

NHRC seeks mandatory insurance, accident covers of Rs 15 lakh for truck drivers

<https://zeenews.india.com/auto/nhrc-seeks-mandatory-insurance-accident-covers-of-rs-15-lakh-for-truck-drivers-2479555.html>

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a warning to the federal government, the states, and the union territories to defend the interests of truck drivers after seeing that their legal entitlements are not given enough consideration. The recommendation has advised that the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 be revised to require the purchase of personal accident insurance for each driver, co-driver, and helper of a commercial truck in an amount not less than Rs 15 lakh.

The NHRC has written to the Union ministries and departments, chief secretaries of states, and administrators of UTs, asking them to implement its recommendations in the advisory and has sought an 'Action Taken Report' within three months.

Some of the other recommendations include providing cashless treatment to drivers, co-drivers, and helpers injured or incapacitated in road accidents, establishing and regularly maintaining driver rest stops and lay byes consisting of parking areas, furnished restrooms, and restaurants providing food and beverages at reasonable rates, mechanic shops, medicine shops, doctor's clinics, etc. At regular intervals, not exceeding 40 kilometers, along national highways and at prominent locations along the state highways and other major district roads.

"Establish fully equipped Trauma Centres at regular intervals along highways to extend emergency to victims of road accidents. Launch a special drive to create awareness and register all truck drivers, co-drivers, and helpers on the e-Shram portal to avail benefits of Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-ABJAY) as well as Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PM-JJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PM-SBY) and Old Age Protection under Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mann Dhan (PM-SYMD)," read the advisory.

NHRC chairman Justice Arun Mishra had chaired a Core Group meeting on Business and Human Rights on the issues of commercial truck drivers and had expressed serious concerns over the plight of commercial truck drivers and suggested collaborative, pragmatic, and implementable solutions to safeguard their rights.

The NHRC has also proposed to launch a Group Insurance Scheme providing for life as well as health cover for truck drivers on payment of a nominal subsidized subscription and minimizing physical interface between truck drivers and law enforcement agencies by providing online facilities for auto-generation of challans for over-speeding, grant and renewal of registration and fitness certificates, permits and licenses, payment of taxes and penalties only online besides storage of vehicle-related documents.

"Installation of speed cameras at regular intervals along highways for detection besides mandatory installation of vehicle location tracking devices in each truck to track and detect overspeeding. Establish an online portal and a round the clock helpline to receive

complaints along with evidence (photographic, video graphics, and documentary) from truck drivers," it said.

The other recommendations include the deployment of highway patrols in the areas vulnerable to exploitation by anti-social elements, formulation of an SOP to govern the seizure of trucks, and arrest of drivers, co-drivers, and helpers in cases involving road accidents, overloading, and violation of other laws.

"The SOP may contain inter-alia an exhaustive list of cases where the arrest of drivers or seizure of truck may be made," it read. It also suggested the institution of awards and cash incentives to honor drivers observing responsible driving.

While issuing the advisory, the commission has observed that despite making a significant contribution to the nation's economy, the truck drivers' rightful entitlements do not get adequate attention, as the truck business remains fragmented and unorganized.

It also said that the majority of the truck drivers do not get social security benefits such as provident funds, pension, health insurance, life insurance, gratuity, etc.

Bolangir medical student death: NHRC team reaches college to start investigation

<https://odishatv.in/news/miscellaneous/bolangir-medical-student-death-nhrc-team-reaches-college-to-start-investigation-179784>

A three-member National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) team reached Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital in Bolangir on Wednesday to launch an investigation into the death of a first-year MBBS student.

First-year MBBS student and a native of Haryana, Nishant Kumar of the institute reportedly died after falling off the hostel roof on April 22. His parents alleged he was a victim of ragging. Later, the surfacing of Nishant's mobile chats with his friends had lent credence to the ragging theory in a big way.

As per reports, the team comprising Bimal Jeet Ippal, Chandra Sekhar and Madhabananda Rout will stay at the circuit house and continue the investigation into the case till July 1. The team will also question the Dean of the medical college, head of all the departments and other employees in this regard. The district administration and police have assured the team to extend all sorts of help during their investigation process.

