

Odisha: Burn victim s family approaches NHRC, seeks full treatment coverage

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2022/jan/10/odisha-burn-victims-family-approaches-nhrc-seeks-full-treatment-coverage-2405079.html>

The family of a 17-year-old boy from Kalahandi, who had spent Rs 25 lakh for treatment of severe burn injuries sustained by him after he came in contact with a high-tension wire, has knocked the doors of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) for adequate compensation from Tata Power Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL).

The family of the victim alleged though TPWODL negligence led to the mishap, the Discom paid an interim relief of only Rs 2 lakh, that too nearly six months after the incident. They appealed the NHRC to direct the discom to pay a compensation of Rs 50 lakh towards the medical expenses and future treatment of the victim, Nishant Agarwal, son of late Binod Kumar Agrawal from Rupra road in Kalahandi.

He came in contact with a 33-KV live wire on July 24, 2021 while playing with his friends on a terrace of a rented building in the locality. Nishant suffered 70 per cent burn injuries in the mishap and was admitted to Narla CHC. He was shifted to JLN Hospital at Bhilai, Chhattisgarh the next day where he had to undergo treatment for around a month till August 26, 2021. The total expenses at the hospital amounted to Rs 18.69 lakh, while the family members said that they have already spent approximately Rs 25 lakh for his treatment.

The 17-year old boy who had lost his father now lives with his mother and is poor, said Nishant's uncle Sushil Kumar Agrawal who moved the apex rights body. Agrawal said that the interim compensation of `2 lakh was given to them this month, nearly one-and-a-half months after they lodged the compliant with the NHRC. He said the high-tension wire passes through the building at a very low height. Besides, it is a non-insulated wire which makes it even more dangerous.

"Though residents of our village had repeatedly brought this to the notice of the SDO, Electrical, Narla, the authorities concerned did not pay any heed," Agrawal said and alleged that the mishap took place due to the negligence and poor standard of maintenance of the non-insulated electric wire by the Electricity department.

TPWODL officials, meanwhile, said they have given the interim compensation on compassionate grounds as per guidelines. They said any decision on the matter will be subject to final outcome of the case which is pending before the NHRC.

Family Of Kalahandi Youth With 70% Burn Injuries Seeks Full Treatment Cost

<https://ommcomnews.com/odisha-news/family-of-kalahandi-youth-with-70-burn-injuries-seeks-full-treatment-cost>

The family members of a 17-year-old boy from Rupra Road in Narla block of Kalahandi district who had sustained 70 percent burn injuries after coming in contact with a live 33KV non-insulated wire in July last year has sought full treatment cost from the Tata Power Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL).

Reportedly, the youth Nishant Agrawal was playing with his friends on the terrace of a building on 24.07.2021 when he came in contact with the live wire which was passing over the said building in a very lower height. As a result, he sustained grievous burn injuries all over his body and immediately admitted to Community Health Centre (CHC), Narla.

As the injuries were grievous in nature, he was shifted to Bhilai and admitted at J.L.N. Hospital on 25.07.2021. He was treated there till 26.08.2021 with the total treatment expenses amounting to Rs 18.6 lakh, while the family members said that they have already spent approximately 25 lakh for his treatment.

The family members have alleged that negligence by the TPWODL led to the mishap. Nishant's uncle Sushil Kumar Agrawal said that the villagers had repeatedly brought to the notice of the SDO, Electrical, Narla regarding removal of the non-insulated electric wire passing over the building but the concerned authority did not pay any heed.

Due to the negligence and poor standard maintenance of the non-insulated electric wire by the Electricity Department such a mishap took place, he added.

Sushil had repeatedly written to the TPWODL officials for urgent need of financial assistance. As they did not heed his request, he knocked the door of the National Human Right Commission (NHRC) in November.

Two months after moving the NHRC, the TPWODL has provided an interim compensation of Rs 2 lakh. While the family has sought full treatment coverage, the TPWODL has said that any decision on the matter will be subject to final outcome of the case which is pending before the NHRC.

