

DU Law goldmedallist Alakh Alok Srivastava, pioneered PIL for death to rapists of children

INDIA Updated: Apr 22, 2018 07:50 IST [Moushumi Das Gupta](#) Hindustan Times, New Delhi



It was a busy Saturday for advocate Alakh Alok Srivastava whose Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in January demanding death penalty for child rapists played a crucial role behind the Centre's decision to bring in an ordinance allowing courts to pronounce death penalty to those convicted of raping children below 12 years.

He filed his first PIL in July 2017, seeking termination of pregnancy of a 10-year-old girl who was raped by her maternal uncle in Chandigarh. The Chandigarh district court had denied permission to the girl to abort. Srivastava could not help much as by the time the medical board constituted by the court examined the girl her pregnancy was at an advanced stage.

“But the attention that the case generated ensured that the girl who gave birth to a daughter was adopted by a couple from Maharashtra. This was a big relief for the girl as her parents had refused to take the child home,” he said.

With two young daughters of his own, Alakh said that he can't stop himself from taking up cases involving young victims of heinous crime like rape. “As a father, I feel for the parents of these children. I won't be able to forgive myself, if I look the other way,” he said.