

## NHRC issues notice to Centre, Delhi govt over constable's death

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

@ New Delhi

THE National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Tuesday issued a notice to the Delhi Chief Secretary after taking suo motu cognizance of a complaint regarding negligence in the treatment of a cop. According to the notice, a Delhi Police constable, who fell victim to the virus earlier last week, allegedly died due to denial of admission by a hospital.

The notice has also been issued to Union Home Secretary and both have been asked to submit a report within four weeks.

"It is expected to include the Standard Operating Procedure (sop) adopted by the hospitals for the Covid-19 patients and the status of its implementation. Timely treatment to the young constable may have saved his life. The reported incident seemingly also sends a message that the patients are, perhaps, not being attended by the hospitals and Covid-19 centres, as per standard protocol set by the agencies concerned. It shows the reckless and negligent attitude of the hospital authorities" said the NHRC in the notice.

The commission further observed that the reported incident also indicates that perhaps the hospital authorities are lacking in infrastructure and the right approach to deal with Covid-19 patients. Hospitals are required to tackle the situation in a sensible manner with a humane approach.

In the complaint, it is said that constable, aged 31, was first taken to Deep Chand Bandhu Hospital by one of his colleagues where a test was conducted on him for Covid-19. He was soon sent back and not admitted. According to authorities, the victim, later, complained of breathlessness and was taken to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, but died along the way.

## **NHRC issues notice to AP Government and Centre**

NHRC has taken suo motu cognizance of media reports about the death of eight persons and over five thousand others falling sick due to leakage of styrene gas in Vizag district of Andhra Pradesh. It has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Govt of Andhra Pradesh calling for a detailed report in the matter including status of the rescue operation, medical treatment provided to the people fallen sick and relief and rehabilitation provided by the state authorities to the affected families. A notice has also been issued to the Director General of Police, Andhra Pradesh to inform within four weeks about registration of FIRs in the matter and status of the investigation being conducted.

## पुलिस कांस्टेबल की मौत पर एनएचआरसी ने दिल्ली और केंद्र सरकार को भेजा नोटिस

नई दिल्ली। राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने दिल्ली पुलिस के एक कोरोना संक्रमित कांस्टेबल के इलाज में की गई लापरवाही की शिकायत व मीडिया रिपोर्ट के आधार पर दिल्ली के मुख्य सचिव और केंद्रीय गृह सचिव को नोटिस जारी किया है। इन्हें चार सप्ताह के भीतर रिपोर्ट देने को कहा गया है। मंगलवार को जारी एक बयान में, एनएचआरसी ने कहा कि घटना यह भी दर्शाती है कि शायद अस्पताल के

अधिकारियों को बुनियादी सुविधाओं की कमी है और कोविड-19 रोगियों से निपटने के लिए सही दृष्टिकोण नहीं है। इसमें कहा गया है कि, अस्पतालों को मानवीय दृष्टिकोण के साथ बहुत ही समझदारी से स्थिति से निपटने की आवश्यकता है। नोटिस जारी करते हुए आयोग ने कहा कि पुलिसकर्मी, डॉक्टर, अस्पतालों के पैरामेडिकल स्टाफ ही हैं, जो कोविड-19 के प्रसार को रोकने के लिए फ्रंटलाइन फाइटर्स हैं। एजेंसी

## **Cop's death shows lack of infrastructure, says NHRC**

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** The death of a young Delhi Police Constable, who tested positive for Covid-19, showed “reckless and negligent” attitude of hospitals, which may be “lacking in infrastructure and right approach” to deal with the situation, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) said on Tuesday.

Constable Amit Kumar died last week while he was being taken to a hospital, a day after another hospital refused to admit him though he had shown symptoms for Covid-19 infection.

The NHRC issued notices to the Union Home Secretary and Delhi Chief Secretary seeking reports from them. The reports should be submitted within 4 weeks.

## अमित की मौत मामले में मानवाधिकार आयोग का दिल्ली सरकार को नोटिस

एजेंसी | राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने कोरोना वायरस से संक्रमित दिल्ली पुलिस के सिपाही अमित कुमार के उपचार में कथित लापरवाही की शिकायत और मीडिया रिपोर्ट का संज्ञान लेते हुए दिल्ली के मुख्य सचिव और केंद्रीय गृह सचिव को नोटिस भेजा है। उसमें चार सप्ताह में रिपोर्ट देने को कहा गया है। सिपाही अमित कुमार की कोरोना से मौत हो गई थी। आयोग ने दोनों अधिकारियों से अस्पतालों द्वारा कोरोना पीड़ितों के उपचार से संबंधित मानक संचालन प्रक्रिया तथा उसके क्रियान्वयन की स्थिति की जानकारी देने को कहा है।

# Asha workers demand timely salaries, not petal showers

**FRONTLINE WORKERS** The workers handling daily screenings haven't received their wages since last November

Suparna Roy

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**DEHRADUN:** The frontline foot soldiers in the health department's fight against Covid-19 pandemic—the Accredited Social Health Activists, popularly known as ASHA workers—in a firm message to the state government, this week, have demanded timely 'wages' and not 'flowers' for their work.