MGNREGA is reducing forceful migration from the tribal regions

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/mgnrega-is-reducing-forceful-migration-from-the-tribal-regions/articleshow/88820848.cms>

Continued work under MGNREGA is emerging as an antidote to human trafficking in the state, especially in tribal districts. Experts say 200 days of guaranteed work under the scheme can sustain a family of five for a whole year and reduce chances of forceful migration by almost one-third. "Poverty is the only reason behind human trafficking from the tribal region to other states such as Gujarat and Maharashtra. It is seen that low-income families whose children are prone to trafficking don't find the need to migrate if they get continuous work under MGNREGA," said Jayesh Joshi, CEO of Vaagdhara, an NGO working with tribal populace. The observation has been made by the social justice and empowerment department. Over the years, human trafficking has declined in Banswara, Dungarpur and Udaipur, claimed officials, crediting it to the collective effort of civil society members, NGOs, advocacy groups and government departments. Banswara SP Rajesh Meena said police are heading a collective effort to put an end to the illegal practice. "The effort has created a mass awareness, built a strong network and helped in rehabilitating trafficked persons," said Meena. In a report to National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in August 2021, SP Dungarpur had informed that there was no active human trafficking gang. "A special team of the district had also been formed and for the prevention, nakabandi and checking are being done continuously in police station areas bordering Gujarat," reads the report

Transgender welfare board for city gets nod

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/transgender-welfare-board-for-city-gets-nod/articleshow/88819552.cms>

In response to a notice issued by the National Human Rights Commission, the Delhi social welfare department has said that it has accorded approval to the constitution of transgender welfare board in the city. The proposal is under process for issuing notification, it stated. The department further said that the union ministry of home affairs has been requested to confer the power to lieutenant governor under the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 so that Transgender Rules and transgender welfare board can be notified in Delhi. The department in its report said the chief secretary last year had asked autonomous bodies, corporations and local bodies to provide separate toilet facilities for transgenders. "Agencies are reporting positive follow-up action to this effect," said the report. It added that a policy for transgender persons is under formulation.

The human rights panel had issued a notice to the social welfare department in September last year on the basis of a complaint against not initiating proposed welfare measures for transgender persons. The complainant, Dr Aqsa Shaikh, associate professor at Hamdard Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Jamia Hamdard, had alleged that at a meeting held by the department on February 12, 2021, it was proposed to issue an order for the formation of transgender welfare board but no action had been taken yet. "The process should be expedited for the welfare of the community," Shaikh said.

PUCL condemns CBI case and searches on CPSC-People's Watch

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pucl-condemns-cbi-case-and-searches-on-cpsc-peoples-watch/article38225220.ece>

The People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) on Monday condemned the registration of a case and searches by the CBI against the Centre for Promotion of Social Concerns (CPSC) and its initiative, People's Watch, for alleged violation of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act.

Two days after the case was registered, the agency searched the premises of the CPSC-People's Watch in Madurai on January 8.

Seeking immediate withdrawal of the case, the PUCL urged the Central government to stop the use of the Act as a "weapon to repress dissenting voices in the civil society and create hurdles in the valuable work of NGOs in the field of human rights".

Terming it a witch hunt, the PUCL said the case pertained to show cause notices issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in 2012 and 2013, which were challenged before the Delhi High Court in 2014. "The High Court passed orders in the proceeding permitting CPSC to operate the FCRA bank account. Since no further action was taken by the MHA, the matter was eventually disposed of as infructuous," it said.

The MHA refused to renew the CPSC's FCRA licence in October 2016, after which it moved the Delhi High Court where the matter is pending. No reference to any allegation of criminal act during the court proceedings had been made till date, said the PUCL. "It thus becomes explicitly clear that the CBI's action of launching criminal prosecution in 2022 for actions going back almost a decade is just an act of persecution by the CBI and the MHA," it said.

The PUCL said the CPSC-People's Watch continued to raise issues of human rights concerns and rights violations at the grassroots even after the FCRA licence revocation. "They have monitored and documented from inception in 1995, human rights violations both in Tamil Nadu as also in other States, relating to caste atrocities, communal violence, custodial torture and attacks on human rights defenders across India," it said.

