

# INFANTS' DEATH IN BHANDARA HOSPITAL

## NHRC seeks detailed report from Maha in 4 weeks

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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The NHRC also asked the DGP to inform the Commission about the outcome of the investigation being conducted by the police authorities.

"The report (from the state chief secretary and DGP) must contain the fire audit reports of various hospitals in the state as well as what measures have been taken or contemplated to

be taken by the state against the erring or negligent officers/officials so that they cannot go with impunity," a statement from the NHRC said.

In its notice, the NHRC has among other things has observed that the victim babies were in the custody of a state run hospital where they lost life. "Hence, the state cannot escape its responsibility. This is a serious issue of violation of human rights for which the accountability of the negligent officers/officials is required to be fixed, with retrospective effect," the Commission said.

Alluding to a relief of Rs.5 lakhs has been announced by the state government from the Chief Minister's Fund to each bereaved family, the NHRC said: "The monetary relief alone is not sufficient to compensate. Further, it is imperative to ensure

that the support systems in various hospitals in the state must provide adequate care and attention to the patients for protection of their human rights"

The Maharashtra government has announced a State-wide fire audit, while a case of accident has been registered.

It may be recalled that ten infants –aged between one and three months – were killed in the wee hours of Saturday, when a massive fire broke out in a government hospital at Bhandara in eastern Maharashtra.

The fire – triggered prima facie by a short-circuit –had broken out at the Sick Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) at Bhandara District General Hospital at Bhandara at around 1.30 am on Saturday.

Before long, fire and smoke engulfed the new born care

unit. A nurse who was among the two nurses and one helper present at that time in the NICU raised an alarm, prompting other nurses, doctors and other hospital members to rush to the scene.

Of the 17 trapped infants, seven were rescued, while the remaining ten children died on the spot. "There were 17 infants at the NICU at the time of the incident. Of them, seven were rescued and have been admitted to another. We have no plans to shift them to another hospital as yet," District Civil Surgeon Dr Pramod Khandate said.

"Most infants died due to suffocation. While one male child suffered fatal burn injuries, the two others had minor burns injuries. The rest of the children had inhaled a lot of smoke," Khandate said.

## NHRC notice to Maharashtra government

**NEW DELHI:** The NHRC has sent a notice to the Maharashtra government over the death of ten newborn babies in a fire at Bhandara district general hospital, seeking a detailed report on the incident within four weeks, officials said on Monday.

The fire had broken out in the Special Newborn Care Unit of the state-run hospital in the early hours on Saturday. Seven babies were rescued, doctors had said. The deceased infants were aged between one month and three months.

-Agencie:

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## NHRC notice to Maha govt, DGP over death of newborn babies in state hospital fire

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The Commission, while issuing the notice, observed that it is a "serious issue of violation of human rights for which the accountability of negligent officers and officials is required to be fixed, with retrospective effect".

The fire had broken out in the Special Newborn Care Unit of the state-run hospital in the early hours on Saturday. Seven babies were rescued, doctors had said.

The age of deceased infants ranged between less than a month and a couple of months.

"The National Human Rights Commission has taken suo motu cognisance of media reports that ten infants were killed in a fire that swept

through the Sick Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) at Bhandara District General Hospital in Maharashtra on January 9.

"The fire reportedly broke out at around 1.30 AM and the hospital administration could rescue only seven out of the seventeen children kept in the ward," the NHRC said in a statement.

The Commission has issued notices to the state chief secretary and Director General of Police, seeking a detailed report within four weeks, the officials said.

The report must contain the fire audit reports of various hospitals in the state as well as measures that have been taken or contemplated to be taken by the state against the erring or negligent officers and officials so that they cannot go on with impunity, the statement said. The Commission has also observed that the babies were in the custody of a state-run hospital where they lost their lives, and "hence, the state cannot escape its responsibility". **MPOST**

## NHRC notice on Bhandara fire

**New Delhi:** The NHRC has sent a notice to the Maharashtra government and the state police chief seeking a detailed report within four weeks on the death of 10 newborn babies in a fire at Bhandara district gen-

eral hospital, officials said on Monday.