Earlier last month, taking cognizance of the death of the student, NHRC had issued a notice to Odisha Chief Secretary and the Vice-Chancellor (VC) of Sambalpur University.

Koraput bar panel boycotts court over High Court bench demand

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/cuttack/koraput-bar-panel-boycotts-court-over-high-court-bench-demand/articleshow/92559862.cms>

cuttack: The Koraput District Bar Association on Wednesday launched a token two day boycott of court proceedings to press for the establishment of a permanent high court bench for the erstwhile undivided district. Bar association secretary Anand Rath said the agitation was launched as part of its resolution to abstain from court works except undertrial prisoner bail matters in the last two working days of every month from June. Prior to bifurcation more than two decades ago, undivided Koraput comprised the present Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Malkangiri and Koraput districts. Association spokesperson Anup Patro said, "The people of these four districts who are mostly tribal, poor, illiterate are deprived of access to justice due to the distance from the high court in Cuttack. The HC is 647 km from Malkangiri, 550 km from Koraput, 512 km from Nabarangpur and 431 km from Rayagada. The minimum time needed to travel by road is 12 hours with average expenses of Rs 800 for oneway journey. So, it is difficult for the people of this region to get access to justice from the HC." Patro said the National Human Rights Commission had in September 2019 directed the chief secretary to take action within eight weeks on the demand to set up a permanent HC bench in erstwhile undivided Koraput district. Share to Twitter

बोलांगीर मेडिकल छात्र की मौत: जांच शुरू करने कॉलेज पहुंची एनएचआरसी की टीम

<https://jantaserishta.com/local/odisha/bolangir-medical-student-death-nhrc-team-reaches-college-to-start-investigation-1336995>

जनता से रिश्ता : एमबीबीएस प्रथम वर्ष के छात्र की मौत की जांच शुरू करने के लिए तीन सदस्यीय राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) की टीम बुधवार को बोलांगीर के भीमा भोई मेडिकल कॉलेज और अस्पताल पहुंची। एमबीबीएस प्रथम वर्ष के छात्र और हरियाणा के मूल निवासी, संस्थान के निशांत कुमार की कथित तौर पर 22 अप्रैल को छात्रावास की छत से गिरने के बाद मृत्यु हो गई। उसके माता-पिता ने आरोप लगाया कि वह रैगिंग का शिकार था। बाद में, अपने दोस्तों के साथ निशांत की मोबाइल चैट के सामने आने से रैगिंग के सिद्धांत को काफी हद तक बल मिला।

रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, बिमल जीत इप्पल, चंद्रशेखर और माधवनंदा राउत की टीम सर्किट हाउस में रहेगी और 1 जुलाई तक मामले की जांच जारी रखेगी। टीम मेडिकल कॉलेज के डीन, सभी विभागों के प्रमुख से भी पूछताछ करेगी। इस संबंध में एवं अन्य कर्मचारी। जिला प्रशासन और पुलिस ने टीम को जांच प्रक्रिया के दौरान हर संभव मदद देने का आश्वासन दिया है।

NHRC advisory for protecting rights of truck drivers; seeks CCTV installation at all checkpoints

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/nhrc-advisory-for-protecting-rights-of-truck-drivers-seeks-cctv-installation-at-all-checkpoints/articleshow/92539563.cms>

Flagging truckers being “exploited” by various government agencies, the National Human Rights Commission has issued an advisory seeking the Central and state governments to minimise physical interference between truck drivers and law enforcement agencies. It has also advised for designating areas for inspection of trucks and other commercial vehicles and to install CCTV cameras at toll booths, inter-state checkpoints and other such inspection areas. In the first-of-its-kind advisory, the NHRC has written to Union home, road transport, health and finance secretaries, and also to all chief secretaries of state chief secretaries to take necessary action and submit action taken reports within three months. As per the advisory, the enforcement agencies have been asked to stop collection of fines in cash and make all systems online so that there is minimal physical interaction between truck drivers and the personnel from enforcement agencies.

