

From *The Asian Age*: Page 1 picture + page 3 story

A MARCH FOR FREEDOM



During the city's first Gay Pride march, flagged off by actor Celina Jaitley, on Saturday — Ganesh Shirsekar

Homosexuals march for right to be normal

BY KARAN PRADHAN

MUMBAI

Aug. 16: A "gay pride" parade was organised on Saturday afternoon at the August Kranti Maidan to combat homophobia and bring attention to the fact that Article 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) should not be applicable to the homosexual population of India.

"We had the support of several women organisations, lawyers, friends and families of homosexuals in this rally," said Mr Nitin Karami, on behalf of the Humsafar Trust, which is the oldest organisation for homosexuals and their rights in Mumbai. Aakash Rao (name

changed to protect identity), 19, a student of one of south Mumbai's prestigious colleges told this correspondent. "The mere fact that I will not give you my real name spells a problem with the system we are forced to live with in this city and country." He added that his parents and family are unaware that he is homosexual.

"I do not believe that the fact that I would rather be in love with a man than a woman affects the kind of person I am or changes anything about me," he added.

"But clearly, my family doesn't think the same," Mr Rao said.

The IPC's Article 377 states that, "Whoever vol-

untarily has carnal intercourse 'against the order of nature,' with any man, woman or animal shall be punishable with imprisonment for life or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years and shall also be liable to fine."

Additionally, it may be recalled that Union health minister Dr A. Ramadoss called for the scrapping of this article earlier this month saying that homosexuality should be legalised in India.

"Legalised?" asked Ms Amrita Kapadia, an "out of the closet" lesbian. "Why should an archaic set of rules have the right or audacity to tell me

about my sexual preferences?" she said.

Adding that a major part of freedom was a person's right to choose their own sexual preferences, Ms Kapadia said, "Just yesterday, we celebrated 61 years of Independence, but we, the homosexual community of India are yet to experience any freedom."

Mr Karami added, "Hopefully, we will see a homosexual member of parliament at the end of the forthcoming elections."

Stating that while it didn't really make a difference in the present scheme of things, he added, "I would like to see a homosexual Prime Minister of India in my lifetime."



The Gay Pride parade was organised on Saturday to bring attention to article 377 of the IPC which makes homosexuality a criminal offence

From the Gujarati papers: *Mumbai Samachar* (top) and *Gujurat Samachar* (below)



મુંબઈ, રવિવાર, તા. ૧૭-૮-૨૦૦૮

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ક્યુરી કમ્યુનિટીએ તેમને માટે રખાતા જાતીયતા વિષયક અને લૈંગિક ભેદભાવ સંબંધી કલમ ૩૭૭ નાખૂડ કરવાની માગણી સાથે ઓગસ્ટ ક્રાંતિ મેદાનથી ગિરગામ ચોપાટી સુધી રેલી કાઢી વિરોધ પ્રદર્શન કર્યું હતું.

મુંબઈ

ગુજરાત સમાચાર



સમલિંગી સાથે સેલીના : સમાજ તરફથી ઉપેક્ષા અને હાંસીનો સામનો કરતા સમલિંગીઓના અધિકાર માટે અવાજ બુલંદ કરવા માટે શનિવારે ઓગસ્ટ ક્રાંતિ મેદાનથી ચોપાટી સુધી યોજાયેલી રેલીમાં ફિલ્મસ્ટાર સેલીના જેટલી જોડાઈ હતી. (તસવીર : લાઈવ સીટો)

સજાતીયોના મોરચામાં સેક્સી સેલીના જેટલી બેધડક આવી

(પ્રતિનિધિ દ્વારા) મુંબઈ, તા. ૧૬ સામાન્ય રીતે સજાતીય સંબંધ પરવાતી વ્યક્તિઓ (હોમોસેક્સ્યુઅલ) ને સમાજ વિચિત્ર નજરે જોતો હોય છે. પરંતુ શનિવારે સજાતીય સંબંધ પરવાતા પુરુષો અને સ્ત્રીઓ, સજાતીય અને વિજાતીય ધર્મને પ્રકારના સંબંધ પરવાતી વ્યક્તિ અને વ્યક્તિઓએ તેમને નડતી સમસ્યાઓ તરફ સમાજનું ધ્યાન દોરવા યોજવામાં આવેલા મોરચામાં ફિલ્મ અભિનેત્રી સેલીના જેટલી બિન્દાસ હાજર રહી હતી.

