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Arunachal MLA's son 'beaten to death' in Delhi, anger spills over

PTI | Updated: Jan 31, 2014, 21:19 IST

86 Comments





NEW DELHI: An Arunachal Pradesh MLA's son died here after he was allegedly beaten up by some shopkeepers following an altercation sparked by their taunts on his hairstyle, in yet another incident of targeting of people from the north-east.

Police registered a case of murder in connection with the death of <u>Nido Tania</u>, son of Congress MLA and parliamentary secretary in health and family welfare department, Nido Pavitra, on Thursday as the incident sparked a furore with allegations of discrimination against people from the region.

Two shopkeepers were arrested this evening in the case as police faced flak for alleged inaction. Delhi government also recommended a magisterial inquiry into the incident.

The relatives of the youth, who was a BA first year student at a private university, alleged that he had an

altercation with some shopkeepers in Lajpat Nagar in south Delhi on Wednesday after they made fun of his hairstyle, following which they allegedly thrashed him.

Police had reached the spot and brokered compromise after which Tania returned to his Safdarjung home with his friends. However, he did not wake up in the morning. When his friends took him to AIIMS, he was declared brought dead.

Police said they were waiting for the viscera report while two shopkeepers identified as Farhan and Akram have been arrested.

The initial post-mortem has not revealed "much injury or aberration". His viscera samples have been preserved to zero in on the cause of death, police said.

"On Wednesday, they had a fight. However they reached a compromise soon after that. There was not much injury. Then on Thursday he was brought dead to AIIMS following which we were informed. Postmortem was conducted today.

"It didn't show much injury or aberrations. Internally, there were some changes in viscera, and for this the viscera has been preserved and its chemical report is being expedited. Meanwhile, we have registered a case under Section 302. Further investigations are on," deputy commissioner of police (South-East) P Karunakaran told reporters here today.

Asked whether cause of death could be due to injuries from the assault, the official said, "There is no final conclusive report as if now".

A youth claiming to be his cousin told a TV channel, "This is surely about racism. Everybody in Delhi discriminates against us based on our looks. We are living in India, but we don't know whether we are actually living in India or not. every time we are discriminated against.

"His family has been informed," he said. Arunachal Pradesh MP Takam Sanjoy demanded immediate arrest of culprits.

"The humiliating discrimination meted out to northeastern students and other people either in Delhi or elsewhere is going to be protested on a large scale.

"North east students' forum in Delhi will be protesting tomorrow and MPs of north east will also be reaching from various camps to Delhi soon," he said.

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Sanjoy said the protesters will meet the Prime Minister, Delhi chief minister and the home minister to ensure that "this type of discrimination does not occur in the future".

There have been incidents of targeting people from the north east, including rape of a BPO employee, in the national capital, leading to protests from outfits representing their cause.

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"Even after 48-hours of the incident the police failed to arrest the culprits involved in the crime, which exposed the discriminatory attitude of the people from mainland India towards the people of North East," Sanjoy said.

"This is not a new incident ... several such incidents have been reported earlier where students of NE are victimised and we have taken adequate steps to sensitise the people ... Even I raised the issue several times in parliament," Sanjoy said while condemning the incident.

Meanwhile, All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union (AAPSU) and All Nyishi Students Union (ANSU) along with several other organisations of the state condemned the incident and demanded that the Delhi government arrest the culprits immediately and ensure that they get strict punishment.

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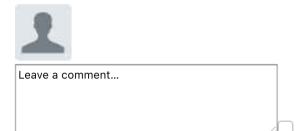
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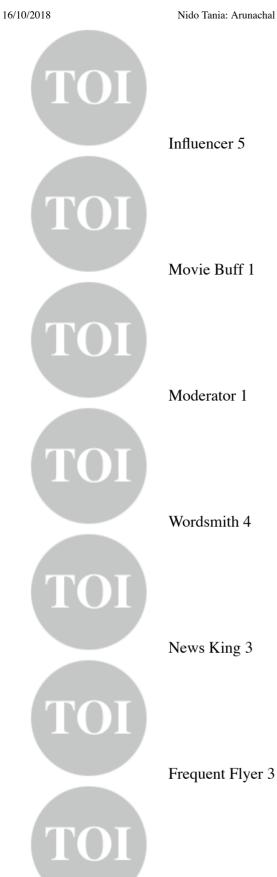
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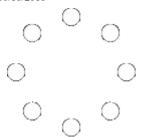
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AAP govt reacts angrily to regulator's decision to hike power tariff in Delhi

PTI | Jan 31, 2014, 09.02 PM IST 00:38





NEW DELHI: Power tariff in the national capital was hiked by up to eight per cent on Friday by the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission notwithstanding ruling Aam Aadmi Party's commitment to slash the rates.

Arvind Kejriwal government reacted angrily, saying it condemns the regulator's decision to increase the tariff which will come into effect from tomorrow.

Before coming to power, <u>AAP</u> had promised that it will slash the rates of power for Delhiites but did so only in selected slabs, prompting BJP to term it as an "eyewash".

<u>DERC</u> chairman P D Sudhakar told that the fuel cost adjustment has resulted in hike in surcharge which will be to the tune of 8 per cent for <u>BSES</u> Yamuna Power Ltd, 6 per cent for BSES Rajdhani and 7 per cent for Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd.

"It is a surcharge. We have decided to effect the hike to adjust the power purchase cost of the distribution companies," Sudhakar said. DERC will review the hike in the form of fuel surcharge after three months.

He said power distribution companies are facing financial difficulties and ways must be explored to help them.

The hike will be on energy charges as well as fixed charges but will not be applicable on the additional eight per cent surcharge which was levied to help the past dues.

A government spokesperson said the "Delhi Government strongly condemns the decision to hike the tariff. When audit by CAG has already been ordered, such a hike is uncalled for."

He said the DERC should have waited for the outcome of CAG audit before putting burden on the people at a time when lot of questions are being raised on the functioning of these power distribution companies.

The DERC had introduced fuel surcharge in 2012 to help the private power distribution companies adjust their power purchase cost.

While hiking the tariff in July last year, the DERC had subsumed the surcharge.

The tariff hike by the DERC came on a day when chief minister Arvind Kejriwal accused the discoms of trying to "blackmail" the government by threatening power cuts up to 10 hours a day.

He even warned them of strict action including possible cancellation of licenses for using various tactics to put pressure on government to get financial assistance.

BYPL has informed Delhi government that areas under its jurisdiction may face eight to 10 hours of power cuts from Saturday as the company was facing serious fund crunch to buy electricity.

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