

SDO-Dinhata orders BSF to end whimsical restrictions immediately

Severe restriction and hindrance to the way of life of the populace in Indo-Bangladesh border villages of West Bengal is a very common place phenomenon. In Karola village, situated in Dinhata sub-division of Cooch Behar district, a similar situation is prevalent. Not only there were severe restrictions in place on the movement of the people, the personnel attached to the Border Security force was digging up an almost 15 feet deep trench using earth-movers without providing any proper reason or following any procedure. Many locals lost portions of their land due to this whimsical action.



On 26th July, 2023, we brought the issue to the District Magistrate of Cooch Behar and called for urgent action. Finally on 8th August, at the SDO office of Dinhata Sub-division the SDO, BL & LRO, BSF company commanders from 129 & 90 Battalions, Cooch Behar's District Human Rights Monitor (DHRM), Mr. Azizul Hoque and the victim villagers had a meeting to resolve the issue of Karola village and other similar issues in the Sub-division.

We are glad to assert that some positive came out of the meeting. The SDO has asked the BSF to lift the whimsical restrictions which are hampering the way of life of the village. Also, the SDO has asked the BSF to immediately resolve the issue of the villagers of Karola. The SDO also asked the victims to contact their office if the BSF further puts up any new restrictions. We want to thank the SDO of Dinhata sub-division for the co-operation. We hope in the other areas of the Indo-Bangladesh border too, we will see this sort of positive change.