

Do not go left or right, SC tells SIT probing prof

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BENGALURU: The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed that the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe against Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad must be confined strictly to the contents of the two First Information Reports (FIRs) registered against him over his Facebook posts on "Operation Sindoor" and that there was no need for it to ask for his electronic devices.

A bench of justices Surya Kant and Dipankar Datta clarified that the SIT, constituted by Haryana following a previous order of the apex court, cannot investigate matters "beyond the scope" of the two FIRs already registered against Mahmudabad.

"We direct that the investigation of SIT be confined to the contents of the two FIRs subject matter of these proceedings," the court said. It added that the SIT must submit its report to the Supreme Court before submitting it before the jurisdictional court once its probe was over.

The court issued the directions after senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who appeared for Mahmudabad, expressed apprehensions that the SIT might extend the investigation beyond the FIRs. Sibal told the court that the SIT was already asking Mahmudabad to submit his electronic devices.

The court then said that the two FIRs were already on record and the SIT should not need Mahmudabad's phone and other electronic devices.

"Both FIRs are matter of record. What is the need for devices? Do not try to expand the scope of the investigation.



Ali Khan Mahmudabad

SIT is free to form its opinion but do not go left or right," the court said.

The court, however, declined to modify the bail conditions imposed on Mahmudabad, particularly the restriction on making public comments or posts, and writing articles or expressing opinion related to the subject matter of the FIRs. It said that it had no intention to curb Mahmudabad's right to free speech and expression and that it had only prevented him from making further comments on the India-Pakistan conflict to prevent a "media trial" in the case.

The court said it will hear the matter further in July this year, and that until then, the interim bail granted to Mahmudabad would continue.

Mahmudabad's posts, which praised the military while warning against warmongering and performative patriotism, drew criticism from the Haryana State Commission for Women. Its chairperson alleged that Mahmudabad disparaged women officers, specifically Colonel Sofiya Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh who briefed the media after the cross-border strike.

A second FIR was filed against him by a local BJP leader in Haryana.

SC extends interim bail given to Ashoka University academic

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday stood firm by its direction to Ashoka University associate professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad, accused of making contentious social media posts on Operation Sindoor, to not post online content related to the cases against him. The court gave the direction on May 21 while granting bail to the academic.

A Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant said the direction did not interfere with the academic's fundamental right to speech and expression.

On Wednesday, the court extended the interim bail granted to him and directed the Special Investigation Team probing the FIRs to furnish the investigation report on the next date of hearing.

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The Bench also asked the Haryana Police to apprise it of their response to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) notice on registration of FIR against Mr. Mahmudabad. On May 21, the NHRC had said it had taken "*suo motu* cognisance" of a media report in connection with the arrest.

प्राध्यापक के अभिव्यक्ति के अधिकार पर कोई रोक नहीं : सुप्रीम कोर्ट

के संबंध में राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) के नोटिस पर उसकी प्रतिक्रिया के बारे में भी अदालत को अवगत कराने को कहा। एनएचआरसी ने 21 मई को कहा था कि उसने गिरफ्तारी के संबंध में एक मीडिया रपट का 'स्वतः संज्ञान' लिया है। मानवाधिकार आयोग ने कहा है कि 'रपट उन आरोपों का सार है जिनके आधार पर उन्हें गिरफ्तार किया गया है। रपट प्रथम दृष्टया खुलासा करती है कि उक्त प्राध्यापक ने मानवाधिकारों और स्वतंत्रता का उल्लंघन किया गया है'।

शीर्ष अदालत ने 21 मई को प्रोफेसर को अंतरिम जमानत दे दी थी। उन्हें 'आपरेशन सिंदूर' पर उनके विवादास्पद सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट के कारण गिरफ्तार किया गया था। हालांकि, न्यायालय ने उनके खिलाफ जांच पर रोक लगाने से इनकार कर दिया। उच्चतम

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न्यायालय ने उनके खिलाफ दर्ज प्राथमिकी की जांच के लिए तीन सदस्यीय एसआइटी गठित करने का निर्देश दिया था।

हरियाणा पुलिस ने महमूदाबाद के खिलाफ दो प्राथमिकी दर्ज किए जाने के बाद उन्हें 18 मई को गिरफ्तार किया था। आरोप है कि 'आपरेशन सिंदूर' पर उनके विवादास्पद सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट ने देश की संप्रभुता और अखंडता को खतरे में डाला।

सोनीपत जिले में राई पुलिस ने दो प्राथमिकी दर्ज कीं। एक प्राथमिकी हरियाणा राज्य महिला आयोग की अध्यक्ष रेणु भाटिया की शिकायत पर और दूसरी एक गांव के सरपंच की शिकायत पर दर्ज की गई।

पुलिस ने कहा, 'आयोग की अध्यक्ष की शिकायत पर अशोका यूनिवर्सिटी के प्राध्यापक अली के खिलाफ भारतीय न्याय संहिता (बीएनएस) की धारा 152 (भारत की संप्रभुता या एकता और अखंडता को खतरे में डालने वाले कृत्य), 353 (सार्वजनिक रूप से नुकसान पहुंचाने वाले बयान), 79 (महिला की गरिमा को ठेस पहुंचाने के उद्देश्य से जानबूझकर की गई कार्रवाई) और 196 (1) (धर्म के आधार पर विभिन्न समूहों के बीच दुश्मनी को बढ़ावा देना) के तहत प्राथमिकी दर्ज की गई है।' कई राजनीतिक दलों और शिक्षाविदों ने गिरफ्तारी की निंदा की है।



SC extends interim bail to Ashoka univ prof

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY
@ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Wednesday extended till July the interim bail of Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad and directed the Haryana police SIT to complete its investigation by then in connection with his alleged contentious social media posts on Operation Sindoor.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Dipankar Datta restricted the scope of the SIT probe to the two FIRs lodged against Mahmudabad. "We direct that the investigation of SIT be confined to contents of the two FIRs. The investigation report, before it is filed before jurisdictional court, be produced before this court," said the bench.

Directing that the interim protection continue till further orders, the top court asked Haryana to inform whether they have responded to the NHRC notice on the manner of registration of 2 FIRs against Mahmudabad.

During the hearing, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Mahmudabad, requested the top court for deletion of an interim bail condition restraining him from posting on social media anything relating to issues in the FIRs. "There is apprehension that the SIT may

ALSO IN TOP COURT

Bail for in rape case: 'Charges not framed'

SC on Wednesday gave interim bail to a 23-year-old accused of raping a 40-year-old, saying charges had not been framed though he has been in jail for nine months. It said the woman was "not a baby" and "a single hand can't clap". It asked how Delhi Police could file a rape case when the woman had gone voluntarily with him.

'Close proceedings in HC against minister'

The SC on Wednesday ordered closure of proceedings before the MP High Court against state minister Vijay Shah for his remarks against Col Sofiya Qureshi, saying it is now looking into the matter. The court asked for a status report from the SIT formed by the MP government in compliance with its earlier order.



investigate other things as well," Sibal told the top court. The top court declined to allow the prayer.

The bench told the Haryana Advocate General that as the two FIRs were concerned with the subject matter of the present case, the scope of the probe can't be

expanded. Sibal further insisted that the court direct the authorities not to seek access to Mahmudabad's digital devices. The court refrained to pass any order in the issue. "Both FIRs are matter of record. What is the need for devices? The SIT is free to form opinion. Don't go left and right," the bench told Sibal and fixed the matter for

further hearing after July.

On May 21, the apex court granted interim bail to Mahmudabad, who was arrested for his social media posts on Operation Sindoor. It, however, refused to stay the two FIRs registered by Haryana Police against him in the matter.

The Bench had earlier ordered formation of an SIT to probe the matter. "The SIT will not have officers from Haryana or Delhi," Justice Kant had said.

Mahmudabad had moved the top court challenging his arrest for a Facebook post on India's retaliatory strike against Pakistan for the Pahalgam terror attack.

