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DU alumnae High Court Justices Hima Kohli and Pratibha Rani let Muslim girl topper join CISF

Express hope that she will be a shining example for her community

Abhinav Garg | TNN | Jun 5, 2018, 05:24 IST *adapted*

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court **made an extraordinary intervention** to allow a Muslim girl from an orthodox family a shot at working in India's Central armed police forces, saying she could become a shining example for her community, and for women in general. The court gave Fatima a last chance and directed the CISF to permit her to join basic training at the National Industrial Security Academy, Hyderabad.



The Hon'ble Justice
Hima Kohli
BA Eco Hons 1978 SS
Judge since 2007
High Court of Delhi



The Hon'ble Justice
Pratibha Rani
BA 1975 LSR
LLB 1978 CLC
Judge since 2011
High Court of Delhi

A bench of **Justices Hima Kohli and Pratibha Rani** recently ordered the **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) to induct Noor Fatima three years after she emerged as one of the all-India toppers** in the Central Armed Police Force examinations in 2015 but was bedridden due to a series of injuries.

Fatima, who faced great resistance from her family which wanted her to get married immediately rather than work, had moved court when the CISF refused to allow her to join after she missed the deadline due to injuries.

"We are of the opinion that it is a fit case for intervention **as irreparable loss and injury shall be caused to the petitioner**, who will miss a lifetime opportunity to become a part of a disciplined force. That apart, if the petitioner is inducted into the force, then *she will be a shining example for the rest of her community* and will encourage other similarly placed women to participate in the CAPF's examination, **thereby opening new professional avenues for them**," the Bench observed, adding that "she aspired to join the uniformed force, worked hard and excelled in the competitive examination."

Fatima, in her plea, told the Bench frankly that *she had received next to no support from her family* to give wings to her dream of joining one of the forces but had yet **come an all-India third** in the exam. But just 10 days before she was to join the CISF academy in Hyderabad, her ankle got twisted and doctors advised not only medication but also three weeks' bedrest.

When in September 2017 doctors declared Fatima fit for duty, the CISF told her the appointment offer had lapsed and her request was denied.

Fatima informed the HC that she couldn't join the CISF for two reasons: one, a sprained ankle just 10 days before she was to join training; and two, stiff resistance from her family members who insisted she get married instead.

The Bench opined that "**equity demands** this Court takes into consideration the unusual circumstances of the present case, where the petitioner, who belongs to a remote village in UP and comes from a conservative family, decided to *give wings to her dreams* ... but ended up facing insurmountable difficulties both on the personal front and health front".

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