સમલિંગીઓ હક્ક માટે સડક પર ઊતર્યા : સજાતીય સંબંધને અપરાધ ગણતી પિનલ કોડની કલમ દૂર કરવાની માગણી

'કૃતી' પર આઠાઈ મુંબઈ ૨૦૦૮' નામનો મોર્ચો ગોવાલિયા ટેન્ના ઓગસ્ટ ક્રાંતિ મેદાનથી ગિરગામ ચોપાટી સુધી લઈ જવામાં આવ્યો હતો. આ મોર્ચાની મૂળ ઉદ્દેશ ઈન્ડિયન પીનલ કોડની કલમ ૩૭૭ને રદ કરવાનો પણ હતો. આ મોર્ચાને શહેરની અનેક ખાતળી સંસ્થાઓએ

ટેકો આપ્યાં હતાં. "પ્રેમ એ પ્રેમ છે, તમારું અમારું પ્રેમ છે, પછી અમારા પર ૩૭૭નો અન્યાય કેમ છે..." "દેશ સ્વતંત્ર પ્રાણ, આત્મી..." આવા અનેક બેનરો લઈને સજાતીય સંબંધને ગુનો ગણતી ઈન્ડિયન પીનલ કોડની કલમ ૩૭૭ને રદ કરવા શહેરમાં

પહેલીવાર એક અનોખું આયોજન કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું. હો મો સેક્સ્યુઅલ સંબંધ સમાજમાં સ્વીકારવામાં આવે એવી માંગણી સેક્સી ફિલ્મ અભિનેત્રી સેલીના જેટલીએ કરી હતી. ઓગસ્ટ ક્રાંતિ મેદાન પાસેથી શનિવારે ભાષે ૨.૦૦ વાગે (અનુસંધાન ચોથા પાને)

From *Hamara Mahanagar* (Hindi; top left) and *Sakal* (top right), *Lokmat* (bottom left) and *Saamna* (bottom right) (all Marathi)

सुबह, रविवार १७ ऑगस्ट, २००८

समलैंगिक

सेलिना जेटली ने किया समलैंगिकों की रैली का उद्घाटन

'क्वीयर' आजादी रैली में की शिरकत

समलैंगिकों के समर्थन में एक रैली का उद्घाटन करती हैं सैलिना जेटली।



सैलिना जेटली ने मुंबई में एक रैली का उद्घाटन किया। रैली में 'क्वीयर' आजादी रैली में की शिरकत।

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सुक्रवाह : मुंबई
रविवार, १७ ऑगस्ट २००८

राजधानी ३

समलैंगिकांची रॅली



मुंबई : भारतीय समाजिक निर्दलीय समलैंगिक समर्थन समितीने मुंबईतील अनेक ठिकाणी येथील समलैंगिक समर्थन रॅलीचे आयोजन केले होते. या रॅलीत सहभागी असलेले अनेक लोक विविध बॅनर घेऊन रॅलीत सहभागी झाले होते. (विद्युत प्रति : समाज कार्यकर्ते)

२ लोकमत
मुंबई
रविवार
१७ ऑगस्ट
२००८



समलैंगिक समर्थन रॅलीत सहभागी झालेले लोक. रॅलीत सहभागी झालेले लोक विविध बॅनर घेऊन रॅलीत सहभागी झाले होते. (विद्युत प्रति : समाज कार्यकर्ते)

मुंबई शहर
साamna
मुंबई, रविवार दि. १७ ऑगस्ट २००८

विश्व समलैंगिक समर्थन समितीने मुंबईतील अनेक ठिकाणी येथील समलैंगिक समर्थन रॅलीचे आयोजन केले होते. या रॅलीत सहभागी असलेले अनेक लोक विविध बॅनर घेऊन रॅलीत सहभागी झाले होते. (विद्युत प्रति : समाज कार्यकर्ते)



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From *Navshakti* (Marathi) and the *DNA* (see link to report on the Media coverage page)

dna.sunday
Mumbai, August 17, 2008

MUMBAI LOCAL

Encore of sweet water incident

People collected water turned sweet, on 5th repeat of the day in 2 months of the year.

