



राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग  
**National Commission for Scheduled Tribes**  
(भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 338क के अंतर्गत एक संवैधानिक निकाय)  
(A Constitutional body under Article 338A of the Constitution of India)

F. No. NCST/DEV-940/JH/17/2022-ESDW

Dated: 26.05.2023

To,

**Shri Rahul Kumar Sinha**  
Deputy Commissioner,  
District Ranchi,  
Block-A, Deputy Commissioner Office,  
Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001  
Jharkhand.  
E-Mail: dc-ran@nic.in

**Sub: Minutes of the Sitting taken by Shri Ananta Nayak, Hon'ble Member, NCST, New Delhi on 12.05.2023 at 04:00 PM on the representation dated 24.05.2022 from Shri Arvind Hans and others, Village Siram Toli, District Ranchi, Jharkhand regarding the Preserving the Cultural and religious places.**

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of Minutes of the Sitting taken by Shri Ananta Nayak, Hon'ble Member, NCST, New Delhi on **12.05.2023 at 04:00** on the above mentioned subject for information and necessary action.

2. You are directed to send the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the recommendations of the Commission **within 15 days** from the date of receiving of the Minutes.

Encl: as Above.

Yours faithfully,

  
(H.R. Meena)  
Research Officer

Copy for information to: -

1. **Shri Arvind Hans,**  
Village Siram Toli,  
District Ranchi,  
Jharkhand

✓ 2. NIC Cell for upload in NCST  
Website.

# National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

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No. NCST/DEV-940/JH/17/2022-ESDW

Minutes of the Sitting held under the Chairmanship of Shri Ananta Nayak, Hon'ble Member, NCST on the representation from Shri Arvind Das has alleged that the that their place of worship, "KENDRIYA SARNA STHAL" is the main pilgrimage of the Scheduled Tribes Community is being demolished by the administration in the name of beautification.

Date of the Sitting: 12.05.2023

List of Participants: As per Annexure

The Commission received a representation on 28.05.2022, from Shri Arvind Das, resident of SirmaToli, Ranchi district (Jharkhand) alleges that alleging that their place of worship, "KENDRIYA SARNA STHAL" is the main pilgrimage site for scheduled tribes. All the surrounding villagers worship the place, and it has been protected by them for generations. However, now the administration has decided to demolish this sacred place of the Scheduled Tribes Community in the name of beautification. The administration has not sought consultation from the community, which is causing fear among the tribal people that this action by the authorities will hamper their religious beliefs. They want their voices to be heard, and they demand that the work be stopped.

The NCST vide notice dated 03.11.2022 has referred the matter to the Shri Rahul Kumar Sinha, Deputy Commissioner, Ranchi district to furnish the facts and comments within 15 days from the receipt of the notice. No reply was received from the authority.

Therefore, summon was issued to Shri Rahul Kumar Sinha, Deputy Commissioner, Ranchi district on 03.05.2023 for a Sitting on 12.05.2023.

In the hearing held on 12.05.2023, the petitioners have submitted that the "KENDRIYA SARNA STHAL" holds significant religious importance for the villagers and has been protected by them for generations. They express their concern that the government, in the name of beautification, intends to demolish this sacred place of the Scheduled Tribes Community and construct a five-storey building that includes facilities such as a library, coaching classes, community hall, toilets, and parking area. The construction has commenced without obtaining the consent of the villagers. The petitioners further submit that the construction of a five-storey structure is compromising the sanctity of the place and infringing upon the customs and traditions of the villagers. They do not object to the construction of a five-storey building for the welfare of the community but suggest that the location should be shifted to another area nearby, rather than at the worshipping place itself.

Shri Rahul Kumar Sinha, Deputy Commissioner, Ranchi district informed the Commission that on October 21, 2016, a land verification report was received for the Sarne site in Sirmtoli, Ranchi. The report confirmed that the land, registered as Gairmajrua Bhuihari Penai (Sarna), belonged to Mauja-Sirmtoli, Khasra number-156, with an area of 0.46 rakwa. This land has been used for conducting annual Sarna worship. In 2017-18, a meeting was held to seek the consent of the villagers regarding the beautification of the Sarna site. As the villagers gave their consent, a motion was passed to proceed with the beautification. Funds were allocated for the beautification of the Sirmtoli Sarna site on March 31, 2022, through the Secretary of Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, Minorities, and Backward Classes Welfare. However, Mr. Arvind Hans and others opposed the project and submitted a written complaint to halt the construction. Conversely, Mr. Prakash Hans and other villagers submitted a consent letter in favor of the beautification. It is worth noting that the Sarna Sthal land is Pahanai land, where the worshippers are Pahan leaders, and the current Pahan has also given consent for the beautification of the Sarna site.

To reach a conclusion, a meeting was organized. As the villagers agreed to the beautification, the construction has commenced. The Commissioner further stated that since the project has been approved by the Secretary of Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, Minorities, and Backward Classes Welfare, they do not have the authority to halt the construction. The matter is now under the jurisdiction of the State Authorities.

The Commission has expressed its strong displeasure regarding the construction of a five-storey building on the community's worshipping place. It emphasizes that such construction is compromising the sanctity of the location and disregarding the customs and traditions of the villagers. Contrary to the construction plans, the true essence of tribal culture lies in promoting the concept of living in harmony with nature. If the Tribal Welfare Department genuinely intends to preserve and promote tribal culture, it should prioritize the planting of trees and preserving the natural surroundings. If the state government wishes to construct a five-storey building for the welfare of the villagers, they should consider selecting an adjacent or another prominent site within the city.

After hearing both the sides, the Commission recommends the followings: -

1. The Deputy Commissioner will submit the following details regarding the Gram Sabha resolutions passed through SDO, ITDP:
  - a. Details of the resolutions passed during the Gram Sabha meetings.
  - b. The list of villagers who were present during the process of passing these resolutions.
  - c. Documentation of the intimation notices sent to the villagers to inform them about the meeting and gather their participation.
2. The Deputy Commissioner through TRTI shall assess the impact of the construction on the worship places of the Scheduled Tribes Customs after conducting meeting with the villagers and send compliance to the state

*A. Sinha*

government and send the copy of the communication along with the assessment report to the commission

3. The Deputy Commissioner will make overall assessment and send compliance report to the state government and shall send the copy of the communication along with the assessment report to the commission

Notice to Secretary of Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, Minorities, and Backward Classes Welfare shall be issued for seeking ATR within 7 days.

The Deputy Commissioner is required to submit the Action taken report to commission within 15 days for further necessary action.

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Faint official stamp]*  
OFFICE OF THE  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER  
FOR SCHEDULED CASTES  
AND SCHEDULED TRIBES  
MUMBAI

(ANNEXURE)

F. No. NCST/DEV-940/JH/17/2022-ESDW

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS: -**

<b>National Commission for Scheduled Tribes</b>		
<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1.	Shri Ananta Nayak	Hon'ble Member
2.	Smt. Miranda Ingudam	Director
3.	Sh. Radhakanta Tripathy	Special Rapporteur
4.	Sh. Avinash Mattur	Legal Consultant
5.	Miss. Maithili Srinivasamurthy	Legal Consultant
6.	Miss. Amrita Solanki	Sr. Investigator
<b>Deputy Commissioner, District Ranchi, Jharkhand</b>		
<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1.	Rahul Kumar Sinha	D.C Ranchi
<b>Petitioner</b>		
1.	Dr. Arvind Hans	Petitioner
2.	Sh. Enjoy Hans	Petitioner
3.	Miss Kiran Sushma Khoya	Petitioner