

NHRC, India takes suo motu cognisance of the reported social boycott of a Scheduled Tribe woman's family by the villagers after her marriage with a man from the Scheduled Caste in Rayagada district, Odisha

Reportedly, the villagers imposed a purification ritual including tonsuring the heads of the men in her family before accepting them back into the community

Issues notice to the State Chief Secretary calling for a detailed report on the matter within two weeks

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The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India, has taken *suo motu* cognisance of a media report that the family of a woman from a Scheduled Tribe community was subjected to a social boycott by the villagers after her marriage to a man belonging to a Scheduled Caste in Rayagada district of Odisha. Reportedly, the villagers demanded a purification ritual if the family of the woman wanted to be accepted back into the community. They were threatened with an indefinite boycott in case they refused to comply with the ritual.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise serious issues of violation of the human rights of the victims. Therefore, it has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha, calling for a detailed report on the matter within two weeks.

According to the media report, carried on 21st June, 2025, the members of the family of the woman reportedly succumbed to the diktat of the villagers, and as a part of the ritual, the heads of 40 members of her family were tonsured.

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