

# After week-long student protests, Raipur law university V-C resigns

By: DEEKSHA BHARDWAJ  
Courtesy: The Print.in  
New Delhi, Oct 2,

The vice-chancellor of Hidayatullah National Law University (HNLU), Raipur, resigned Monday, after week-long protests, including a hunger strike during the day, by students demanding his ouster. The students had accused Vice-Chancellor Dr Sukh Pal Singh of allegedly not acting on complaints of sexual harassment, indulging in financial irregularities, a lack of transparency and maladministration.

The university administration had denied the charges against the VC and had put out a 17-page rebuttal countering them. "He (Singh) had ignored academic interests over his seven-year tenure. There is rampant corruption and he dismissed grave complaints of sexual harassment," said Abha Dixit, the protest coordinator, HNLU. "That professor (accused of harassment) is still teaching students." The Student's Bar Association (SBA) had collected 800 signatures from a body of 950 students to push for Singh's resignation.

The issue had been simmering for a while. In August, the Chhattisgarh High Court had quashed the 2014 extension granted to Singh, who was first appointed to the post in 2011, on the grounds of irregularities in the procedure of appointment. Ravishankar Sharma, the principal secretary in the state Law Department, had then taken over as interim VC. On 20 September, however, the Supreme Court issued an interim stay on the month-old high court order following which Singh resumed office as VC.

### The allegation-response tussle

In its 17-page response, issued on 30 September, the university had specific counters to the charges made by the students. On "rampant corruption", the students claimed that an audit report, prepared after corruption charges were made against the V-C in 2016, had not been tabled in front of university's decision-making authorities because it may contain "embarrassing" information. The university, however, countered it by stating copies of the special audit inspection report along with comments of the vice-

**VC Sukh Pal Singh had been accused of inaction in cases of sexual harassment, financial irregularities and maladministration.**

chancellor had been sent to a panel comprising of "Justice A.M. Sapre, judge, Supreme Court of India, Justice Deepak Gupta, judge, Supreme Court, and the V-C vide letters dated 12 April 2018". Using a case from August as an example, the students had accused Singh of adopting a "casual attitude towards complaints of sexual harassment". The university, however, notes that while students made a complaint in person, no written follow-up was submitted. The case has now been referred to the "newly-constituted internal complaints committee", the university said. You can read the full response here. The students, however, claim

that the document was proof that Singh was "lying on record". "They have passed the buck. There are at least three issues where it was interim VC R.S. Sharma who ordered the changes, except that Singh is claiming them as his decisions", said Achyut Tiwari, public relations head, SBA. The three instances include uploading university documents regarding minutes of the authority meeting, moot paper and research paper funding, and constituting an internal complaint committee. "The reply doesn't even address the money allocated for the production of the college song. What happened to those Rs 2 lakh," asked Tiwari.

# Police fire water cannons, teargas shells at protesting farmers at Delhi-UP border

The farmers were marching to Delhi from Haridwar.



Agency  
New Delhi, Oct 2,

Delhi police on Tuesday fired water cannons and teargas shells at protesting farmers as they tried to break barricades put up to stop them at the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border. The Delhi police had issued week-long prohibitory orders under section 144 on Monday, in anticipation of the Kisan Kranti Padyatra organised by the Bharatiya Kisan Union,

arriving from Haridwar. The rally was expected to make its way to Kisan Ghat in the city this afternoon. But organisers said that the police were not letting the march enter the city because of the large number of tractors they were bringing along with them. In east Delhi, the prohibitory orders issued by Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Pankaj Singh under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure

Code, will be in force till October 8. It covers Preet Vihar, Jagatpuri, Shakarpur, Madhu Vihar, Ghazipur, Mayur Vihar, Mandawli, Pandav Nagar, Kalyanpuri and New Ashok Nagar police station limits. In northeast Delhi, the prohibitory orders were issued by Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northeast) Atul Kumar Thakur and will be in force till October 4.

# Organic farming tour to Sikkim brings cheer to the citizenry of Kanalok valley

ITNews  
Imphal, Oct 2,

The ten day long "Organic Tour to Sikkim" organised by Sajik Lampak Battalion of 28 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) culminated with "Flagging-in" by Brig Neelesh Bhanot, Sena Medal, DIG, 28 Sector Assam Rifles at Kakching on 01 October 2018. The tour was organised with an aim to enlighten and expose the younger farmers of naturally abundant valley area to myriad options of organic

farming. During their maiden visit to Sikkim, a total of twenty farmers including seven females learnt about the various 'chemical free' organic farming techniques in vogue. A series of presentation and field visits to various organic farms were organised under the aegis of the Agriculture and Horticulture department of Sikkim. The farmers were able to gain practical knowledge on organic ways of soil testing towards controlling pests during the farm visits. Various harvesting techniques along

with an exposure to the emerging markets for organic products were also adequately covered. In between the busy schedule of the tour, the young farmers also got the opportunity to meet the Honourable Governor of Sikkim, General Officer Commanding 17 Mountain Division and Mr Baichung Bhutia - which made up the most impressionable moments of the tour. The party also visited the Nathu La Pass and famous Harbhajan Baba Temple. The long winding tour was interspersed with local sight-seeing that generated a healthy mix of learning with

fun. The unique endeavour was organised through the civic action programme of Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) and provided a unique opportunity to the young farmers of remote Chandel district. The long lasting initiatives of the Sajik Battalion aimed at generating economically viable self-sustenance enterprises at local level are being widely hailed by the locals of Kanalok valley and creating an environment of unparalleled bon-homie in the once insurgency infested areas of Chandel district, Manipur.