"What is striking is the failure of the National Human Rights Commission to effectively intervene in the matter in spite of taking up the matter suo motu," said the PUCL, alleging that the FCRA-linked actions were part of a growing trend under the present regime, of targeting civil society organisations.

The PUCL said: "The CBI had previously launched similar false and frivolous cases against acclaimed human rights organisations like Sabrang and Lawyers Collective. Organisations such as Greenpeace and Amnesty International India were forced to stop their work in India following suspension and freezing of their FCRA accounts."

Stating that the FCRA had witnessed major amendments in 2020 making it increasingly difficult for the NGOs to receive or utilise foreign funding, the PUCL said the law, as it stood today, gave unaccountable and disproportionate powers to the executive.

On January 1, the licences of thousands of organisations stood lapsed/ceased/rejected. Noting that the licence of the Missionaries of Charity had also not been renewed, the PUCL said: "...it was because of the international condemnation of such brazenly unfair action that the FCRA licence of the Missionaries of Charity was reinstated on January 7 along with 78 others."

State for High Court re-look at Gangasagar Mela panel

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/west-bengal/state-for-high-court-re-look-at-gangasagar-mela-panel/cid/1847063>

The Bengal government on Monday moved a petition before Calcutta High Court seeking reconsideration of its formation of a committee with Opposition leader Suwendu Adhikari as a member to monitor this year's Gangasagar Mela in the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The court had allowed the state to hold this year's Mela. Individuals Kabirul Islam, Ajoy Kumar De, Pramode Verma and the West Bengal Doctors' Forum moved separate petitions before the division bench headed by Chief Justice Prakash Shrivastava of Calcutta, which heard the cases together at 2pm on Monday.

Though the court completed hearing in the case on Monday, it withheld its verdict.

During hearing of the case and while seeking reconsideration of the January 7 order, the state government contended that to control and supervise the mela a committee was already in place since in 2001.

Arguing on behalf of the government, advocate-general S.N. Mukherjee: "The said committee is still there, then what was the necessity to constitute another committee? Moreover, Opposition party leader is a political person. Why has a political person been appointed as a committee member?"

Mukherjee said eminent personalities like physicians and social activists should be appointed members of the committee.

Appearing for the doctors' forum, advocate Anindya Mitra sought an order to stop the fair and argued for the inclusion of eminent physicians in the committee.

Senior counsel Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharyya said apart from Dr Abhijit Chowdhury, Dr Manas Gumta and Dr Subarna Goswami could also be included in the committee.

The state government then informed the court that the post of chairman of state Human Right Commission, who has been made a member of the panel, was vacant.

Appearing for one of the petitioners, advocate Srijib Chakraborty claimed considering all the aspects the court should suspend the Mela.

"If the Mela is held then the chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission can be appointed as a member of the committee," Chakraborty said.

Petitioner Pramode Verma's advocate Ritzu Ghoshal also opined for the inclusion of physicians in the committee.

Appearing for Opposition party leader Suvendu Adhikari, a lawyer tried to say that Covid rule was not being maintained on the Mela ground.

At this the Chief Justice stopped him and said: "Then why is your client not moving a contempt of court case?" The hearing ended and the bench adjourned its verdict.

Suvendu's plea

Moving a petition before Justice Rajasekhar Mantha, a lawyer appearing for Opposition party leader Suvendu Adhikari alleged that even though his client enjoyed Z-category security, the state government was not allowing him to visit places of Bengal.

The advocate mentioned that recently his client had been prevented from entering Netaji to pay tributes at the martyrs' column there.

Justice Mantha fixed January 19 for next hearing of the case and asked the state government to file an affidavit by January 18.

