

Silchar college lecturer held for FB post as students protest

TORA AGARWALA
GUWAHATI, FEBRUARY 29

A GUEST lecturer at Gurucharan College in Silchar, Assam, was arrested on Friday night following an FIR by 10 students accusing him of making inflammatory comments on Facebook.

While Souradeep Sengupta, 25, deleted his Facebook post after the students objected, police acted on the FIR to arrest him. Cachar SP Manabendra Dev Ray said Sengupta had been booked under the IPC and IT Act. "He was arrested due to anti-social comments on Facebook which may lead to communal tensions," the officer said.

Sengupta's bail plea came up before court on Saturday, and he was sent to judicial custody till Monday.

Sengupta's family members said students had forced their way into their home, shouting 'Jai Shri Ram' slogans.

Students are demanding that Sengupta be fired. Reached for a comment, Principal Bibhas Deb said Sengupta was not associated with Gurucharan College. "It was a temporary appointment and it (his contract) ended in November," Deb added, refusing to comment further.

Sengupta, who had joined as guest lecturer at Gurucharan College a year ago, put up the Facebook post following the riots in Delhi, suggesting that some sections were trying to recreate the communal violence seen in 2002 in Gujarat.

Following a backlash, Sengupta deleted the post and said he was sorry. "I apologise for

any religious sentiments I may have hurt by my posts. I made some irresponsible comments about a communally sensitive issue. It was a lapse of judgement. My intention was not to insult any religion at large," he posted late Thursday night.

On Friday afternoon, some students filed an FIR and submitted a memorandum to Principal Deb, seeking Sengupta's "immediate termination". Rohit Chanda, 18, one of the complainants, said, "How can he, a teacher, insult our dharma?"

Sengupta's family said on Friday evening, around 40 students gathered at their residence, demanding that Sengupta apologise for his remarks. Sengupta was not home at the time.

"The crowd demanded that Sengupta's mother come out.

She said they need to come in so that they could have a civil discussion. But once they did, the environment became very hostile," a cousin of Sengupta's said. "The crowd also accused his mother, who has been a government teacher for over 30 years, of not raising her son the right way. They even questioned her religious beliefs by making statements like, 'What kind of Hindu are you if you don't have a single idol, picture of Hindu god or goddess outside your portico?'"

It was around then that Sengupta came home and was immediately picked up by police, the cousin said.

Sengupta did his graduation from Presidency College in Kolkata, followed by post-graduation from Delhi University. He is currently doing his PhD.

Army paediatrician takes charge as third woman Lt Gen

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS
PUNE, FEBRUARY 29

MAJ GEN Madhuri Kanitkar was on Saturday elevated to the rank of Lieutenant General, becoming the third woman officer in the Army and first paediatrician from the armed forces to hold the rank.

Lt Gen Kanitkar took charge as Deputy Chief, Integrated Defence Staff (DCIDS), Medical (under Chief of Defence Staff), in New Delhi.

Lt Gen Kanitkar has served for 37 years. She and husband Rajiv, also a Lt Gen, will be the first couple in the armed forces to hold this rank.

"This organization is fair, transparent, respected and safe for a woman where she is given opportunities to grow," Lt Gen Kanitkar told *The Sunday Express*. "If there is one message I would like to share, it is to enjoy every day in uniform with childlike enthusiasm and challenge yourself to achieve the impossible. Never give up - just give back. To every woman in uniform, I can say, 'Half the world is yours to take, but the full is yours to give'. So always give it your best," she said.

She had been selected for the rank of Lt Gen last year, and assumed it on Saturday following a vacancy.

A topper at Armed Forces



Lt Gen Madhuri Kanitkar and husband Rajiv, also a Lt Gen, will be first couple in armed forces to hold the rank.

Medical College (AFMC), Pune, and winner of President's gold medal for best outgoing student, Lt Gen Kanitkar completed her postgraduation in paediatrics and training in paediatric nephrology at AIIMS. She is a member of the Prime Minister's scientific and technical advisory board.