Probe encounter cases, Assam rights panel told

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Assam Human Rights Commission (AHRC) to conduct an independent probe into police encounter cases where proper procedure was allegedly not followed in the state between May 2021 and August 2022.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh said that the records furnished by the Assam government themselves indicate that some instances may warrant further evaluation to ascertain whether the guidelines laid down in the 2014 verdict of PUCL versus the state of Maharashtra have been meticulously complied with, in both letter and spirit.

The court gave the order while disposing of a plea that sought an independent investigation into over 171 police encounters in Assam between May 2021 and August 2022.

The SC said its observation that Assam has not followed the guidelines should not be construed as casting any aspersions on the state's investigation.

SC extends interim bail given to Ashoka University academic

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

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A Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant said the direction did not interfere with the academic's fundamental right to speech and expression.

On Wednesday, the court extended the interim bail granted to him and directed the Special Investigation Team probing the FIRs to furnish the investigation report on the next date of hearing.

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The Bench also asked the Haryana Police to apprise it of their response to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) notice on registration of FIR against Mr. Mahmudabad. On May 21, the NHRC had said it had taken "*suo motu* cognisance" of a media report in connection with the arrest.

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NHRC summons for DM, SP

Rajkot: The NHRC issued conditional summons to the Kutch collector and superintendent of police in Bhuj, requiring them to appear before it on June 19 if they fail to submit a report on the deaths of five labourers in Oct, according to the update on its portal on the case status. According to the NHRC, they received a complaint about the death of five labourers from asphyxiation while cleaning a tank at a factory in Kandla. The deaths were attributed to negligence and lack of safety measures.



AHRC to probe lapses in police encounters

New Delhi: The SC directed the Assam Human Rights Commission (AHRC) to conduct an independent probe into police encounter cases where proper procedure was allegedly not followed between May 2021 and August 2022. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh said the records furnished by the Assam government indicate some instances may warrant further evaluation to ascertain if the guidelines in the 2014 verdict of PUCL versus Maharashtra have been meticulously complied with. The court gave the order while disposing of a plea seeking an independent investigation into over 171 police encounters in Assam between May 2021 and August 2022. In the 2014 verdict, the SC had issued 16 rules, which provide for the registration of FIR, independent probe, magisterial inquiry, role of forensic science, informing the next of kin, compensation and information to NHRC and State Human Rights Commission (SHRC), among others.

No expanding scope of probe, SC tells SIT

Online report

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has restricted the scope of Special Investigation Team Probe into the case lodged against Ashoka University Professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad over his social media posts on 'Operation Sindoor'. On Wednesday the court said the probe should be limited to the 2 FIRs lodged against Mahmudabad.

"We direct that investigation of SIT shall be confined to contents of the 2 FIRs subject matter of these proceedings. The investigation report, before it is filed before jurisdictional court, be produced before this Court. The interim protection to continue till further orders" a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Dipankar Datta said, Live Law reported. Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal (for Mahmudabad)



Bail extended for Ashoka University Professor Ali Khan

showed apprehension that the SIT might investigate aspects beyond the subject FIRs. The Court then categorically told the Haryana Additional Advocate General that the scope of the SIT probe is limited to the 2 FIRs which are subject matter of the present case and can't be expanded. Sibal also raised the issue of authorities seeking access to Mahmudabad's digital devices.

► Contd on | nation

No expanding scope...

To which Justice Kant noted the FIRs were already part of the record. "Both FIRs are matter of record. Where is the question of [his] devices? Don't try to expand the scope. SIT is free to form opinion. Don't go left and right" the judge told the Haryana AAG.

Further, a relaxation of the conditions imposed by the Court while granting Mahmudabad interim bail was sought. "He won't do anything, your lordships may take it from me...please record my statement and remove the conditions. That order may not be continued. These are mature people...teaching in universities. We understand your sentiment, petitioner knows where he has landed," Sibal urged.

However, Justice Kant said that the conditions were only meant to introduce a cooling-off period and the Court was monitoring everything. Asking Sibal to "wait for some time and remind on the next date", the judge clarified that Mahmudabad is free to write articles, etc. on aspects other than the subject matter. "We don't want a parallel media trial on this issue. He is free to write on anything else, just not on the subject matter. No impediment on his right to speech, etc." Justice Kant said. The bench also questioned Haryana government about its response to National Human Rights Commission taking cognizance of the manner of registration of FIR in Mahmudabad's case. "You tell us about that also." Justice Kant said to Haryana AAG.

Mahmudabad was arrested on May 18 pursuant to an FIR lodged by Haryana police over his social media posts and remained in custody until May 21, when he was granted interim bail by the Supreme Court. At the same time, the Court refused to stay the investigation and directed the Haryana DGP to constitute a Special Investigation Team comprising senior IPS officers, who did not belong to Haryana or Delhi, to "holistically understand the complexity of the phraseology employed and for proper appreciation of some of the expressions used in these two online posts". As a condition of interim bail, the top Court restrained Mahmudabad from writing any posts/articles in relation to the social media posts which were subject matter of the case or from expressing any opinion in relation to the terrorist attack on Indian soil or the counter-response given by India.

The judge also expressed reservations about Mahmudabad's comments in his social media posts, saying they amounted to dog-whistling. He could have used polite, respectful and neutral language, without hurting the sentiments of others, said Justice Kant. Referring to Mahmudabad's comments about "right-wing commentators applauding Colonel Sofiya Qureshi" and his statement that right-wing commentators must equally express concerns for victims of mob lynching, bulldozing etc., the judge further remarked, "So after commenting about war, he turned to politics!". A stern view was also taken of students and teachers condemning Mahmudabad's arrest. "If they dare to do anything, we will pass an order", warned Justice Kant.

Can't comment on FIRs: SC to Ashoka Univ professor

No relaxation in bail conditions on Mahmudabad

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday told Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad, accused of making contentious social media posts on Operation Sindoor, that there was no impediment on his right to speech and expression, but he can't post anything online with respect to the cases against him.

A partial working day bench of Justices Surya Kant and Dipankar Datta refused to modify as of now, the interim bail condition imposed on him on May 21 that he will not write any online post, article or make any oral speech related

to either of the two online posts, which are subject matter of the investigation.

The top court had also restrained the professor from expressing any opinion in relation to the terrorist attack on Indian soil or the counter-response given by the Indian armed forces. The bench said it is extending the interim bail granted to the professor and directed the SIT to furnish the investigation report on the next date of hearing. The bench

also asked Haryana police to apprise it about their response to the NHRC notice on registration of FIR against the professor.

PTI



**Ali Khan
Mahmudabad**



4 IAS officers from Guj get postings in Delhi

Centre announces Jt Secy-level reshuffle

Ahmedabad Mirror Bureau
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Posts @ahmedabadmirror

The Centre on Wednesday approved major Joint Secretary-level bureaucratic reshuffle, reposting 41 officers belonging to various services in different central government departments. These include four from Gujarat.

Manisha Chandra has been appointed as joint secretary in the Department of Defence Production. Sainingpuii Chhakchhuak has been appointed as the joint secretary of



(L-R) KK Nirala, Manisha Chandra, Supreet Singh Gulati

NHRC. KK Nirala has been appointed as joint secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Supreet Singh Gulati has been appointed as joint secretary in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.



