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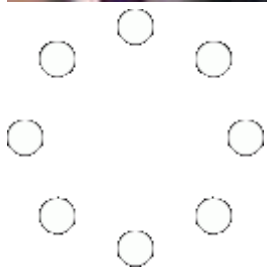
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of the Day

Supreme Court recognizes transgenders as 'third gender'

[Dhananjay Mahapatra](#) | TNN | Updated: Apr 15, 2014, 12:58 IST
02:44



NEW DELHI: In a landmark judgment, the [Supreme Court](#) on Tuesday created the "third gender" status for [hijras](#) or [transgenders](#). Earlier, they were forced to write male or female against their gender. The SC asked the Centre to treat transgender as socially and economically backward.

The apex court said that transgenders will be allowed admission in educational institutions and given employment on the basis that they belonged to the third gender category.

The SC said absence of law recognizing hijras as third gender could not be continued as a ground to discriminate them in availing equal opportunities in education and employment.

This is for the first time that the third gender has got a formal recognition. The third gender people will be considered as OBCs, the SC said.

The SC said they will be given educational and employment reservation as OBCs.

The apex court also said states and the Centre will devise social welfare schemes for third gender community and run a public awareness campaign to erase social stigma.

The SC said the states must construct special public toilets and departments to look into their special medical issues.

The SC also added that if a person surgically changes his/her sex, then he or she is entitled to her changed sex and can not be discriminated.

The apex court expressed concern over transgenders being harassed and discriminated in the society and passed a slew of directions for their social welfare.

The apex court said that transgenders were respected earlier in the society but situation has changed and they now face discrimination and harassment.

It said that section 377 of IPC is being misused by police and other authorities against them and their social and economic condition is far from satisfactory.

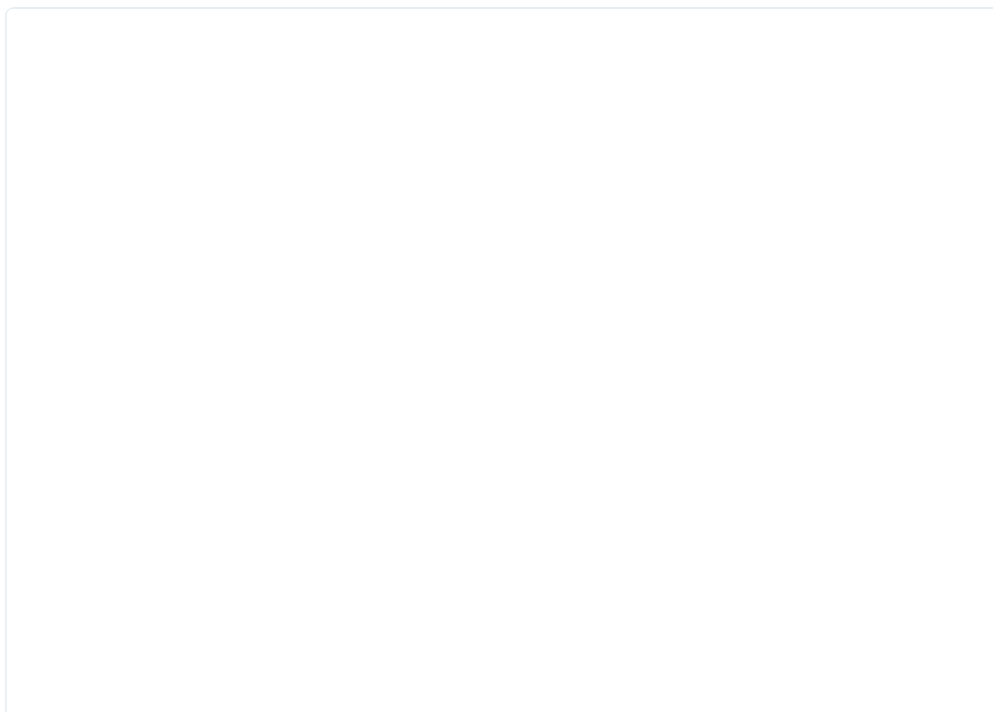
The bench clarified that its verdict pertains only to eunuchs and not other sections of society like gay, lesbian and bisexuals who are also considered under the umbrella term 'transgender'.