४ विविध

बवशक्ति, मुंबई, रविवार १७ ऑगस्ट २००८

आपल्या विविध मागण्यांसाठी रविवारी सभलिंगी चवकींनी ऑगस्ट क्रांती ते गिरगाव चौपाटीपर्यंत मोर्चा काढला होता. यात अनेक सॅलिब्रिटीज्जे लक्षणीय सहभाग घेतला होता.

Mumbai's gay pride comes to fore

DNA Correspondent

Mumbai got its own gay pride parade on Saturday as groups representing gays, lesbians and bisexuals came out on the streets demanding an end to unfair parts of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code that criminalises homosexual activity. They assembled at the historic August Kranti Maidan, where over six decades ago the Quit India movement was launched. The parade was flagged off by Bollywood actress Celina Jaitley.

Manvendra Gohil, a coordinator of Queer Azadi said, "This is for equality. India got freedom 60 years ago, but homosexuals are still not in a position to live in society freely. Society does not accept them; the law defines same gender love as a crime. So we are demanding a reading down of the section 377 of the IPC under which the homosexuals are treated as criminals." Hundreds of people supporting the cause gathered to encourage the marchers. Family members, friends, colleagues, NGOs, women's groups, human rights organisations, and trade unionists also participated in the march.

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The Free Press Journal's front page (inside page report on following page)



The Free Press Journal's inside page report

Gays take their battle of rights to city streets



BY PRIYANKA VORA
MUMBAI

In a bold move the gays and the lesbian communities of Mumbai were on the streets to fight for their rights. Under the umbrella of queer community the eunuch, kothi panthi, intersex

became the part of the queer Azadi Protest. The Queer community has chosen 10th August as 'Queer azadi divas.' Approximately 2000 people were present to fight against article 377 of the Indian penal code and demanded the regressive law to be read down. Art.377 reads as: "Whoever voluntarily has carnal intercourse against the order of nature, with any man, woman or animal shall be punishable with imprisonment for life or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years and shall also be liable to fine."

Dr Krishna member of Gay community said, "I am willing to face the consequences but I want to be myself. I am planning to adopt kids soon with my partner." Hamsfar (gay community) had their members dressed in different dresses promoting the fact the gays are present in all religious groups. Lesbian community remained behind the mask but chanted

loud slogans promoting lesbian relationship. Shobhna a management consultant said, "The government has no right to interfere in the citizens bedroom. I am happy to be a lesbian." Rainbow flag in the protest signified that they are different colors of the same rainbow. The protest members believe that art 377 is violating their human rights. The students of Tata Institute of Social Science were present to support the cause. The students were of the opinion, choosing a partner is personal choice and it should be given to all. If the Government does not pay heed to the demand its time for revolution. Vikram a gay wants the society to accept the community as a part of the society. He said, "My parents are forcing me to get married but I cannot ruin the life of a girl. I am looking forward to adopt a baby girl as I have maternal feelings in me." Most of the parents are unaware about the sexual orientation of their children and when the fact is revealed to them it leads to force marriages. The queer community is also going to launch a campaign against

forced marriages of individuals pressurized to marry person of opposite gender. Laxmi member of L.G.B.T (lesbian gay bisexual transgender) organization stated, "This protest is the foundation to the liberation of this queer section of society."

Fpj found out interesting relationships in the quest of knowing the queer community. Saket and Dinesh are gays and are married to each other. Dinesh has a family with two children and his wife is unaware of his sexual orientation. A 48-year-old man has a live in relationship with a lesbian and he accepts her due to his unending love for her. The community is striving hard to get rid of the homophobia and transphobia and violence against them.

Nandini Sardesai member of censor board was also present at the rally to extend her support to queer community. She also helped the organizers to get the support of Mumbai Police. The spectators remained aloof from the queer community and considers the community not a part of the Indian culture.