हिरासत में मौत मामले पर मानवाधिकार आयोग गंभीर, सीएस से मांगा जवाब

झारखंड के मुख्य सचिव और पुलिस महानिदेशक से छह सप्ताह में मांगी रिपोर्ट

राज्य ब्यूरो, जागरण • रांची: देवघर के पालोजोरी में युवक की पुलिस हिरासत में मौत मामले पर संज्ञान लेते हुए राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने संज्ञान लेते हुए झारखंड के मुख्य सचिव (सीएस) और डीजीपी को नोटिस भेजा है। आयोग ने दोनों अधिकारियों से छह सप्ताह के भीतर मामले की विस्तृत रिपोर्ट मांगी है। आयोग ने हिरासत में हुई मौत की इस घटना के बारे में देवघर जिला पुलिस द्वारा 24 घंटे के भीतर सूचना न भेजने की चूक पर भी राज्य के मुख्य सचिव और डीजीपी से स्पष्टीकरण मांगा है।

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने मीडिया में छपी खबरों पर स्वतः संज्ञान लेते हुए यह नोटिस भेजा है।

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- देवघर पुलिस द्वारा 24 घंटे के भीतर मौत की रिपोर्ट नहीं भेजे जाने पर भी मांगा स्पष्टीकरण

आयोग ने कहा है कि अगर समाचार रिपोर्ट की सामग्री सत्य है तो यह पीड़ित के मानवाधिकारों के उल्लंघन का गंभीर मुद्दा है। झारखंड के मुख्य सचिव और पुलिस महानिदेशक छह सप्ताह के भीतर मामले की विस्तृत रिपोर्ट भेजें। इसमें मृत्यु के कारण के साथ-साथ जांच और पोस्टमार्टम रिपोर्ट तथा मजिस्ट्रेट जांच रिपोर्ट शामिल होने की उम्मीद

है। बता दें कि पालोजोरी थाना क्षेत्र के दुधानी गांव निवासी 36 वर्षीय मेराज अंसारी की पुलिस हिरासत में मौत हो जाने के बाद वहां भारी हंगामा हुआ था। पुलिस मेराज समेत तीन युवकों को साइबर अपराध के मामले में पूछताछ के लिए ले जा रही थी। इसी क्रम में मेराज की मौत हो गई थी। मामले में दोषी बताए जा रहे पुलिसकर्मियों को निलंबित किया जा चुका है। मानवाधिकार आयोग की ओर से भेजे गए नोटिस में कहा गया है कि 21 मई 2025 को झारखंड के देवघर जिले में पुलिस हिरासत में एक व्यक्ति की मौत हो गई। कथित तौर पर उसे साइबर अपराध के संबंध में पूछताछ के लिए उसके आवास से पालाजोरी

पुलिस स्टेशन ले जाया गया था। पीड़ित परिवार के सदस्यों ने कथित तौर पर आरोप लगाया है कि पुलिस हिरासत में उसे शारीरिक यातना दी गई, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप उसकी मौत हो गई। आयोग ने जिला पुलिस द्वारा हिरासत में हुई इस मौत के बारे में कोई सूचना नहीं भेजे जाने को गंभीरता से लिया है, जबकि आयोग के दिशा-निर्देशों के अनुसार घटना के 24 घंटे के भीतर सभी राज्य और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के प्रशासन को सूचना भेजनी जरूरी थी। मीडिया में आई रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, पुलिस द्वारा पूछताछ के दौरान पीड़ित की तबीयत बिगड़ गई थी। इस क्रम में उसे देवघर सदर अस्पताल ले जाया गया, जहां उसकी मौत हो गई।

काठमांडू में राजशाही और एमाले का संयुक्त आंदोलन आज

कपिलवस्तु। राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने नेपाल सरकार से 29 मई को काठमांडू में होने वाले आंदोलन के दौरान शांति एवं सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने का आग्रह किया है।

यह आंदोलन राजशाही समर्थक संयुक्त जन आंदोलन समिति और सीपीएन-यूएमएल की ओर से

मानव अधिकार आयोग ने की आयोजित है।
नेपाल की राजधानी में आयोग ने
शांतिपूर्ण आंदोलन की अपील कर नेपाल

सरकार और संबंधित सुरक्षा अधिकारियों से शांति और सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने और मानवाधिकारों के मूल्यों और मानदंडों पर ध्यान देने का आग्रह किया है।

आयोग ने काठमांडू और ललितपुर जिले के मुख्य जिला अधिकारियों और जिला पुलिस प्रमुखों के साथ 29 मई बृहस्पतिवार को काठमांडू में आयोजित होने वाले प्रदर्शन के संबंध में अपनाई जाने वाली सुरक्षा सावधानियों के बारे में चर्चा की।

चर्चा के दौरान प्रदर्शन शांतिपूर्ण रहे तथा किसी भी प्रकार की बाधा उत्पन्न न हो, इस बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए सुरक्षा संबंधी संवेदनशीलता बरतने, घाटी में सभी सुरक्षा एजेंसियों के बीच समन्वय स्थापित करने, दोनों पक्षों के बीच टकराव को रोकने के लिए व्यवस्था की गई। ताकि दोनों समूह एक-दूसरे के संपर्क में न आएँ, मीडिया हाउस सहित संवेदनशील स्थानों की सुरक्षा पर ध्यान दिया गया तथा सड़कों पर सुचारु आवागमन में बाधा उत्पन्न न हो। संवाद



पुलिस हिरासत में मौत की जांच की मांग

रांची. जमीअतुल मोमेनीन चौरासी झारखंड ने दुधानी गांव मधुपुर देवघर निवासी मेराज अंसारी की पुलिस हिरासत में मृत्यु की निंदा की है. इस संबंध में संस्था की सरपस्त कमेटी के अध्यक्ष मास्टर सादिक अंसारी ने मुख्यमंत्री, राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग और राज्यसभा सांसद इमरान प्रतापगढ़ी को पत्र लिखकर इस घटना की उच्चस्तरीय जांच कराने की मांग की है. संस्था ने मृतक के परिजनों को मुआवजा दिलाने की भी मांग की है.

पुलिस हिरासत में मौत मामले में सीएस-डीजीपी को नोटिस

नई दिल्ली/रांची, एजेंसी। देवघर के पालाजोरी थाने में पुलिस हिरासत में मौत मामले को गंभीरता से लेते हुए राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने बुधवार को झारखंड के मुख्य सचिव और डीजीपी को नोटिस जारी किया। साथ ही छह सप्ताह में रिपोर्ट मांगी है। इसमें मौत के कारण के साथ-साथ मजिस्ट्रियल जांच रिपोर्ट और पोस्टमार्टम रिपोर्ट भी देने को कहा है।

साथ ही देवघर पुलिस द्वारा मामले की सूचना 24 घंटे के भीतर नहीं देने की चूक पर स्पष्टीकरण भी मांगा है। नोटिस में आयोग ने यह भी कहा है कि यदि यह

- देवघर के पालाजोरी थाने से जुड़े मामले में संज्ञान
- छह सप्ताह में मांगी रिपोर्ट, स्पष्टीकरण भी मांगा

मामला सही है तो जान गंवाने वाले व्यक्ति के मानवाधिकारों के उल्लंघन का गंभीर मुद्दा है। एनएचआरसी ने 21 मई को देवघर में पुलिस हिरासत में मौत से जुड़े मामले की मीडिया में आई खबर पर स्वतः संज्ञान लिया है। कथित तौर पर साइबर अपराध के सिलसिले में पूछताछ के लिए पालाजोरी थाने की पुलिस ने एक व्यक्ति को उसके घर से हिरासत में लिया था।

पुलिस हिरासत में मौत मामले में सीएस-डीजीपी को नोटिस

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Hindu

Supreme Court extends interim bail given to Ashoka University academic Ali Khan Mahmudabad

Ali Khan Mahmudabad has been accused of making contentious social media posts on Operation Sindoor

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ashoka-university-professors-interim-bail-extended-right-to-speech-supreme-court/article69628393.ece>

Updated - May 29, 2025 02:12 am IST - New Delhi

The Hindu Bureau

The SC also asked the Haryana police to apprise it about their response to the NHRC notice on registration of FIR against Ashoka University associate professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad. File | Photo Credit: PTI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday (May 28, 2025) stood firm by its direction to Ashoka University associate professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad, accused of making contentious social media posts on Operation Sindoor, to not post online content related to the cases against him.

Editorial | Thought police: on a professor's arrest

A Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant said the direction did not interfere with the academic's fundamental right to speech and expression.