She is the first trained paediatric nephrologist in the armed forces, and single-handedly set up units in Pune and Delhi to monitor kidney ailments among children. She had returned to her alma mater - AFMC - as its first woman dean in 2017.

Lt Gen Punita Arora was the first woman officer to hold the rank.

Padmavathy Bandopadhyay is the first woman Air Marshal of Indian Air Force, and the second woman officer in the armed forces to be promoted to a three-star officer rank.

MP teachers promised increment for sterilisation

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, FEBRUARY 29

TWO YEARS after their services were merged with the School Education Department, teachers in Madhya Pradesh's Harda district have been assured of an additional increment if they had opted for sterilisation in the past.

According to a circular issued by District Education Officer S Raghvanshi on Thursday, teachers ("adhyapak") who had opted for sterilisation before June 16, 2006, would get the additional increment from that date and the rest from the date they opted for

sterilisation. Adhyapak were teachers recruited by civic bodies in urban areas and panchayats in rural areas. After years of protests, they were absorbed in government services by creating a special cadre, and their services were brought under the control of the School Education Department.

The DEO issued the circular in response to a memorandum by the Azad Adhyapak Shikshak Sangh, MP. Among its various demands, the organisation had demanded that they be given the benefit meant for other teachers who opted for sterilisation. Raghvanshi, who issued the circular, did not respond to calls.

KITTUR RANI CHANNAMMA RESIDENTIAL SAINIK SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, KITTUR - 591115
Dist.: Belagavi, Karnataka State
Phone : 08288-234601 / 286237,
Fax : 08288-287299, Cell : 9483501100,
E-mail : kittursainikschool@gmail.com,
principalkittursainikschool@gmail.com, Website : www.kittursainikschool.org
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AIEE RESULT & ADMISSION NOTIFICATION
Results of All India Entrance Examination for Class VI MERIT/ MERIT CUM MEANS & FFP (Other States), which was held on **19th January 2020**, has been displayed on the website www.kittursainikschool.in and intimation has been sent to successful candidates by ordinary post.
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Sd/- (RS Khatri) Col (Retd)
Principal, KRCRSSG, Kittur

On Muslim quota, MP minister claims govt working on it

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, FEBRUARY 29

MADHYA PRADESH Water Resources Minister Hukum Singh Karada has claimed that the Kamal Nath government is planning a better deal for minorities than Maharashtra,

but refused to elaborate, saying he was not authorised. "We are working on an agenda for minorities. You will see that MP is going to offer more relaxations in next few days," Karada told reporters at Agar-Malwa, when asked about his views on Maharashtra providing 5 per cent reservation to Muslims in educational institutions.

Congress spokesperson Shobha Oza said she is not aware of any such move but the party has always stood with all sections.

BJP spokesperson Deepak Vijayvargiya said the Constitution does not allow reservation based on religion. He also accused the Congress of indulging in vote-bank politics and minority appeasement.

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AVAIL OF NEWLY PLANNED PLOTS

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Start	End	
2.03.2020 (10 am)	16.03.2020 (10 pm)	
3 Abu Road	78 Ajmer	36 Alwar
57 Bharatpur	33 Ghiloth	27 Jhalawar
4 Boranada	3 Jaipur (S)	41 Bhiwadi II
30 Nagaur	4 Banswara	4 EPIP Sitapura
47 Jaipur (N)	Bid Start	Bid End
	17.03.2020 (10 am)	19.03.2020 (5 pm)

EMD Deposition		
Start	End	
2.03.2020 (10 am)	17.03.2020 (10 pm)	
9 Sikar	37 Kota	35 Sawai Madhopur
10 Bikaner	9 Jodhpur	48 Sri Ganganagar
9 Udaipur	23 Balotra	17 Bhiwadi I
28 Bhilwara	7 Neemrana	10 Jhunjhunu
101 Pali	Bid Start	Bid End
	18.03.2020 (10 am)	20.03.2020 (5 pm)

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