US chapter of organisation that helps Indians overseas launched in New York

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/us-chapter-of-organisation-that-helps-indians-overseas-launched-in-new-york/articleshow/88807301.cms>

Rescuing Every Distressed Indian Overseas (REDIO), an organisation that was launched last year to work with Indian missions overseas and volunteers in countries with large populations of non-resident Indians (NRIs), people of Indian origin (PIOs) and overseas citizens of India (OCIs), has now launched a chapter in the US. Former Indian diplomat and member of the National Human Rights Commission, Dr Dnyaneshwar Mulay, launched the US chapter of REDIO, along with New York-based social activist Prem Bhandari on Sunday, on the occasion of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, the annual event celebrated by the ministry of external affairs for Indians overseas, held virtually this year. Mulay is the founder of the organisation and its chief patron in the US while Bhandari will serve as chairman. "Overseas Indians, who are now over 30 million in numbers, hold important positions in academia, business, media, arts, culture, politics and many other spheres. The mobility is high among Indians and often many of them face problems and distress related to issues of immigration, employment, political upheaval in other countries, legal issues, property issues back in India or marital discord. Indian workers in the Gulf countries have their own set of problems and have sometimes faced abuse and injustice," Mulay said while launching the US chapter in New York.

He added that while there were several Indian diaspora organisations in various countries and the Indian government was doing extraordinary work to help Indians overseas with their problems and grievance redressal, REDIO would help to bring together efforts by civil society to stand by those Indians overseas who are less privileged to complement government efforts. "This is an initiative that aims to have support groups in every country and through our networks we hope to reach out to all NRIs, PIOs and OCIs who need help. We have received a huge response already from the Indian community in 20 countries with several people joining in to help on a voluntary basis. In the long run we hope this will become a structured initiative with synergy among Indians around the world so that we can support the Indian diaspora not just with haphazard efforts during emergency situations but on an ongoing basis," Mulay added. The efforts, according to him, will be to support Indians around the world who are less privileged by tapping into the community's social, political and cultural strengths. "There are times when members of the overseas Indian community face problems and are not able to reach the government back home. In many cases, members of the Indian community help them out unofficially through their contacts and networks; REDIO will now give these efforts a formal shape. The initiative is already operational in some countries and has been successful in supporting members of the Indian diaspora," Bhandari said. He added that the ministry of external affairs' Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF), a resource that was managed by the Indian missions overseas, could be better utilised to help NRIs, PIOs and OCIs who were facing distress

ANI News/ Latestly/ Lokmat Times

Plea in Delhi HC seeks direction to Centre to frame laws for private detectives

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/plea-in-delhi-hc-seeks-direction-to-centre-to-frame-laws-for-private-detectives20220110143616/>

<https://www.latestly.com/agency-news/india-news-plea-in-delhi-hc-seeks-direction-to-centre-to-frame-laws-for-private-detectives-3240491.html>

<https://www.lokmatimes.com/national/plea-in-delhi-hc-seeks-direction-to-centre-to-frame-laws-for-private-detectives/>

A plea has been moved in the Delhi High Court seeking direction to the Centre through the Ministry of Law and Justice to enact laws and guidelines regulating the activities of private detectives on account of their conduct being in violation of Article 21 of the Constitution of India. The petition further seeks direction to constitute a State Board, comprising of a member from the Judiciary, from the State Home Department, a member from the State Intelligence Department, a member from the State Police Department, a nominee member from the National Human Rights Commission of India and two eminent personalities. The matter on Monday got adjourned for February 21 as the main counsel from the petitioner side was unwell. The matter was listed before the bench of Justices DN Patel and Jyoti Singh.

The petitioner, Radha Bisht, through Advocate Preeti Singh stated that due to the Private Detective Agencies (Regulation) Bill of 2007 pending in the parliament for the last 13 years, it has fallen through and expired, therefore there is no law governing the activities of private detectives and their agencies. The plea stated that due to such absence of any law governing the activities of private detectives, people being a victim of abuse, people being violated of their right to privacy, people being cheated or offended otherwise, have no statutory law to invoke against the agencies and make them liable. Such inability to make private detective agencies liable before any court of law or authority enables them to operate in any manner which they feel to be suitable for them. A work of a private detective lacking accountability with respect to its modus operandi enables violation of fundamental rights of the citizens of this Nation enriched under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, added the plea. The petitioner, like many others, is a victim of unregularized activities of a private detective appointed by her husband who is stalking her, violating her privacy and defaming her in public. The Petitioner stated that she is a victim of domestic violence and her husband through a private detective agency stalking her violated her right to privacy in public, the plea stated. (ANI)