The bar on using social media was a direction issued by the top court in a May 21 order protecting him from arrest.

On Wednesday, the court extended the interim bail granted to the associate professor on May 21 and directed the Special Investigation Team (SIT), commissioned to probe the FIRs against the academic, to furnish the investigation report on the next date of hearing.

The top court made it clear that the subject matter of investigation was two FIRs lodged against Mr. Mahmudabad and asked the Haryana police not to go "left and right" in the investigation.

The Bench also asked the Haryana police to apprise it about their response to the NHRC notice on registration of FIR against Mr. Mahmudabad.

On May 21, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) had said it had taken "suo motu cognisance" of a media report in connection with the arrest.

The Haryana police had arrested Mr. Mahmudabad on May 18 after two FIRs were registered against him. It was alleged that the contentious social media posts on Operation Sindoor had endangered the sovereignty and integrity of the country.

The two FIRs — one based on a complaint by the chairperson of Haryana State Commission for Women, Renu Bhatia, and the other on a complaint by a village sarpanch — were lodged by the Rai police in Sonipat district.

Times of India

Supreme Court extends Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad's interim bail till July 3rd week

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/supreme-court-extends-ashoka-university-professor-ali-khan-mahmudabads-interim-bail-till-july-3rd-week/articleshow/121477301.cms>

TNN | May 29, 2025, 07.49 AM IST

NEW DELHI: Supreme Court on Wednesday extended till July third week the interim bail granted to Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad, who had been arrested for alleged objectionable social media posts during Operation Sindoor. However, the court declined to relax the condition gagging him on issues relating to two FIRs against him that SIT is probing, saying, "We do not want him to run a parallel commentary on the issues under investigation".

The court asked SIT to confine its probe to these issues after Mahmudabad's lawyer feared that its ambit may be expanded. "Why do you have to go left and right... Where's the need to check the devices (of Mahmudabad)? Don't try to expand the scope of the two FIRs... SIT is free to form its opinion, but do not deviate from the task," SC said and posted the hearing in July second week. Apex court asks SIT to submit a copy of investigation report

Appearing for Mahmudabad, senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Sidharth Luthra repeatedly pleaded with a partial working day bench of Justices Surya Kant and Dipankar Datta for relaxation of the 'gag order' while promising that the Oxford educated professor would not indulge in the kind of writing which attracted two FIRs and which the bench had called "dog whistling" during the last hearing. Sibal repeated his request several times. "Mahmudabad will not write anything relating to the issues involved in the two FIRs. Let that condition be deleted from the May 21 order by which the petitioner was granted interim bail. He is a mature person and Oxford educated. This is my earnest request. He knows where he landed because of the writings. I am beseeching you to delete the condition as it does not look nice," he said.

He failed to persuade the bench, which said, "He needs to wait for some time. You (Sibal) remind us of this during the next hearing. The condition is confined to the contents of the FIRs. We do not want him to run a parallel commentary on the issues under investigation."

Haryana's additional advocate general told the court that the SIT, comprising three IPS officers - ADGP Mamta Singh, SP (Karnal) Ganga Ram Punia and SP (STF, Gurgaon) Vikrant Bhushan - has been constituted and the investigation was on track. SC asked the SIT to submit to it a copy of the probe report after filing it before the jurisdictional court.

Hindustan Times

SC extends interim bail for Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/sc-extends-interim-bail-for-ashoka-university-professor-ali-khan-mahmudabad-101748415130893.html>

By HT News Desk | May 28, 2025 12:51 PM IST

Mahmudabad was arrested earlier this month in relation to a controversial social media post he made regarding Operation Sindoor.

The Supreme Court of India has decided to extend the interim bail for Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad. Mahmudabad was arrested earlier this month in relation to a controversial social media post he made regarding Operation Sindoor.

Following his arrest, the top court granted the professor interim bail but ordered a formation of a SIT probe into his social media post.

SC further added that the bail has been granted on the condition that he will not post anything related to the case or India's military operation against Pakistan.

What SC said on the SIT probe

While extending the interim bail for the Political Science professor, the Supreme Court of India called on Haryana Police and restricted the scope of the SIT probe.

The top court stated that the probe into Mahmudabad should be limited to the two FIRs filed against the professor for his posts on Operation Sindoor.

"We direct that investigation of SIT shall be confined to contents of the 2 FIRs subject matter of these proceedings. The investigation report, before it is filed before jurisdictional court, be produced before this court. The interim protection to continue till further orders" a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Dipankar Datta ordered, as per LiveLaw.

What is the case against Mahmudabad?

Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad was arrested on May 18 after an FIR was lodged by Haryana Police regarding his post on Operation Sindoor.

Mahmudabad's post on Facebook praised the military's restraint and raised concerns regarding warmongering and performative patriotism.

The two FIRs were based on a complaint by the chairperson of Haryana State Commission for Women, Renu Bhatia, and the other on a complaint by a village sarpanch.

"On the Commission chairperson's complaint, the FIR has been lodged against Professor Ali of Ashoka University under BNS sections 152 (acts endangering sovereignty or unity and integrity of India), 353 (statements conducing to public mischief), 79 (deliberate

actions aimed at insulting the modesty of a woman) and 196 (1) (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion)," police told PTI.

During the hearing in SC, the top court also reprimanded the Ashoka University professor for his post and accused him of "dog whistling" and trying to gain "cheap publicity".

Hindustan Times

`Don't go left or right': SC tells SIT to confine probe against Mahmudabad to 2 FIRs

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/dont-go-left-or-right-sc-tells-sit-to-confine-probe-against-mahmudabad-to-2-firs-101748423981202.html>

By Ayesha Arvind

May 28, 2025 02:50 PM IST

The Supreme Court told the SIT that there was no need to ask for Mahmudabad's phone and other electronic devices since the two FIRs were already on record

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed that the Special Investigation Team (SIT) set up on its orders should confine its probe against Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad to the contents of the two First Information Reports (FIRs) registered over his Facebook posts on 'Operation Sindoor'.

The SIT cannot investigate matters "beyond the scope" of the two FIRs already registered against Mahmudabad, who heads the political science department at the Sonapat-based private university, a bench of justices Surya Kant and Dipankar Datta said.

"We direct that the investigation of SIT shall be confined to the contents of the two FIRs subject matter of these proceedings," the bench said. The court also said the SIT must show its report to the top court before submitting it to the jurisdictional court on completion of the investigation.

The court issued the directions on Wednesday after senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who appeared for Mahmudabad, expressed apprehensions that the SIT may go beyond the FIRs and told the bench that the SIT had asked Mahmudabad to submit his electronic devices.

The bench said the SIT should not need Mahmudabad's phone and other electronic devices since the two FIRs were already on record.

"What is the need for devices? Do not try to expand the scope of the investigation. SIT is free to form its opinion, but do not go left or right," the court said.

The bench, however, declined to modify the bail conditions imposed on Mahmudabad, including the portion that restricts the professor from making public comments on the subject matter of the FIRs.

The court said it had no intention to curb Mahmudabad's right to speech and expression and that it only prevented him from making further comments on the India-Pakistan conflict to prevent a "media trial" in the case.

"See, he can write and speak. No reservations. But only not with regard to the subject matter of investigation," the court told Sibal, adding that the condition was only a temporary "cooling-off" measure.

The court also took note of the National Human Rights Commission taking cognisance of the registration of the FIRs, directing the Haryana government to clarify its stance.

The top court said it will hear the case next in July this year, and Mahmudabad will continue to be on interim bail.

The apex court granted interim bail to Mahmudabad on May 21 following his arrest by Haryana Police on May 18 over his two Facebook posts. At the time, the court also directed Haryana to set up an SIT to probe the case.

Mahmudabad was arrested following two complaints, including one by the Haryana State Commission for Women. The complaints, most people admit, seem to be a complete misreading of his post, which does not say anything critical about Operation Sindoor or the two women military officers who, on several occasions, briefed the media on it.

