

BID seeks Prez's action; Congress judicial probe

Opposition parties slam government over increasing crime against women in the state

Odisha as it has become unsafe for them," the memorandum stated. The Congress too, stepped up its attack on the issue of the girl student and demanded a judicial probe into the incident along with resignation of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Mahi.

In a memorandum submitted to the President at Raj Bhavan here, the party delegation including government chief whip Pramila Mallik, former minister Shekhangini Chhuria and Rajya Sabha MP Sulata Deo said, several recent incidents including that of PM College student have exposed the seriousness of the situation in the state. This incident also highlights a complete failure of the grievance redressal system in the state, it added.

The memorandum said, about a month back, a college student was subjected to gang-rape in front of her male friend at Gopalpur beach. This incident had brought shame for Odisha around the world so much so that the state figured in US advisory as unsafe for women, it added.

The memorandum also referred to the sexual harassment remarks made by BJP MLA Santosh Khataua against party spokesperson Lekhasree Samantasinghar. "We urge your intervention to ensure safety and protection of women in

Congress doing petty politics, says Pravati Parida

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bhubaneswar

THE ruling BJP accused the Congress of indulging in petty politics when the girl student of Fakir Mohan (Autonomous) College, Balasore, is battling for life with severe burn injuries in hospital. Hitting out at All India Mahila Congress president Alka Lamba and party MLA from Cuttack-Barabati Sofia Firdous for their criticism of the state government at a media conference in Delhi, deputy chief minister Pravati Parida said the two women leaders seem oblivious to their party's dark history in handling women's issues.

She said the state government has taken swift and strict action in the PM College incident. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Mahi visited AIIMS to assess the student's health condition and is in constant touch with the family and medical authorities to monitor her treatment. He has promised strictest action against all those found guilty of driving the girl to take the extreme step, she said.

Addressing a media-conference at party office here, state vice-president Biranchi Tripathy also said the Congress has no moral authority to speak on women atrocities given their past history.

He alleged that Congress was complicit in the incident from the beginning. "When the victim complained about the issue on July 1, the Balasore district secretary of student Congress wrote on social media that she was levelling false allegations against the teacher for her low attendance in college," Tripathy said.

FM incident puts spotlight on UGC regulations' compliance

DIANA SAHU @Bhubaneswar

THE FM College incident has posed serious questions on adherence of University Grants Commission (UGC)'s regulations regarding constitution of inter-college complaints committees (ICC) by higher educational institutions (HEIs) in the state, and awareness among students about presence of such platforms for redressal of harassment complaints.

To secure students and women employees in higher educational institutions from sexual harassment, the UGC had in 2015 framed the University Grants Commission (prevention, prohibition and redressal of sexual harassment of women employees and students in higher educational institutions) Regulations.

Welcoming the state's immediate measures in suspending the principal and accused assistant professor of PM College in connection with a 20-year-old girl student's suicide bid on campus, IIC member Sachidananda Mohanty said there is a need for

Not just forming functional ICCs but the HEIs also have other responsibilities like publicising presence of an ICC, publicising names and numbers of ICC members in their prospectus, conspicuous places on campus and notice boards

all HEIs in the state to implement UGC regulations in true spirit and understand the importance of ICCs to prevent sexual harassment.

"Not just forming functional ICCs but the HEIs also have other responsibilities like publicising presence of an active ICC, publicising names and numbers of ICC members in their prospectus, conspicuous places on campus and notice boards," said Mohanty.

As per the UGC regulations, a sexual harassment complaint is made to ICC and not principal or vice-chancellor. Head of a HEI shall not inter-

ference with an ICC investigation or offer to mediate between the victim or the defendant. Besides, HEIs should institutionalise counselling services for the victims and ICCs should ensure that victims are not victimised or discriminated against while dealing with sexual harassment complaints. They should also submit reports on sexual harassment cases on campuses and action taken reports to UGC periodically. "But it has come to our notice that many institutions do not report to show that there are no such cases on their campuses. From the UGC point of view, non-reporting is also a violation," he said.

