीय सैन्य बलों ने ऑपरेशन सिंदूर (Operation Sindoor) चलाया और पाकिस्तान और उसके कब्जे वाले कश्मीर में आतंकी ठिकानों को निशाना बनाया था. एनएचआरसी ने कहा कि उसने '20 मई को यह न्यूज देखा कि हरियाणा में अशोका यूनिवर्सिटी (एक मानद विश्वविद्यालय) के एक प्रोफेसर को गिरफ्तार कर हिरासत में भेजा गया है.' उसने कहा कि इसलिए, आयोग ने इस कथित घटना का स्वतः संज्ञान लेने के लिए इसे उपयुक्त मामला माना है. तदनुसार, आयोग ने हरियाणा के पुलिस महानिदेशक को नोटिस जारी कर एक सप्ताह के भीतर विस्तृत रिपोर्ट मांगी है.

## Deshbandhu

### प्रोफेसर अली खान मामले में मैंने कोई पत्र नहीं लिखा : प्रियांक कानूनगो

<https://www.deshbandhu.co.in/states/i-did-not-write-any-letter-in-professor-ali-khan-case-priyank-kanungo-557542-1>

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने हरियाणा की अशोका यूनिवर्सिटी के प्रोफेसर अली खान महमूदाबाद की गिरफ्तारी और हिरासत को लेकर स्वतः संज्ञान लिया है

नई दिल्ली। राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने हरियाणा की अशोका यूनिवर्सिटी के प्रोफेसर अली खान महमूदाबाद की गिरफ्तारी और हिरासत को लेकर स्वतः संज्ञान लिया है। आयोग ने हरियाणा के पुलिस महानिदेशक (डीजीपी) को पत्र लिखकर इस पूरे मामले पर एक सप्ताह के भीतर विस्तृत रिपोर्ट मांगी है।

प्रोफेसर महमूदाबाद की गिरफ्तारी को लेकर विभिन्न मानवाधिकार संगठनों और शिक्षाविदों द्वारा चिंता जताई गई थी, जिसके बाद एनएचआरसी ने इस पूरे मामले को गंभीरता से लिया।

इस बीच एनएचआरसी के सदस्य प्रियांक कानूनगो ने स्पष्ट किया है कि उन्होंने यह पत्र नहीं लिखा है। समाचार एजेंसी आईएनएस से बात करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि यह पत्र उनके संस्थान की ओर से भेजा गया है। उन्होंने यह भी बताया कि मानवाधिकार कानून की धारा 36 के अनुसार यदि किसी राज्य में पहले से ही राज्य मानवाधिकार आयोग ने संज्ञान लिया हो, तो फिर राष्ट्रीय आयोग उसी मामले में दोबारा संज्ञान नहीं ले सकता।

इस दौरान प्रियांक कानूनगो आईएनएस से दूरी बनाते हुए नजर आए और सार्वजनिक रूप से कोई विस्तृत बयान नहीं दिया। हालांकि, उन्होंने यह स्पष्ट कर दिया कि यह पत्र उनकी ओर से नहीं लिखा गया है।

बता दें कि प्रोफेसर अली खान महमूदाबाद पर 'ऑपरेशन सिंदूर' और भारतीय सेना की महिला अधिकारी कर्नल सोफिया कुरैशी और वायुसेना की विंग कमांडर व्योमिका सिंह पर आपत्तिजनक टिप्पणी का आरोप है। हालांकि, इस मामले में सुप्रीम कोर्ट से उन्हें अंतरिम जमानत मिल गई। प्रोफेसर अली खान महमूदाबाद को जस्टिस सूर्यकांत और जस्टिस एन. कोटिश्वर सिंह की बेंच ने अंतरिम जमानत दी है। वरिष्ठ वकील कपिल सिब्बल ने अली खान के मामले की पैरवी की।

अंतरिम जमानत देने के साथ ही सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने हरियाणा सरकार को नोटिस जारी किया है। कोर्ट ने मामले की जांच के लिए तीन आईपीएस अधिकारियों की एसआईटी बनाई है। प्रोफेसर अली खान को सोशल मीडिया पर विवादित पोस्ट से जुड़ा दूसरा कोई पोस्ट नहीं लिखने का आदेश दिया गया है। साथ ही उन्हें अपना पासपोर्ट सोनीपत की अदालत में सरेंजर करने का आदेश भी दिया गया है।

## Times of India

**‘Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad’s rights seem to have been violated’: NHRC issues notice to Haryana DGP**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/gurgaon/ashoka-university-professor-ali-khan-mahmudabads-rights-seem-to-have-been-violated-nhrc-issues-notice-to-haryana-dgp/articleshow/121329951.cms>

CHANDIGARH: NHRC on Wednesday issued a notice to Haryana director general of police, asking for a detailed report within one week on Ali Khan Mahmudabad's arrest and remand to custody.

The commission said it had taken "suo motu cognisance" of a media report on the professor's arrest for his allegedly offensive posts related to Operation Sindoor. NHRC noted that the media report discloses "prima facie, that the human rights and liberty of the professor had been violated".

Ashoka prof gets interim bail, and gag order from top court

Supreme Court on Wednesday granted interim bail to Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad but refused to stay the FIR and ordered the Haryana DGP to constitute an SIT of IPS officers to probe the bona fides of his allegedly objectionable statement made during Operation Sindoor.

Applying the standards of scrutiny enforced in the case of MP minister Vijay Shah who made "crass comments" against Col Sofiya Qureshi, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh perused Mahmudabad's statements and said, "Everyone has a right to express opinion. But was that the right time to say what he did? When the country was facing a challenge, why make statements on communal lines? Why is he trying to get cheap publicity in such a situation?"

The bench said "no case for stay of investigation is made out" and barred the petitioner from making any statement on Op Sindoor or related issues. The bench found that while commenting on Indo-Pak hostilities and Pakistan-backed terror activities, Mahmudabad had talked about 'mob lynching' and 'bulldozer justice'.