Indian Express

SC extends interim bail to Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad, says no impediment on right to speech

Terming his post “dog-whistling”, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and N K Singh last week had refused to stay the investigation in the two FIRs against Mahmudabad.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/supreme-court-plea-ashoka-university-professor-ali-khan-mahmudabad-op-sindoor-10033264/>

By: Express Web Desk | New Delhi | Updated: May 28, 2025 13:13 IST

2 min read

The Supreme Court Wednesday extended the interim bail granted to Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad, mentioning that there would be no impediment on his right to speech and expression. The court however directed the professor to not post anything online with respect to cases he is embroiled in.

A week after granting interim relief to Mahmudabad, the apex court was hearing a plea against his arrest for his contentious social media posts on Operation Sindoor.

The Supreme Court bench also sought a report on the investigation by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) after the Haryana government apprised the court about its constitution.

The court further asked the Haryana police to update it about their response to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) notice on registration of FIR against the professor.

Terming his post “dog-whistling”, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and N K Singh last week had refused to stay the investigation in the two FIRs against Mahmudabad. The court had asked the state director general of police (DGP) to set up a three-member SIT comprising senior IPS officers, one of whom would be a woman.

The court had also restrained him from making any online posts or writing any article or deliver speech on the issue which is the subject matter of the case, or making any comment on the terrorist attack recently faced by India which was a terrorist attack on Indian soil or India’s counter response to it.

Mahmudabad was arrested on May 18 days after a show-cause notice issued to him by the Haryana State Commission for Women over his remarks allegedly disparaging women officers in the Indian armed forces.

Two FIRs were later lodged against him: one, based on a complaint by chairperson of the Haryana State Commission for Women Renu Bhatia and another by Jatheri village sarpanch Yogesh Jatheri, who is also the general secretary of the BJP Yuva Morcha in Haryana.

Deccan Herald

Operation Sindoor: SC refuses to modify interim bail condition of Ashoka University professor

The top court had also restrained the professor from expressing any opinion in relation to the terrorist attack on Indian soil or the counter-response given by the Indian armed forces.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/india/operation-sindoor-sc-refuses-to-modify-interim-bail-condition-of-ashoka-university-professor-3560418>

Ashish Tripathi DHNS Last Updated : 28 May 2025, 13:38 IST

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday said there was no impediment on the right to exercise freedom of speech and expression of Ashoka University Associate Professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad, but he can't post anything online with respect to the two FIRs lodged against him. He has been accused of making contentious social media posts on Operation Sindoor. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Dipankar Datta declined to modify as of now, the interim bail condition imposed on him on May 21 that he will not write any online post, article or make any oral speech related to either of the two online posts, which are subject matter of the investigation.

The court had then restrained the professor from expressing any opinion in relation to the terrorist attack on Indian soil or the counter-response given by the Indian armed forces. The court said it is extending the interim bail granted to the professor and directed the SIT to furnish the investigation report on the next date of hearing in July. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Mahmudabad, urged the court to delete an interim bail condition restraining him from writing or posting on social media anything relating to issues in FIRs, which were lodged for his alleged offensive comments on Op Sindoor. "There is apprehension that the SIT may investigate other things as well," Sibal told the top court. After hearing this plea of Sibal, the top court, however, declined the prayer.

Sibal further asked the court to direct the authorities not to seek access to Mahmudabad's digital devices. The bench made it clear that the subject matter of investigation was two FIRs lodged against the professor and asked the investigating agency not to go "left and right" in the investigation and seek the "devices", which the cops said they would like to examine. The court also asked the Haryana police to apprise it about their response to the NHRC notice on registration of FIR against the professor. On May 21, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) said it has taken "suo motu cognisance" of a media report in connection with the arrest.

On May 21, the court granted interim bail to the Associate Professor at Ashoka University in Haryana, who was arrested for his alleged social media post on Operation Sindoor-- India's armed offensive against terror networks in Pakistan after killings of 26 tourists at Pahalgam on April 22. The court also ordered to constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the matter instead of the Haryana Police, currently investigating the case,

"to holistically understand the complexity of the phraseology employed and for proper appreciation of some of the expressions used in the two online posts".

The police arrested the professor on Sunday, May 18, 2025 from his residence in Delhi. The prosecution charged him with endangering India's sovereignty, unity and integrity for his alleged comments on Operation Sindoor. The State Women's Commission had also criticised Mahmudabad's comments as disparaging toward women officers in the Indian Armed Forces and said it also promoted communal disharmony. He allegedly described the media briefing conducted by women officers as "optics" and "just hypocrisy".

In a Facebook post, Mahmudabad said, "I am very happy to see so many right-wing commentators applauding Colonel Sophia Qureishi, but perhaps they could also equally loudly demand that the victims of mob lynchings, arbitrary bulldozing and others who are victims of the BJP's hate-mongering be protected as Indian citizens."

The Haryana state women's commission had issued summons to Mahmudabad on May 12, stating that his comments raised concerns about the disparagement of women in uniform — including Colonel Sofiya Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh — undermining their roles as professional officers, and misrepresenting facts through repeated references to "genocide", "dehumanisation", and "hypocrisy", while attributing "malicious" intent to the Indian government.

The New Indian Express

SC seeks SIT probe report, extends interim bail to Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad

Haryana govt tells SC professor has joined SIT probe; court reiterates free speech right but bars online posts related to case

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2025/May/28/sc-seeks-sit-probe-report-extends-interim-bail-to-ashoka-university-professor-ali-khan-mahmudabad>

Suchitra Kalyan Mohanty | Updated on: 28 May 2025, 2:58 pm

4 min read

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday extended the interim bail of Ashoka University prof Ali Khan Mahmudabad till July and directed the Haryana police SIT to complete its investigation by then in connection with his alleged social media post on Operation Sindoor.

A two-judge bench of the apex court, led by Justice Surya Kant and Justice Dipankar Datta, restricted the scope of Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the case lodged against Mahmudabad and said the probe should be limited to the two FIRs (First Information Report) registered against him.

"We direct that the investigation of SIT shall be confined to contents of the two FIRs subject matter of these proceedings. The investigation report, before it is filed before jurisdictional court, be produced before this court," said, the apex court in the order.

Directing that the interim protection to continue till further orders are issued, the top court asked Haryana to inform the SC if they have responded to the **NHRC** (National Human Rights Commission) notice on the manner of registration of two FIRs against Mahmudabad.

During the course of the hearing on Wednesday, senior advocate, Kapil Sibal, appearing for Mahmudabad, requested the top court for deletion of an interim bail condition restraining him from writing or posting in social media anything relating to issues in FIRs, which were lodged for his alleged offensive comments on Operation Sindoor. "There is apprehension that the SIT may investigate other things as well," Sibal told the top court.

After hearing this fervent plea of Sibal, the top court, however, declined to allow the prayer.

The top court told the Haryana Advocate General that as the the two present FIRs were only concerned with the subject matter of the present case and thereby it ordered that the scope of the probe was limited and can't be expanded.

Sibal further insisted that the court should direct the authorities not to seek access to Mahmudabad's digital devices. The court, however, refrained to pass any order in the issue.

"Both FIRs are matter of record. What is the need for devices? The SIT is free to form opinion. Don't go left and right," the top court told Sibal and fixed the matter for further hearing after July.

On May 21, the apex court, in a partial relief granted interim bail to the Associate professor at Ashoka University in Haryana, Mahmudabad, who was arrested for his alleged social media post on Operation Sindoor. It, however, refused to stay the two FIRs registered by Haryana Police against him in the matter.

The two-judge Bench of the top court earlier had ordered to constitute a SIT to probe the matter in place of Haryana Police which is currently investigating the case. "The SIT will not have officers from Haryana or Delhi," Justice Kant had said in the order.

Mahmudabad had moved the top court challenging his arrest for a Facebook post on Operation Sindoor, India's retaliatory strike against Pakistan for the Pahalagam terror attack.