As a mark of respect to their services, residents associations and local bodies often felicitate them showering flowers while on duty.

The ASHA workers are responsible for the daily health screenings at houses in containment zones, finding out new suspected cases and keeping a tab on people who have been home-quarantined. Their roles and responsibilities have increased with the new arrival of migrants to the state.

However, most of the workers are yet to receive their remuneration, since November last year.

Shiba Dubey, state head of ASHA Swasthya Karyakati Union associated with the Centre of Indian Trade Union (CITU) said that many ASHA workers in Uttarakhand are waiting to get their wages since November last year. The state has a little over 12,000 ASHA workers who get around 2000 every month (divided equally between the



■ ASHA workers being trained by health officials at a containment zone in Dehradun.

HT PHOTO

Centre and state government) apart from incentives for different procedures such as institutional deliveries and ensuring the health of new-born and mothers.

"Most ASHA workers come from lower middle class or middle class families and we have been continuously working, fulfilling our duties towards humanity without asking for the backlog payment to be cleared because this is pandemic situation. But does that mean that the government will not consider that we also need money to run

our families?," said Dubey.

ASHA workers are tasked with door-to-door surveys in containment zones and other areas in the state where either people from other states are returning or where new positive cases are reported. The workers ensure thermal scanning of all residents of a block, find out if there are any new cases, and report if anyone has symptoms similar to Coronavirus to the health officials.

"We hardly have any protective equipment and still we go to new houses every day to conduct

surveys. Unlike doctors, who function with protective gears we are at risk of contracting the virus. Yet we go out on the field everyday..." said Dubey.

With thousands of people quarantined across the state and more to follow in the coming days, the role of ASHA workers has become all the more crucial in the fight against the pandemic.

Indira Thapa, block coordinator of ASHA workers for Sahaspur block in Dehradun said ASHA workers are also carrying out other duties such institu-

tional deliveries and ensuring the health of new-born and mothers along with door-to-door surveys.

"In our block ASHA workers haven't got their wages from November. They received a lump sum of Rs 16,000 and since then, they have been waiting for their wages," said Thapa.

Anita Agarwal, secretary, ASHA Swasthya Karyakati Union said they want to highlight their plight too so that they receive help from state government like the way daily-wage labourers and farmers receive now.

"Most of the time, ASHA workers are the only earning members in a family, with their husbands hardly contributing anything financially, due to lockdown. In such a situation, if we get our salaries on time, it will be really helpful. We are in need of money now, if the government pays us later then what is the point?" said Agarwal.

Reacting to the demands of ASHA workers, Madan Kaushik, state cabinet minister and official spokesperson of the Uttarakhand government has assured that the government will be looking into the issue, "We were not aware of the demands of ASHA workers. We will be looking into this now. I will raise the issue in the cabinet and find a way to pay the ASHA workers at the earliest."

## एनएचआरसी ने नोटिस जारी किया

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): राष्ट्रीय मानव अधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने कोरोना से हुई दिल्ली पुलिस के सिपाही अमित राणा की मौत मामले में स्वतः संज्ञान लेते हुए केन्द्रीय गृह सचिव और दिल्ली सरकार के मुख्य सचिव को नोटिस जारी किया है। इस संबंध में चार सप्ताह के भीतर रिपोर्ट मांगी गई है। गौरतलब है कि सिपाही अमित के कोरोना पॉजिटिव होने के बावजूद उन्हें समय पर अनेक अस्पतालों में उपचार नहीं मिल सका था।

# Man drags officials to NHRC for negligence

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

@ Karimnagar

THE National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) registered a case after a resident of Karimnagar town accused the authorities concerned of negligence for failing to test 42 primary contacts of a Covid-19 patient.

Pendyala Saikrishna Reddy, the complainant, informed the NHRC two days ago that the authorities did not test his family members for the highly contagious virus despite he requesting them to do so. Because of this, his family is uncertain if they contracted Covid-19, he stated.

According to his complaint, the 42 primary contacts included 13 doctors who treated a cancer patient from Malyala mandal. After the patient tested Covid-19 positive in Hyderabad, all the 42 were home-quarantined, but not tested, Reddy alleged.

Meanwhile, the IMA's Karimnagar chapter advised

doctors and private hospitals in the district to take necessary precautions against the Covid while working in outpatient (OP) wards. IMA district president Dr M Vasantha Rao asked them to sterilise the entire hospital premises before opening the OP services and said doctors should be

more careful about their health in such times. Also, with the government relaxing the lockdown, patients are likely to begin visiting hospitals and hence all safety measures should be in place, he said.

Dr Rao also suggested that doctors should see patients on an appointment basis only and examine them from a distance, preferably on

CCTV cameras. Adequate masks and sanitisers should be made available at all hospitals, and medical and surgical instruments should be sanitised regularly, he said. He also stressed on the need to train hospital staff in the safety measures necessary to contain Covid-19.



**The 42 primary contacts included 13 doctors who treated a cancer patient from Malyala. After the patient tested positive, all the 42 were home-quarantined, but not tested**

Pendyala Saikrishna, the complainant