The commission said it is a “serious issue of violation of human rights for which the accountability of negligent officials is required to be fixed”. PTI

## NHRC notice to Maha govt over death of 10 infants

NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and DGP, Government of Maharashtra calling for a detailed report in the matter within four weeks regarding the deaths of 10 infants due to fire in Bhandara District General hospital.

“The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India has taken suo motu cognizance of media reports that ten infants were killed in a fire that swept through the Sick Newborn Care Unit at Bhandara District General Hospital in Maharashtra on 09.01.2021,” read a statement from NHRC.

The fire reportedly broke out at around 1.30 am and the hospital administration could rescue only seven out of the seventeen children kept in the ward. A relief of Rs.5 lakh was announced by the state government to kin. ANI



# Debabrata Saikia moves NHRC

**Alleged Govt bid to evict villagers  
from Laika-Dadhia, Mikir Bamuni Grant**

## **STAFF REPORTER**

GUWAHATI, Jan 11: Leader of the Assam Congress Legislature Party Debabrata Saikia today moved the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) regarding the government's alleged attempt to evict people from the Laika-Dadhia area of the Dibru-Saikhowa Wildlife Sanctuary and the Mikir Bamuni Grant under the Samaguri Revenue Circle.

He urged the NHRC to "take suo motu cognizance of the matter."

"I would like to draw the attention of the NHRC to two ongoing instances of gross injustice being meted out to many members of the Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Other Backward Class (OBC) communities in the Tinsukia and the Nagaon districts of Assam by the State government, by way of violation of their land rights and basic human rights. The first instance involves around 1,300 ST and OBC families who were settled in the Laika-Dadhia area of the Dibru-Saikhowa Wildlife Sanctuary

in Tinsukia district after the great earthquake of 1950. The Government is now seeking to evict them, thereby going back on successive assurances over the last three years or so that these hapless people would be suitably rehabilitated," he stated in a letter to the NHRC.

Saikia pointed out that the affected people have been staging a protest since the last week of December 2020 at a makeshift site near the Tinsukia Deputy Commissioner's office.

"Three protesters, including a pregnant lady and her unborn child, have died because they were unable to bear the chill of winter in the makeshift camp. Many other protesters are suffering from fever, nose-bleed, etc.," he stated.

Saikia said he has secured a report from the Tinsukia DC, which, he claimed, proves that the affected families have been living in the Laika-Dadhia area since the 1950s and before the area was notified as a wildlife sanctuary. "Hence, their just demands ought to be heeded by the State Government," he said.

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The Commission has issued notices to the state chief secretary and Director General of Police, seeking a detailed report within four weeks, the officials said.

The report must contain the fire audit reports of various hospitals in the state as well as measures that have been taken or contemplated to be taken by the state against the erring or negligent officers and officials so that they cannot go on with impunity, the statement said. The Commission has also observed that the babies were in the custody of a state-run hospital where they lost their lives, and "hence, the state cannot escape its responsibility". **MPOST**



## **NHRC NOTICE TO MAHA OVER GOVT HOSPITAL FIRE**

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**

**MUMBAI, JAN. 11**

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Taking a suo motu cognizance of media reports on the fire incident, the NHRC has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police (DGP) calling for a detailed report in the matter within four weeks. The report must contain the fire audit reports of various hospitals in the state as well as what measures have been taken or contemplated to be taken by the state against the erring officials, said the notice.

Issuing the notices, the Commission has observed that the victim babies were in the custody of a state run hospital where they lost life. Hence, the state cannot escape its responsibility. This is a serious issue of violation of human rights for which the accountability of the negligent officials is required to be fixed, with retrospective effect, the notice added.

Meanwhile, the BJP has demanded registration of a culpable homicide case in connection with the Bhandara incident. Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnavis said that a case of culpable homicide should be registered.

**NHRC finds false claims of manual scavenging**

It was strongly felt at NHRC organised regional workshop on manual scavenging that many states make tall claim that they have zero manual scavengers and nil insanitary latrines but these are far from truth. Therefore, the Commission has recommended that accountability must be fixed in case of wrong reporting by the concerned authorities about the number of manual scavengers in any region of the country.