Directing the petitioner, Mahmudabad, be released on interim bail, the top court had earlier imposed certain conditions while enlarging him on bail. The court restrained Khan from making any further online posts or speeches on the issue.

"No article or online posts to be made (by Mahmudabad) and neither deliver any speech on the issues which are subject matter of this case. He is retrained from making any comments on the crisis recently faced by India which is a terrorist attack on Indian soil or the counter response given by our nation," the court said and ordering him to surrender his passport.

The court also had earlier clarified that he should be enlarged on bail subject to the furnishing of bail bonds to the satisfaction of the CJM Sonapat. There shall be only one set of bail bonds for both FIRs.

Taking strong exception to the language used by Mahmudabad in his posts, the top court said, it could have dual meanings.

The Bench, while declining his plea to stay the investigation, said that Khan has not made out any case for the same in his social media post.

Mahmudabad had criticised Pakistan sponsored terrorism, and said that all the plaudits received by Colonel Sofiya Qureshi of the Indian Army, who had led India's press briefing, should reflect on the ground. He had also said that right wing supporters in India should speak up against mob lynching.

The court had directed the DGP Haryana to constitute a SIT comprising of three IPS officers who did not belong to Haryana or Delhi. SIT shall be headed by Inspector general of police and one of the members shall be a women officer.

The court in its order, had noted that the entire protection is that he was anti-war. "He says reasons are families will suffer along with civilians. He the also speaks of countries who manufacture war equipment will benefit. Any one who is conversant with such language can probe this Because some words have dual meanings," the Bench had opined.

Sibal had told the bench that he was arrested for his patriotic statements. "He has been arrested for a patriotic statement. Please list the matter for hearing," Sibal said.

He, in his defence, clarified that his comments had been completely misunderstood.

Navbharat

अशोका यूनिवर्सिटी के प्रोफेसर के बोलने एवं अभिव्यक्ति के अधिकार पर कोई रोक नहीं: न्यायालय

<https://navabharat.news/there-is-no-restriction-on-the-right-to-speech-and-expression-of-ashoka-university-professor-court/>

May 28, 2025 Last Updated: May 28, 2025

नयी दिल्ली: उच्चतम न्यायालय ने 'ऑपरेशन सिंदूर' पर विवादास्पद सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट करने के आरोपी अशोका यूनिवर्सिटी के प्रोफेसर अली खान महमूदाबाद से बुधवार को कहा कि उनके बोलने एवं अभिव्यक्ति के अधिकार पर कोई रोक नहीं है, लेकिन वह अपने खिलाफ मामलों के संबंध में कुछ भी ऑनलाइन पोस्ट नहीं कर सकते।

न्यायमूर्ति सूर्यकांत और न्यायमूर्ति दीपांकर दत्ता की आंशिक कार्य दिवस वाली पीठ ने 21 मई को उन पर लगाई गई अंतरिम जमानत की शर्त को फिलहाल संशोधित करने से इनकार कर दिया कि वह जांच का विषय रहे उन दोनों ऑनलाइन पोस्ट से संबंधित कोई ऑनलाइन पोस्ट, लेख नहीं लिखेंगे या इसके बारे में मौखिक रूप से कुछ नहीं बोलेंगे।

शीर्ष अदालत ने प्रोफेसर को भारत की धरती पर हुए आतंकवादी हमले या भारतीय सशस्त्र बलों द्वारा की गई जवाबी प्रतिक्रिया के संबंध में कोई भी राय व्यक्त करने से भी रोक दिया। पीठ ने कहा कि वह प्रोफेसर को दी गई अंतरिम जमानत को बढ़ा रही है और विशेष जांच दल (एसआईटी) को सुनवाई की अगली तारीख पर जांच रिपोर्ट पेश करने का निर्देश दिया।

शीर्ष अदालत ने यह स्पष्ट किया कि जांच का विषय प्रोफेसर के खिलाफ दर्ज दो प्राथमिकी हैं और हरियाणा पुलिस से कहा कि वह जांच में "इधर उधर नहीं भटके" और "उपकरण" की तलाश करे। इस पर पुलिस ने कहा कि वह जांच करना चाहेगी।

पीठ ने हरियाणा पुलिस से प्रोफेसर के खिलाफ प्राथमिकी दर्ज करने के संबंध में राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) के नोटिस पर उसकी प्रतिक्रिया के बारे में भी अदालत को अवगत कराने को कहा। एनएचआरसी ने 21 मई को कहा था कि उसने गिरफ्तारी के संबंध में एक मीडिया रिपोर्ट का "स्वतः संज्ञान" लिया है।

मानवाधिकार आयोग ने कहा है कि "रिपोर्ट उन आरोपों का सार है जिनके आधार पर उन्हें गिरफ्तार किया गया है। रिपोर्ट प्रथम दृष्टया खुलासा करती है कि उक्त प्रोफेसर मानवाधिकारों और स्वतंत्रता का उल्लंघन किया गया है"।

शीर्ष अदालत ने 21 मई को प्रोफेसर को अंतरिम जमानत दे दी। उन्हें 'ऑपरेशन सिंदूर' पर उनके विवादास्पद सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट के कारण गिरफ्तार किया गया था। हालांकि, न्यायालय ने उनके खिलाफ जांच पर रोक लगाने से इनकार कर दिया।

उच्चतम न्यायालय ने उनके खिलाफ दर्ज प्राथमिकी की जांच के लिए तीन सदस्यीय एसआईटी गठित करने का निर्देश दिया था। हरियाणा पुलिस ने महमूदाबाद के खिलाफ दो प्राथमिकी दर्ज किए जाने के बाद उन्हें

18 मई को गिरफ्तार किया था। आरोप है कि 'ऑपरेशन ंसिदूर' पर उनके विवादास्पद सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट ने देश की संप्रभुता और अखंडता को खतरे में डाला।

सोनीपत जिले में राई पुलिस ने दो प्राथमिकी दर्ज कीं। एक प्राथमिकी हरियाणा राज्य महिला आयोग की अध्यक्ष रेणु भाटिया की शिकायत पर और दूसरी एक गांव के सरपंच की शिकायत पर दर्ज की गई। पुलिस ने कहा, "आयोग की अध्यक्ष की शिकायत पर अशोका यूनिवर्सिटी के प्रोफेसर अली के खिलाफ भारतीय न्याय संहिता (बीएनएस) की धारा 152 (भारत की संप्रभुता या एकता और अखंडता को खतरे में डालने वाले कृत्य), 353 (सार्वजनिक रूप से नुकसान पहुंचाने वाले बयान), 79 (महिला की गरिमा को ठेस पहुंचाने के उद्देश्य से जानबूझकर की गई कार्रवाई) और 196 (1) (धर्म के आधार पर विभिन्न समूहों के बीच दुश्मनी को बढ़ावा देना) के तहत प्राथमिकी दर्ज की गई है।" कई राजनीतिक दलों और शिक्षाविदों ने गिरफ्तारी की ंनिदा की है।

The Week

NHRC notice to Jharkhand government DGP over death of man in police custody

<https://www.theweek.in/wire-updates/national/2025/05/28/des20-nhrc-jh-custodial-death.html>

PTI Updated: May 28, 2025 17:24 IST

New Delhi, May 28 (PTI) The NHRC on Wednesday said it has issued notices to the Jharkhand government and the state's police chief over reports that a man died in police custody in Deoghar district earlier this month.

The National Human Rights Commission in its statement also sought an explanation from the state's chief secretary and the director general of the police over the "lapse" of the district police in not intimating about the custodial death within 24 hours, according to the NHRC's guidelines.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of the human rights of the victim.

The NHRC has taken "suo motu cognisance of a media report that a man died in police custody in Deoghar district, Jharkhand on May 21."

Reportedly, the man was taken from his house to the Palajori Police Station for interrogation in connection with a cybercrime. The victim's family members have reportedly alleged that while he was in custody, he was physically tortured and which led to his death, the statement said.