निजी जासूस और एजेंसियों की निगरानी के लिए कानून बनाने की मांग

<https://www.livehindustan.com/ncr/new-delhi/story-demand-to-enact-a-law-to-monitor-private-detectives-and-agencies-5541225.html>

जासूसी सेवा मुहैया कराने वाले निजी संस्थानों और जासूसों की गतिविधियों को नियंत्रित करने के लिए कानून बनाने की मांग वाली याचिका पर अब उच्च न्यायालय में अगली सुनवाई 21 फरवरी को होगी। न्यायालय ने इस मांग को लेकर दाखिल जनहित याचिका पर सोमवार को अगली सुनवाई 21 फरवरी के लिए स्थगित कर दी है।

मुख्य न्यायाधीश डीएन पटेल और ज्योति सिंह की पीठ के समक्ष दाखिल इस याचिका में जासूसी सेवा मुहैया कराने वाले निजी संस्थानों और जासूसों की गतिविधियों को नियंत्रित करने के लिए केंद्रीय विधि एवं न्याय मंत्रालय को आदेश देने की मांग की गई है। याचिका में जासूसी सेवा मुहैया कराने वाले निजी संस्थान और जासूसों पर संविधान के अनुच्छेद 21 का उल्लंघन करने का आरोप लगाया गया है। अधिवक्ता प्रीति सिंह के माध्यम से दाखिल याचिका में याचिकाकर्ता राधा बिष्ट ने राज्य बोर्ड का गठन करने का निर्देश देने की मांग की है। इस बोर्ड में न्यायपालिका, राज्य के गृह विभाग, राज्य के खुफिया विभाग, राज्य के पुलिस और राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग से एक-एक सदस्य को शामिल करने का आदेश देने की मांग की गई है।

याचिका में कहा कि प्राइवेट डिटेक्टिव एजेंसीज (रेगुलेशन) बिल 2007 संसद में पिछले 13 वर्षों से लंबित होने के कारण, यह समाप्त हो गया है। इसलिए निजी जासूस और उनकी एजेंसियों की गतिविधियों को नियंत्रित करने वाला कोई कानून नहीं है। याचिका में यह भी कहा गया है कि निजी जासूसों की गतिविधियों को नियंत्रित करने वाले किसी भी तरह का कानून नहीं होने के चलते लोग दुर्व्यवहार का शिकार हो रहे हैं और उनकी निजता के अधिकार का उल्लंघन किया जा रहा है। पीठ को बताया गया कि लोगों को धोखा दिया जा रहा है।

याचिकाकर्ता ने कहा है कि वह कई अन्य लोगों की तरह, उसके पति द्वारा नियुक्त एक निजी जासूस की अनियमित गतिविधियों का शिकार है, जो उसका पीछा कर रहा है, उसकी निजता का उल्लंघन कर रहा है और सार्वजनिक रूप से उसे बदनाम कर रहा है। याचिकाकर्ता ने कहा कि वह घरेलू हिंसा की शिकार है और उसके पति ने एक निजी जासूसी एजेंसी के माध्यम से उसका पीछा किया और सार्वजनिक रूप से उसकी निजता के अधिकार का उल्लंघन किया।

NHRC expresses concern over living conditions of slum dwellers

NHRC expressed concerns over living conditions of slum dwellers in Mumbai. Acting on a complaint in this regard, the Commission issued notices to Govt of Maharashtra and Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs seeking their responses. The Govt of Maharashtra responded, through its Chief Secretary, that several efforts have been made & schemes formulated to provide dwelling units to slum dwellers for Economically Weaker Sections with the State & Central assistance under PMAY (U). Shortage of funds has been cited as a constraint.