The commission has advised that all such officers deployed on road must wear body cameras when on duty so that everything gets recorded. It has also suggested the creation of a facility to record interaction of drivers with enforcement agencies. The NHRC has asked states to do away with the current practice of setting targets for collecting fines. It has also advised the home ministry to amend CrPC to dispense with the requirement of furnishing surety and security by a local resident for release of vehicle and driver

The commission has advised the agencies to formulate all SOPs to govern seizure of trucks and arrest of drivers, co-drivers and helpers in case of being involved in road accidents, overloading and violations of other laws. It said the SOP must have an exhaustive list of cases where arrest of drivers or seizure of trucks may be made. On the issue of adequate rest for the drivers, the NHRC has advised the government to create rest areas with necessary facilities at every 40 kms along NHs and on important state highways.

It has also advised the road transport ministry to amend the Motor Vehicle Act to provide mandatory purchase of personal accident cover of Rs 15 lakh for each driver, co-driver and helpers of commercial truck. The commission has sought making policy to ensure payment of insurance compensation within 15 days to the kins of driver, co-driver and helpers in case of death. The human rights watchdog has suggested the linking of driving licence with bank accounts, ESI and EPF database to monitor timely payment of minimum wages, ESI, EPF contribution of commercial truck drivers and take appropriate remedial measures in case of any default or delay or shortfall in payment. The panel has advised the agencies to ensure monthly paid holidays to drivers, co-drivers and helpers, and also to make it mandatory to pay minimum wage linked to the bank accounts. Welcoming the advisory, Abhishek A Gupta, general secretary of AITWA said, “We are delighted that many of our industry issues are taken up by NHRC thereby reassuring that these need to be addressed by respective government bodies to

help our Highway Heroes. It is now important for the on ground implementation for which we shall pursue them."

NHRC team begins probe visits college

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2022/state-editions/nhrc-team-begins-probe--visits-college.html>

A team of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) team visited the Bhima Bhoi Medical College in Balangir on Wednesday to investigate the death of a first-year MBBS student.

A native of Haryana, Nishant Kumar of the institute died after falling off the hostel roof on April 22. His parents alleged he was a victim of ragging. Later, the surfacing of Nishant's mobile chats with his friends had led to suspicions of ragging.

As per reports, the team comprising Bimal Jeet Ippal, Chandra Sekhar and Madhabananda Rout is staying at the Circuit House and continuing the investigation into the case till July 1.

The team would also question the Dean of the medical college, head of all the departments and other employees in this regard. The district administration and police have assured the team to extend all sorts of help during their investigation process.

Earlier, taking cognisance of the death of the student, the NHRC had issued a notice to Odisha Chief Secretary and the Vice-Chancellor (VC) of Sambalpur University to submit a action taken report.(ATR)

NHRC bats for protecting rights of truck drivers

Dipak.Dash@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Citing that truckers face "constant threat of exploitation" by law enforcement agencies, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has asked the central and state governments to discontinue the practice of stopping commercial vehicles anywhere for inspection. It has asked the authorities to have designated areas for this and to provide CCTV coverage at all such spots, including at inter-state checkpoints.

In an advisory titled "Protect the Human Rights of Truck Drivers", the human rights watchdog has also recommended that the enforcement personnel on duty must wear body cameras while on duty so that everything gets recorded. It has issued a host of advisories to the Union home, road transport, health and finance secretaries, and state chief secretaries to implement the recommendations and submit the action taken reports within three months.