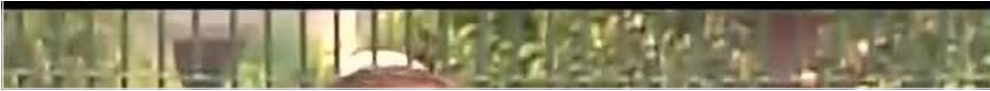
The bench said they are part and parcel of the society and the government must take steps to bring them in the main stream of society.

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The apex court passed the order on a PIL filed by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) urging the court to give separate identity to transgenders by recognising them as third category of gender.

Welcoming the Supreme Court decision, Lakshmi Narayan Tripathi, transgender rights activist said, "the progress of the country is dependent upon human rights of the people and we are very happy with the judgment as the Supreme court has given us those rights."





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This is a landmark judgement, SC has recognized Transgenders as a third gender-Sanjeev Bhatnagar,Advocate

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India is the first country in the world to recognize Transgenders as third gender-Sanjeev Bhatnagar,Advocate

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I am very happy, today we(Transgenders) have been given same rights as men and women-Laxmi Tripathi,Petitioner

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Security forces kill two terrorists, rescue hostages in Srinagar

[M Saleem Pandit](#) | TNN | Apr 15, 2014, 07.28 AM IST

TimesPoints



SRINAGAR: Two [Lashkar-e-Taiba](#) (LeT) terrorists were killed and as many policemen were wounded in an overnight firefight with security forces at Ahmad Nagar near Srinagar on Monday.

A police spokesman said the encounter started after they raided a house where the two, Pakistani nationals Abu Huzaifa and Chota Hafiz, were holed-up after taking three civilians hostage.

Police said the civilians were rescued from the house after they were held hostage throughout the night.

Earlier, the daughter of the owner of the house had managed to escape from the scene on Sunday night. Cell phones of her parents held hostage were switched off throughout the night.

The girl's mother had sent her away after she was sent inside the house to inquire about the well being of the hostages.

"The security forces launched the aggressive operation to flush out the terrorists and rescued two persons including the owner of the house," the spokesman said. He said arms and ammunition were recovered from the scene of the encounter, which started after police were tipped off about the terrorist presence in the area.

The operation was earlier suspended on Sunday night due to darkness as security forces kept the house besieged. It was resumed on Monday morning when the two were killed.

Earlier, two terrorists had managed to escape from Ahmad Nagar after remaining holed up inside a house in the neighborhood in October 2013.

The gunfight came hours after two terrorists killed as many cops as they tried to storm ruling National Conference leader Yawar Masoodi's house in Pampore. The terrorists were later killed in an encounter when additional forces were rushed to the area.

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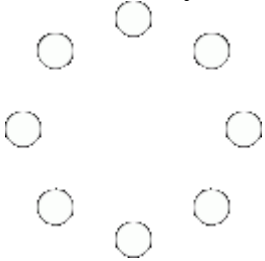
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Next round of fishermen talks with Lanka in May

TNN | Apr 15, 2014, 07.27 AM IST

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu chief minister Jayalalithaa has proposed that the second round of talks between Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen can be held in Colombo on May 12-13. The second round had been postponed twice in the month of March, owing to disagreements over the release of Indian fishermen held in Sri Lanka.

A letter from S Vijayakumar, secretary to Tamil Nadu government to the Ministry of External Affairs notes that the March talks could not be held as scheduled because of chief minister Jayalalithaa's insistence on the condition that all fishermen should be released from Lankan jails.

“As on date, 98 fishermen of Tamil Nadu and their 23 boats have been released. All of them have been

repatriated also,” says the letter.

The fishermen-level talks attended by officials from both sides seek to find a solution to the use of the Sri Lankan part of Palk Bay by Tamil Nadu fishermen. Lankan Tamil fishermen have been opposing it, saying that the trawling by Indian fishermen destroys their livelihood. They say that fishing is a key to the reconstruction efforts in Sri Lanka after the war.

The first round of talks was held on January 27, 2014.

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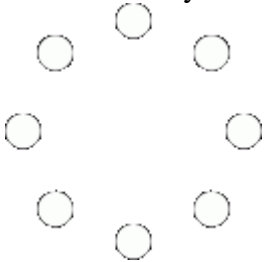
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