Therefore, it has issued notices to the chief secretary and the DGP of Jharkhand, seeking a report in six weeks. It is expected to include the inquest and post-mortem reports, along with the cause of death, as well as the magisterial enquiry report, it added

According to a media report carried on May 22, the victim's health allegedly deteriorated during interrogation by police. He was taken to the Deoghar Sadar Hospital, where the attending doctor declared him dead, it said.

(This story has not been edited by THE WEEK and is auto-generated from PTI)

Hindu

NHRC notice to Jharkhand over custodial death

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/jharkhand/nhrc-notice-to-jharkhand-over-custodial-death/article69629553.ece>

Published - May 28, 2025 10:00 pm IST - New Delhi:

The Hindu Bureau

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Wednesday (May 28, 2025) issued a notice to the Jharkhand government in case of a custodial death in Deoghar district's Palajori police station. Reports said the deceased was taken from his residence to the police station for interrogation in a cybercrime case. On May 22, 2025, the victim's health deteriorated during interrogation. He was taken to the Deoghar Sadar Hospital, where the attending doctor declared him dead. The victim's family members alleged that he was physically tortured in police custody, resulting in his death.

Observing that the incident raised a serious issue of violation of the human rights of the victim, the NHRC issued notices to the official concerned calling for a detailed report within six weeks. It is expected to include the inquest and post-mortem reports, along with the cause of death, as well as the magisterial enquiry report.

The commission has also taken a serious view of the district police not sending any intimation about this custodial death, required to be sent within 24 hours of the occurrence of the incident as per its guidelines to all the States and union territories. Therefore, it has also sought an explanation for this lapse from the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Jharkhand.

The Print Hindi

एनएचआरसी ने झारखंड सरकार, डीजीपी को पुलिस हिरासत में एक व्यक्ति की मौत पर नोटिस जारी किया

<https://hindi.theprint.in/india/nhrc-issues-notice-to-jharkhand-govt-dgp-over-death-of-man-in-police-custody/824222/>

भाषा | 28 May, 2025 07:04 pm IST

नयी दिल्ली, 28 मई (भाषा) राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने बुधवार को कहा कि उसने झारखंड सरकार और राज्य के पुलिस प्रमुख (पुलिस महानिदेशक-डीजीपी) को इस माह के प्रारंभ में देवघर जिले में पुलिस हिरासत में एक व्यक्ति की मौत हो जाने की खबर पर नोटिस जारी किया है।

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने अपने बयान में राज्य के मुख्य सचिव और पुलिस महानिदेशक से हिरासत में हुई इस मौत के बारे में एनएचआरसी के दिशा-निर्देशों के अनुसार 24 घंटे के भीतर सूचना न देने की जिला पुलिस की 'चूक' पर स्पष्टीकरण भी मांगा है।

आयोग ने कहा है कि यदि समाचार सही है, तो यह जान गंवाने वाले व्यक्ति के मानवाधिकारों के उल्लंघन का गंभीर मुद्दा है।

एनएचआरसी ने 'मीडिया की इस खबर का स्वतः संज्ञान लिया है कि 21 मई को झारखंड के देवघर जिले में पुलिस हिरासत में एक व्यक्ति की मौत हो गई।'

कथित तौर पर, साइबर अपराध के सिलसिले में पूछताछ के लिए इस व्यक्ति को उसके घर से पलाजोरी थाना ले जाया गया था।

बयान में कहा गया है कि इस व्यक्ति के परिवार के सदस्यों ने कथित तौर पर आरोप लगाया है कि हिरासत में उसे शारीरिक रूप से प्रताड़ित किया गया जिसके कारण उसकी मौत हो गई।

बयान के अनुसार इसलिए आयोग ने झारखंड के मुख्य सचिव और डीजीपी को नोटिस जारी कर छह सप्ताह में रिपोर्ट मांगी है। इसमें मौत के कारण के साथ-साथ मजिस्ट्रियल जांच रिपोर्ट और पोस्टमार्टम रिपोर्ट भी शामिल होने की उम्मीद है।

मीडिया ने 22 मई को खबर दी थी कि पुलिस पूछताछ के दौरान इस व्यक्ति का स्वास्थ्य कथित रूप से बिगड़ गया था और उसे देवघर सदर अस्पताल ले जाया गया था जहां डॉक्टर ने उसे मृत घोषित कर दिया।

भाषा राजकुमार माधव

माधव

यह खबर 'भाषा' न्यूज़ एजेंसी से 'ऑटो-फीड' द्वारा ली गई है. इसके कंटेंट के लिए दिप्रिंट जिम्मेदार नहीं है.

The Assam Tribune

SC empowers Assam Human Rights Commission to probe fake encounter allegations

The SC said the AHRC would be at liberty to carry out further investigations into the allegations & govt 'has to cooperate'

<https://assamtribune.com/assam/sc-empowers-assam-human-rights-commission-to-probe-fake-encounter-allegations-1579035>

By The Assam Tribune - 28 May 2025 3:52 PM

Guwahati, May 28: The Supreme Court, on Wednesday, directed the Assam Human Rights Commission (AHRC) to conduct an independent and expeditious enquiry into allegations of fake police encounters in Assam.

A bench of Justices Kant and N Kotiswar Singh said that the AHRC would be at liberty to carry out further investigations into the allegations and the Assam government has to cooperate and remove any institutional barriers in the enquiry process.

The Court also directed the AHRC to issue public notice, inviting all those claiming to be aggrieved, and ensure that their confidentiality is not compromised and the matter is approached with sensitivity.

“It must be ensured that victims and family members are given fair opportunity,” the Bench observed. To ensure that victims are not disadvantaged, the Court directed the Assam State Legal Services Authority to provide legal aid to those who may require it.

Notably, a plea was filed by Arif Md Yeasin Jwadder, an advocate from Assam, raising the issue of encounters by police personnel in the state.

The petitioner claimed that more than 80 fake encounters took place between Assam police and persons accused in different cases since May 2021 (when Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma took charge). He sought an enquiry by an independent agency, like the CBI, SIT or a police team from other states.

Following the petition, a notice was issued on July 17, 2023, calling for the response of the **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** and the AHRC, besides the Assam government.

In April, 2024, the Court suggested that the petitioner place on record some additional information; following which Jwadder filed affidavits of the Tinsukia encounter case where 3 persons (Deepjyoti Neog, Biswanath Burgohain and Manoj Buragohain) were allegedly injured in police firing.

The Court, on September 10, upon hearing the matter conveyed its intention to form a commission to look into the matter adding that accused persons losing their lives “just like that” is not good for the rule of law.

In October, the top Court called for data (in the context of Assam) regarding enquiry, if any, initiated by the AHRC into cases where allegations of 'fake' encounter were levelled.

Punjab Kesari

सुप्रीम कोर्ट का बड़ा फैसला: असम के 171 फर्जी एनकाउंटर मामलों की जांच करेगा मानवाधिकार आयोग

असम में एनकाउंटर मामलों की जांच के लिए मानवाधिकार आयोग सक्रिय

<https://www.punjabkesari.com/india-news/%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%AE-%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%9F-%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE-%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%A1%E0%A4%BC%E0%A4%BE-%E0%A4%AB%E0%A5%88%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%B2%E0%A4%BE-%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%AE-%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%87-171-%E0%A4%AB%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%80-%E0%A4%8F%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%89%E0%A4%82%E0%A4%9F%E0%A4%B0-%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%B2%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%82-%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%80-%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%82%E0%A4%9A-%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%97%E0%A4%BE-%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0-%E0%A4%86%E0%A4%AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%97>

Aishwarya Raj | Published on: 28 May 2025, 3:35 pm

Summary

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने असम के 171 फर्जी एनकाउंटर मामलों की जांच का आदेश राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग को दिया है। यह फैसला एडवोकेट आरिफ यासीन जवाहर की याचिका पर सुनवाई के बाद आया, जिसमें गुवाहाटी हाईकोर्ट के आदेश को चुनौती दी गई थी। कोर्ट ने जांच में पीड़ितों और उनके परिवारों को शामिल करने का निर्देश दिया है।

