

Mob lynching: NHRC team to visit today

ASISH MEHTA @Bhubaneswar

AN NHRC team will arrive in Bhubaneswar on Monday to probe the lynching of GRP constable Soumya Ranjan Swain (32) at Ballanta on May 7.

The NHRC team comprising two officials Rajendra Singh and Avinash Kumar will conduct the spot inquiry and examine all persons concerned in connection with the case between Monday and Friday.

Sources said the Commission has already intimated the district magistrate, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack police commissioner and SP, Railway Cuttack about its visit to the capital city. The two officials are expected to examine family members of Soumya, the two young women who levelled molestation allegations against him, his friend Om Prakash Rout, eyewitnesses, people who recorded the videos of the crime and others. The officials are likely to question them at government guesthouse here.

Sources said the NHRC team may also hold discussions with police commissioner S Dev Datta Singh, DCP Jagmohan Meena, Ballanta IIC, GRP SP, investigating officers of the case, police personnel present on the spot during the incident and doctors of Capital Hospital where Soumya's postmortem was conducted. The NHRC team has requested the authorities to provide them a language translator and one typist for recording the statements of the above persons.

CBSE crisis deepens: Student data exposed, say cyber activists

Manash.Gohain
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Fresh allegations of massive cybersecurity lapses, data exposure and administrative failures have deepened the controversy surrounding CBSE's On Screen Marking (OSM) system, with activists now approaching National Human Rights Com-

► Nagpur univ's tender tweaks under lens, P 7

mission for urgent intervention to protect students' educational rights, amid continuing disruptions in the board's post-exam processes.

The latest row erupted after independent developers and ethical hackers publicly claimed that sensitive student data, scanned answer sheets and question papers linked to CBSE's digital evaluation infrastructure were exposed online because of serious security vulnerabilities.

Android developer Sidharth posted on X: "Almost

Jharkhand 17-year-old's analysis of OSM tender fuels demand for full recheck

A 17-year-old Jharkhand student's blog post titled "How CBSE rewrote rules to favour Coempt EduTeck" has gone viral, leading to amplified calls for a complete re-evaluation of Class XII board exam answer sheets and an independent audit of the evaluation system, **reports Manash Gohain**. In his forensic dissection of CBSE's On-Screen Marking (OSM) tender, Class XII student Sarthak Sidhant alleged that the board repeatedly altered tender conditions and "rewrote its own rulebook" in ways that allegedly benefited the Hyderabad-based company that was awarded the OSM contract. **P 7**

every single OnMark portal built by EduTek is fundamentally insecure, and CBSE is lying to you about the safety of student data. We found default passwords, URL-based RCEs, and raw MD5 hashes. Millions of students are at risk."

Separately, 19-year-old software engineer Nisarga Adhikary alleged on X that CBSE-linked storage systems had been left openly accessible online. "CBSE people didn't configure their AWS bucket (a public cloud storage container) properly and now we can

paginate & enumerate all their media which has 2026 answer sheets & question papers," he said, claiming "anyone on the internet can download any scanned booklet".

Earlier, Adhikary had claimed that he had breached parts of CBSE's digital evaluation infrastructure and flagged alleged security vulnerabilities linked to the OnMark portal. However, CBSE on Sunday said vulnerabilities detected in the portal operated by its service provider had been "contained" and that cy-

bersecurity specialists from multiple govt agencies and IITs had been deployed to strengthen systems.

The board said it had been actively monitoring vulnerabilities being highlighted in public forums and thanked "ethical hackers" for flagging weaknesses. However, CBSE did not respond to specific queries regarding the alleged AWS exposure claims.

Advocate and activist Anubha Shrivastava Sahai has written to NHRC urging it to take suo motu cognisance of the issue and warning that ongoing OSM failures could jeopardise admissions, scholarships and educational opportunities for thousands of students.

She also asked the commission to seek reports from CBSE and the education ministry, direct creation of alternative grievance mechanisms, ensure deadline relaxations for affected students, and prevent any candidate from losing opportunities because of technological failures.