Mohanty added that the UGC is committed to the safety of girl students and women employees on campuses of both state and centrally-governed HEIs. "The regulations are framed in a manner to provide utmost safety to them and educational institutions can do so by following the rules with sincerity," he said.

NHRC asks Balasore SP to submit report

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THE National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Monday directed the Balasore SP to submit a report within 15 days in connection with the self-immolation of a second year integrated BEd student of Fakir Mohan (Autonomous) College who is battling for her life at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar here.

"District SP is directed to furnish a report along with all the materials before the Commission within a period of 15 days," NHRC stated in its order. The Commission also directed the district collector and chief district medical officer (CDO) to apprise it about the medical care provided to the victim. NHRC's order came after it received a complaint in this regard from chairperson of Human Rights Front India, Manoj Jena, seeking a high-level inquiry into the matter.

"From the allegations made, prima facie it is observed that a female student of Fakir Mohan (Autonomous) College in Balasore attempted self-immolation after facing sexual harassment by a professor," said the Commission.

MEA writes to Canadian authorities on Rath Yatra egging

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A day after a video went viral showing eggs being thrown at a Rath Yatra procession in Toronto, the Ministry of External Affairs on Monday said the matter has been strongly taken up with the Canadian authorities.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaishwal, in a statement, said the ministry has taken note of reports regarding disruption created by mischievous ele-

ments during Rath Yatra processions at Toronto. Such despicable acts are regrettable and against the spirit of the festival, which seeks to promote unity, inclusivity and social harmony, he said.

"We have taken up the matter with Canadian authorities to hold the perpetrators of the act accountable. We hope the Canadian government will take necessary action to protect the religious rights of people," he wrote. ISKCON Toronto had on

Sunday showing eggs being thrown at the devotees and the chariot from a building during the Rath Yatra procession. Despite this, the procession continued.

Earlier in the day, leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik expressed anguish over the incident and urged Chief Minister Mohan Charan Mahi to take the matter seriously and the Ministry of External Affairs to register a strong protest with the Canadian authorities.

Saturday and Sunday organised its 53rd annual Rath Yatra from Yonge Street to Centre Island. An Instagram user Sangna Bajaj shared a video

UJVN LIMITED advertisement for Corrigendum No. 02 (Time Extension) e-Procurement Notice. Includes details about the project, submission dates, and contact information.

National Insurance Company Limited advertisement for Rentable Carpet Area as per IS: 3861-2002. Includes a table with details on office space, preferred locations, and contact information.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-TENDER NOTICE advertisement for ZONAL OFFICE: BHUBANESWAR. Includes details about the tender, location, and contact information.

MCL MAHANADI COALFIELDS LIMITED advertisement for NOTICE regarding procurement of Goods, Works and Services. Includes details about the procurement process and contact information.

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - III DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, CUTTACK advertisement. Includes details about the recovery process and contact information.

MAHAVATARAN E-TENDER NOTICE advertisement. Includes details about the tender for Network Bandwidth Service Provider and contact information.

PREMISES REQUIRED ON RENT advertisement for Bank of Maharashtra. Includes details about the premises and contact information.

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA advertisement for Regional Business Office. Includes details about the office location and contact information.

MAA DURGA SUITING SHIRTING AND OTHERS advertisement. Includes details about the business and contact information.

MAHADRISHI E-TENDER NOTICE advertisement. Includes details about the tender for Network Bandwidth Service Provider and contact information.

Bank of Maharashtra advertisement for Zonal Manager. Includes details about the position and contact information.

RGG advertisement for RADHA GOBINDO ROY GRANDSON JEWELLERS. Includes details about the jewelry business and contact information.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER advertisement for RURAL WORKS CIRCLE BOLANGIR. Includes details about the procurement process and contact information.

ICMR - NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE advertisement for Walk-in Interview. Includes details about the interview process and contact information.

KMML The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd advertisement for TENDER NOTICE. Includes details about the tender and contact information.

Advertisement for RADHA GOBINDO ROY GRANDSON JEWELLERS. Includes details about the jewelry business and contact information.