असम में हुए 171 कथित फर्जी एनकाउंटर मामलों को लेकर सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बड़ा फैसला सुनाया है। कोर्ट ने इन मामलों की जांच के लिए राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (NHRC) को निर्देश दिया है। यह आदेश सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने एडवोकेट आरिफ यासीन जवाहर की याचिका पर सुनवाई के बाद दिया। याचिका में उन्होंने गुवाहाटी हाईकोर्ट के उस आदेश को चुनौती दी थी, जिसमें स्वतंत्र जांच की मांग को खारिज कर दिया गया था। जस्टिस सूर्यकांत और जस्टिस एन कोटिश्वर सिंह की बेंच ने कहा कि पुलिस पर लगाए गए आरोप बेहद गंभीर हैं और अगर सही पाए जाते हैं तो यह संविधान के अनुच्छेद 21, यानी जीवन के अधिकार का स्पष्ट उल्लंघन है। कोर्ट ने जांच के दौरान पीड़ितों और उनके परिवारों को भी प्रक्रिया में शामिल करने का निर्देश दिया है।

संविधान के अनुच्छेद 21 का हो सकता है उल्लंघन

कोर्ट ने कहा कि यह आरोप बहुत गंभीर हैं कि पुलिस ने गैर-कानूनी बल का प्रयोग किया है। यदि फर्जी एनकाउंटर के आरोप सही साबित होते हैं, तो यह संविधान के अनुच्छेद 21 का सीधा उल्लंघन होगा, जो हर नागरिक को जीवन और व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता का अधिकार देता है। हालांकि कोर्ट ने यह भी कहा कि निष्पक्ष जांच से यह भी सामने आ सकता है कि कुछ एनकाउंटर कानूनी और जरूरी थे।

मानवाधिकार आयोग करेगा जांच

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने जांच का जिम्मा राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग को सौंपते हुए कहा है कि वह इस विषय में एक सार्वजनिक नोटिस जारी करे, ताकि पीड़ितों और उनके परिवारों को भी अपनी बात रखने का अवसर मिल सके। कोर्ट ने यह भी स्पष्ट किया कि आयोग जांच के लिए रिटायर्ड या सेवा में कार्यरत पुलिस अधिकारियों की सहायता ले सकता है, लेकिन वे अधिकारी किसी भी रूप से एनकाउंटर से जुड़े पुलिसकर्मियों के संपर्क में न हों।

राज्य सरकार का दावा और कोर्ट की टिप्पणी

असम सरकार की ओर से कोर्ट में यह तर्क दिया गया कि बीते दस वर्षों में सिर्फ 10% मामलों में अपराधियों को पुलिस कार्रवाई में चोटें आईं और वह भी आत्मरक्षा में की गई कार्रवाई थी। हालांकि सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि यह दावा पर्याप्त नहीं है और गहराई से जांच जरूरी है। कोर्ट ने यह भी कहा कि राज्य सरकार की ओर से चिन्हित कुछ मामलों का दोबारा मूल्यांकन होना चाहिए, ताकि यह तय हो सके कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा पूर्व में दिए गए दिशा-निर्देशों का पालन हुआ या नहीं।

Telegraph India

Delhi HC grants two-month protection to MP journalist after alleged assault by Bhind superintendent of police

Justice Ravinder Dubeja directed the Delhi police to give protection to Amarkant Singh Chouhan, a resident of Madhya Pradesh and Bhind Bureau Chief of Swaraj Express news channel

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/india/delhi-hc-grants-two-month-protection-to-mp-journalist-after-alleged-assault-by-bhind-superintendent-of-police/cid/2103103>

PTI Published 28.05.25, 04:50 PM

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday granted protection to a Madhya Pradesh-based journalist who claimed there was threat to his life by the Bhind superintendent of police after he was allegedly beaten in his office.

Justice Ravinder Dubeja directed the Delhi Police to give protection to Amarkant Singh Chouhan, a resident of Madhya Pradesh and Bhind Bureau Chief of Swaraj Express news channel, for two months.

"In the meantime, they can approach the high court concerned (for availing further legal remedies)," the court said.

The court disposed of the plea, asking the petitioner's counsel to furnish the details of the police station where the journalist is staying in Delhi. It also said that Chouhan's number be shared with the beat officer and Station House Officer.

The plea, however, was opposed by the Delhi Police counsel.

Earlier this month, three journalists from Bhind district had alleged that they were beaten or manhandled inside the office of superintendent of police, an allegation denied by the officer.

Pritam Singh Rajawat who runs a YouTube channel, Shashikant Goyal who runs a news portal, and Amarkant Singh Chouhan, who also works for a news channel alleged in a complaint submitted to the district collector that they were assaulted on May 1.

Chouhan, 55, approached the Delhi High Court claiming that he came to Delhi fleeing violence by the police in Bhind and is unable to return to Madhya Pradesh due to threat to his life and personal liberty.

His counsel said he was constrained to approach the Delhi High Court as he was unable to approach the Madhya Pradesh High Court due to the extenuating circumstances.

"The petitioner inter alios had been recently reporting about the illegal sand mining activities in the Chambal River that are carried out by the sand mafia in connivance with the local police. Displeased with the same, on May 1, 2025, SP Asit Yadav had inter alios

'invited' the petitioner to have tea with him in his chambers and had physically assaulted and battered the petitioner," the petition said.

The plea claimed that besides Chouhan, and another journalist Shashikant Goyal, more than half a dozen other scribes were also present in the superintendent of police's chamber and all had been stripped down to their undergarments before being physically assaulted.

The petitioner alleged that faced with continuous harassment at the hands of Bhind police, Goyal and Chauhan came to Delhi on May 19 to file a complaint with the Press Council of India and the National Human Rights Commission.

The plea said there is threat to his and his family's life if the petitioner returns to his hometown in Bhind and urged the court to extend them protection.

He prayed the court to protect his right to life and personal liberty and also to protect the freedom of speech and expression and the right to carry out profession under Article 19(1) of the Constitution.

Except for the headline, this story has not been edited by The Telegraph Online staff and has been published from a syndicated feed.

Lokmat Times

GMCH to submit autopsy report of Amol Khotkar to NHRC

<https://www.lokmatimes.com/aurangabad/gmch-to-submit-autopsy-report-of-amol-khotkar-to-nhrc/>

By Lokmat English Desk | Updated: May 28, 2025 18:30 IST

Lokmat News Network Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: The Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) administration will soon be sending the autopsy ...

Lokmat News Network

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar:

The Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) administration will soon be sending the autopsy report of the deceased Amol Khotkar, who died in an encounter, to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). The report will contain provisional cause of death, video-clip of the in-camera post-mortem, photographs, memory card of video shooting etc. After a gap of 36 hours, the body of Amol was handed over to the family members at 11.30 am on Wednesday.

The in-camera autopsy of the deceased Khotkar started at 8 pm on Tuesday (May 27) and was completed by 10 pm. Normally, it takes about one or one and a half hours to complete the post-mortem process, but this one lasted for two hours. The body was placed in the GMCH's mortuary ward during the night. Accordingly, the relatives left the hospital with the body on Wednesday at 11.30 am.

The GMCH sources confirmed that the detailed report of the post-mortem along with the photographs, memory card consisting video clip, panchanama report and police station's letter etc will be sent to NHRC through a government post.

Firearm injury in vital organs

After post mortem the hospital gave a provisional cause of death report to the police. It mentioned 'Firearm injury in vital organs', said the sources. This means death due to organ failure after piercing a bullet in the body in a gunshot. Prior to the post-mortem the CT Scan of Amol's body was also done in the GMCH. The scan report featured a fracture in the body extending from the right shoulder to left shoulder. Besides, a metal-like object has also been recovered from the left shoulder. Later on, during the post-mortem, the hospital attendants removed a bullet from Amol's body.