# Legal awareness Programme on Mentally ill and Mentally Disabled Persons, POCSO and Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Scheme

ITNews  
Imphal, Oct 2,

A one-day legal awareness programme was held today at Singjamei Chingamathak Pishum Hao Ground on October 2, 2018. Relief Centre for the Welfare of Differently Aabled Persons, Manipur under sponsorship Manipur State Legal Services Authority (MASLSA) with the aim to make the public aware about the legal rights and the legal consequence of committing any form of crime on the Mentally ill and Mentally Disabled Persons and Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Scheme. Dr. R.K. Kumarjit Singh, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Government of Manipur, Ph. Gopendro Singh, President, Relief Centre for the Welfare of Differently Aabled Persons, Nimol Chand Ningombam, Editor, Phijigi Manigilaktagi, Ng Rana Singh, President CYLC,

Chingamathak and N.Tomba Singh, Specialist, KVK, Thoubal attended the function as chief guest, president and guest of honour respectively. State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Dr. R.K. Kumarjit Singh said that this annual programme that has been started conducting from the last few years bring lot of positive impact specially to teachers, parents, nurses and so on. He further informed that the government of India has launched Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act in December 2016. However, the implementation of the act shall depend a lot on the machineries of the state. Rules for proper implementation of various provisions made under rights of persons with disabilities act, 2016 needs to be framed, he added. The resource persons, Advocate, Th.Premalata, Asst. Director, Human Rights Law Network gave speeches on the

topic Welfare Scheme Sponsored by State Government and Central Government, Women Rights, Mentally ill and Mentally Disabled Persons, she said that any kind of verbal and physical harassments faced out to women can be claimed as domestic violence. She added that denying education to girl child and keeping wives for household works only can also be rated as violence against women. Advocate Khurajam Kanta on 'Crime Against Women and POCSO. There are also cases where the provisions of law have been misused by the parents or guardians of the girl when the prospective child in laws family's is poor. Law provides a space to create class in the society. The boy who has no men at the time of performing the act is made liable to face criminal proceeding and subsequent punishment, which is against the criminal jurisprudence.

# Women's Struggles.....

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Another very inspiring account of women's participation in liberation movements and call for freedom and independence is the experience of South African women who served as primordial catalysts in the protest against the apartheid regime. The apartheid regime was very cruel and overwhelmingly destructive of the women's place in society on the basis of their color (as black women) and sex (just by the mere fact that they are women). However, to their credit, South African women did not allow these rude discriminations perpetrated by the apartheid system to discourage them from their fight against the apartheid system together with their male counterparts. In retrospect, in my first four days (4) visit to Imphal, Manipur, I was really amazed and proud to have seen and to have met the great women of Manipur, who are equally fighting various social, political, economic, and cultural issues and

challenges being confronted by them, and by the people of Manipur in general. I am really humbled having met the phenomenal women of Manipur. All these made me realize that indeed, in any given liberation movements, in various contexts and regions and parts of the world, the role of women is equally important as the role of men for these liberation movements and call for independence to bear the fruits of their labour. History has proven this time and again. Without a doubt in my mind and my heart, I do stand and believe in the thought that, women's full participation and cooperation in the struggle for liberation, independence, freedom, self-determination, justice, and social, political, economic, and cultural independence, is equally important and indispensable. I salute these women who sacrificed and are continuously sacrificing their lives for their countries' freedom, dignity, and independence.

# Weapon and equipments display on second anniversary of Surgical Strike



ITNews  
Imphal, Oct 2,

To commemorate valour and dauntless act of Surgical Strike by Indian Armed force behind the enemy lines, a weapons and equipments display was organised at Kakching Garrison by Kakching Battalion of 28 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) on 30 September 2018. The aim after display was to motivate the locals youth of the

Kakching to join Indian Army as profession and to instil a sense of patriotism in them. A total of 200 students, staff members of Grace Cottage School, Kakching and family members of Kakching Battalion attended the event. The principal, teacher, students of Grace Cottage School, Kakching and family members of Kakching Battalion appreciated the commendable brave act undertaken by the Indian Armed forces.

# Nearly 20 lakh literate, semi-literate unemployed youths in Assam: Minister

Agency  
Guwahati Oct. 2,

Assam government Wednesday said the state has nearly 20 lakh literate and semi-literate unemployed youths, who have registered themselves in the employment exchanges. In a written reply to a query by AIUDF MLA Abul Kalam Azad, Skill, Employment & Entrepreneurship Development

Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary said a total of 19,63,376 persons with educational and semi-educational skills have registered till December 31, 2017. Out of these unemployed youths, 16,65,866 are educated people, the minister said. The rest 2,97,510 are unskilled, who are not 10th pass and do not have any technical knowledge, he added.

Patowary, however, did share any information on how many people have been given employment in the last three financial years saying that the data is sought from various departments. He listed out a serious of programmes initiated by the government to provide skill development trainings to the unemployed youths across the state.