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- |
- Kochi
- |
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Home > Cities > Hyderabad

# Round table held on Dalits



Express News Service

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HYDERABAD: A Round table convened by Dalit Stree Sakti (Dalit

Women Power) here on Sunday decided to fight for proper implementation of SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989.

The meeting felt that the first additional district courts designated to deal with the Atrocities Prevention Act were also been dealing with other cases and were therefore overburdened. The courts designated to deal with the cases of atrocities, should exclusively deal with the cases under the SC &ST (PoA) Act for a speedy justice.

Disclosing the decisions made at the round table, Dalit Stree Sakti convenor Jhansi Geddamm and programme manager GDV Prakash said the round table also wanted a special judge to be appointed to the High Court to deal with the cases under the Act.

Section 4 of the Act imposes stern penalties on investigating and other officers who fail to implement the Act in letter and spirit. However, government's permission was needed to invoke Section 4.

This rider should go, they said.

Normally, the government always appoints a Dalit officer to investigate the cases. Dalit or no Dalit, any officer erring while implementing the Act should be subjected to Section 4. Dalits who were converted to Christianity should also be treated like Dalits while implementing the Act, they said.

The round table also felt that there was a need to debate the ways and means of empowering Dalits, Jhansi Geddamm said.

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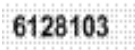
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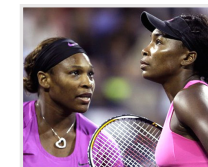


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