## NHRC pulls up Maha govt over death of infants

SANA SHAKIL @ New Delhi

TWO days after a major fire claimed the lives of 10 babies at a Maharashtra government hospital, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has asked the state government to hand it over the fire audit reports of hospitals in the state.

Calling the incident a "serious issue of violation of human rights", the NHRC said the state cannot escape from its responsibility. Taking suo motu cognisance of media reports about the incident, the rights panel sought a detailed report from Maharashtra authorities within four weeks.

The Commission issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the DGP, stating the accountability of negligent officials



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"The DGP is also expected to inform the Commission about the out-

come of the investigation being conducted by the police. The government's report must contain the fire audit reports of various hospitals in the state as well as what measures have been taken or contemplated to be taken by the state against the erring or negligent officers/officials so that they cannot go with impunity," the rights panel said.

In a letter, the NHRC said monetary relief alone is not sufficient to compensate the families. "It is imperative to ensure that the support systems in various hospitals in the state must provide adequate care and attention to the patients for protection of their human rights," the NHRC said.

A relief of ₹5 lakh has been announced by the state government from the CM Fund to each bereaved family. The fire broke out around 1.30 am on January 9 and the Bhandara hospital administration could rescue only seven out of the 17 children kept in the ward.

# Bhandara blaze: NHRC sends notice to MVA govt., DGP

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PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
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The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sent a notice to the Maharashtra government and the State Director General of Police over the death of 10 babies in a fire at Bhandara district general hospital.

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The Commission has issued notices to the State chief secretary and Director General of Police, seeking a detailed report within four weeks, the officials said. The



**Tragedy:** Relatives wait outside the Bhandara district general hospital, where 10 infants died in a blaze. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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The Commission has also observed that the babies were in the custody of a State-run hospital where they lost their lives, and "hence, the State cannot escape its responsibility". The State police chief is also expected to inform the commission about the outcome of the investigation being conducted by the police authorities, the rights panel said in the statement.

A relief of ₹5 lakh has been announced by the State government from the Chief Minister's Fund to each bereaved family and a State-wide fire audit has also been announced. A case of accident has been reportedly registered and investigation is being conducted, it said.

## **Hospital deaths: NHRC notice to Maha Govt, DGP**

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**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
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The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sent a notice to the Maharashtra government and the State Director General of Police over the death of 10 babies in a fire at Bhandara district general hospital.

The NHRC has sought a detailed report on the incident within four weeks, officials said on Monday.

The Commission, while issuing the notice, observed that it is a "serious issue of violation of human rights for which the accountability of negligent officers and officials is required to be fixed, with retrospective effect".

The fire had broken out in the Special Newborn Care Unit of the State-run hospital in the early hours of Saturday. A total of seven babies were rescued, doctors had said. The age of deceased infants ranged between less than a month and a couple of months.

"The National Human Rights Commission has taken suo motu cognisance of media reports that ten infants were killed in a fire that swept through the Sick Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) at Bhandara District General Hospital in Maharashtra on January 9. The fire reportedly broke out at around 1.30 a.m. and the hospital administration could rescue only seven out of the 17 children kept in the ward," the NHRC said in a statement.

The Commission has issued notices to the State chief secretary and Director General of Police, seeking a detailed report within four weeks, the officials said. The



**Tragedy:** Relatives wait outside the Bhandara district general hospital, where 10 infants died in a blaze. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

report must contain the fire audit reports of various hospitals in the State as well as measures that have been taken or contemplated to be taken by the State against the erring or negligent officers and officials so that they cannot go on with impunity, the statement said.

The Commission has also observed that the babies were in the custody of a State-run hospital where they lost their lives, and "hence, the State cannot escape its responsibility". The State police chief is also expected to inform the commission about the outcome of the investigation being conducted by the police authorities, the rights panel said in the statement.

A relief of ₹5 lakh has been announced by the State government from the Chief Minister's Fund to each bereaved family and a State-wide fire audit has also been announced. A case of accident has been reportedly registered and investigation is being conducted, it said.