The recommendation to record the inspection and levying of penalty by the police and transport departments gain importance considering

₹15L ACCIDENT COVER A MUST'

NHRC prescription for protecting truck drivers' rights

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Make all vehicle & driver related facilities online > Stop collection of fines in cash > Mandatory offloading of extra cargo beyond 5% of permissible limit > Portal & 24X7 helpline for receiving complaints > Road signages in Hindi, English & Local language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Establish driver rest stops, rest rooms, parking area at 40 km on NHs > Cashless treatment for drivers > Mandatory ₹15 lakh personal accident cover > Ensure insurance compensation payment in 15 to 30 days of insured in case of death or permanent incapacitation
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The NHRC has recommended the governments prohibit collection of fines in cash and "do away" with the current practice to fix "monthly, quarterly and an-

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It has also asked the agencies to provide an online facility for drivers to record their feedback on physical interaction with the inspecting officers and to use the feedback in annual performance appraisal of all such officers.

Flagging how the majority of drivers don't get social security benefits, the NHRC has suggested the linking of driving licence with bank accounts, ESI and EPF database to monitor timely payment of minimum wages and all such mandatory contributions by the employers.

NHRC for protecting truck drivers' rights

Amid A 'Constant Threat Of Exploitation'

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NHRC: Designate areas for inspecting commercial vehicles & place CCTVs

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‘PROTECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF TRUCK DRIVERS’

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Full report on www.toi.in

Med student death NHRC team begins probe; visits college

PNS ■ BALANGIR

A team of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) team visited the Bhima Bhoi Medical College in Balangir on Wednesday to investigate the death of a first-year MBBS student.

A native of Haryana, Nishant Kumar of the institute died after falling off the hostel roof on April 22. His parents alleged he was a victim of ragging. Later, the surfacing of Nishant's mobile chats with his friends had led to suspicions of ragging.

As per reports, the team comprising Bimal Jeet Ippal, Chandra Sekhar and

Madhabananda Rout is staying at the Circuit House and continuing the investigation into the case till July 1.

The team would also question the Dean of the medical college, head of all the departments and other employees in this regard. The district administration and police have assured the team to extend all sorts of help during their investigation process. Earlier, taking cognisance of the death of the student, the NHRC had issued a notice to Odisha Chief Secretary and the Vice-Chancellor (VC) of Sambalpur University to submit a action taken report.(ATR)

■ MBBS STUDENT'S DEATH

NHRC team starts probe at BBMCH

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, June 29: A team from National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) started an investigation into the mysterious death of a first year MBBS student of Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital (BBMCH) here which occurred allegedly due to ragging, Wednesday.

The deceased first year MBBS student Nishant Kumar, 18, was a native of Karnal in Haryana. His family members alleged ragging as the reason behind the death of Kumar and had lodged a complaint at NHRC demanding an inquiry.

The three-member NHRC team led by Bimaljit Uppal and comprising Chandrasekhar and Madhabananda Rout arrived in Bolangir Tuesday evening. Commencing the probe,



they visited the hostel and its terrace at the medical college Wednesday from where Nishant had fallen to the ground and died at around 2pm April 22.

They met the college authorities, staff, students and security personnel and questioned them in this connection. The team member tried to figure out who first noticed Nishant falling from the terrace or lying dead and who picked up the body under what circumstances.

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NHRC team starts probe at BBMCH

Continued from P1

They also wanted to know who took the body to the hospital. They examined the suicide note, diary and other relevant documents of Nishant. The probe was video recorded. Doctors Manasi Panda and Jyotish Chandra Choudhury, head of the department of forensic medicine and toxicology (FMT) and other staff were present on the occasion.

The team members visited the hostel terrace from where Nishant is stated to have fallen down and examined it from various angles. It was learnt that the team will remain here for two more days and conduct probe into the death from various other angles. The NHRC team head Utpal is learnt to have met the parents of the deceased and held discussions with them.

The death was initially termed as a suicide. However, the issue took a curious turn after his family members reached Bolangir and lodged a complaint at the police station alleging his death was due to ragging. Police registered a case under Section-306 and Section-34 of Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Expressing displeasure on the police probe, family members lodged a complaint against the medical college authorities before the Prime Minister, Union Home Minister, Chief Minister and the Director General of Police. They even demanded a CBI probe to unravel the truth behind the death. They had also requested National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) for a fair and impartial probe.

Tights activist Akhand also lodged a complaint before the rights body.

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