

## Exec goes to NHRC over detention in lockup

**Noida:** An IT professional has filed a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission, alleging he was detained illegally for nearly a day in a lockup last month after he approached police to complain about a scuffle with a neighbour on whom he used pepper spray. Differences between Kumar and some other residents had been simmering for a while over walking his pet in the common area at JM Florence in Greater Noida's Tech-zone-4.

Kumar had started carrying pepper spray while walking his pet, sources said. TNN

## **Assam: Prisoners on indefinite hunger strike demanding bail**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/others/assam-prisoners-on-indefinite-hunger-strike-demanding-bail-101673433687002.html>

At least 112 prisoners facing charges under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in Assam's Karimganj district have been on an indefinite hunger strike since Tuesday demanding bail.

In a petition to the Guwahati high court chief justice, they said they have been denied adequate chances to present their side for bail.

"We are accused and we have the right to get the adequate chance...[during] bail hearings, our witnesses are being prevented from testifying. Authorities are not issuing notices to our witnesses properly," they said in the petition.

The prisoners said they were being kept in jail in an inhumane manner. "Over 500 prisoners are kept in a room where 175 individuals can live. This is inhumane."

Copies of the plea have been sent to the National Human Rights Commission, State Human Rights Commission, and district legal service authority.

The prisoners said they will accept the punishments if proven guilty but before that, they should not be treated like criminals.

Karimganj district jail superintendent Mrinmoy Dawka and the deputy commissioner Mridul Yadav refused to comment.

The prisoners said 224 accused arrested under the NDPS Act in Karimganj are inside the district jail and have been denied bail for years.

## **Mumbai: NHRC Begins Hearing Pending Cases Of Human Rights Violations From Maharashtra**

<https://www.mumbailive.com/en/society/nhrc-begins-hearing-pending-cases-of-human-rights-violations-from-maharashtra-76609>

The inauguration ceremony for the National Human Rights Commission's (NHRC) two-day camp sitting to hear pending cases of alleged human rights violations from the State of Maharashtra, was held at the Sahyadri Guest House, Mumbai today, January 11.

NHRC Member Dr. D. M. Mulay inaugurated the camp sitting in the presence of NHRC Member Rajiv Jain, members of the State Human Rights Commission and senior officers of the Maharashtra government. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. D. M. Mulay, said that the camp sitting is a unique concept which has successfully covered twenty-two states of the country. The camp sitting gives an opportunity to the Commission to come to people's doorsteps and interact with them on a face to face basis. Dr. Mulay lauded the central government and all the state governments for giving phenomenal response to this initiative. He further expressed that such sittings also allow the NHRC to engage with the State Human Rights Commission and the State government. This enables the NHRC to understand the best practices evolved by various authorities to protect human rights. Creation of awareness among citizens regarding protection of human rights is an important aspect of protection of human rights. The camp sitting aims to fulfil this important aim.

Informing the audience regarding the contribution of the NHRC in protecting human rights, Mr. Mulay said that the commission receives approximately one lakh complaints every year out of which eighty thousand are successfully resolved by the Commission. The Commission has now also enabled online submission of complaints and documents in addition to physical submission. In his inaugural address, Rajeev Jain, member NHRC gave various suggestions that can be implemented by the state governments to improve the protection of human rights in the state. Compensation for deaths in judicial custody, creation of a human rights cell, implementation of the Clinical Establishments Act and improvement of mental health institutions were some of them.

The inauguration was followed by the Commission hearing pending cases of human rights violations. The cases relate to death due to negligence of the Electricity Department, denial of retirement benefits, irregularities in Nagpur Central Jail, alleged negligence to protect the fundamental human rights of people belonging to the 'Koli' community, death of eleven people in a building collapse, incidents of bonded labour involving child labourers and others. The commission will continue to hear cases on Thursday, January 12, 2023, the second and concluding day of the camp sitting. Thereafter, the Commission will be meeting the representatives of NGOs and Human Rights Defenders from 2-3 pm, the Commission will brief the media about the outcome of the camp sitting in order to have wider dissemination of information on human rights issues in the State and the actions taken by the Commission. On January 13, 2023, the NHRC Members, Dr. D. M. Mulay, and Rajiv Jain will be holding an interactive session with the Maharashtra State Human Rights Commission in the forenoon, with a view to discuss common issues including the use of common platform – HRCNet Portal, transfer of cases

to the SHRC and other related issues. In the afternoon, they will attend an interactive session on “Protection of Human Rights of Women”, which is being organized by the Maharashtra State Commission for Women. The overall objective of the programme is to draw focus on an integrated policy and strategy that addresses economic, social and political empowerment of women in Maharashtra.

## टीम ने एमसीएच में हुई 28 मौतों की जांच शुरू

<https://jantaserishta.com/local/odisha/team-starts-investigation-of-28-deaths-in-mch-1919855>

कोरापुट जिले के स्वास्थ्य विभाग की चार सदस्यीय टीम ने मंगलवार को शहीद लक्ष्मण नाइक मेडिकल कॉलेज एंड हॉस्पिटल (SLNMCH) में नवंबर 2022 के अंतिम सप्ताह के दौरान तीन दिनों में हुई 28 मौतों की जांच शुरू की। राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) द्वारा राज्य सरकार को केवल तीन दिनों में 28 मौतों की जांच करने के निर्देश के बाद टीम ने सुविधा का दौरा किया। जेपोर स्थित मानवाधिकार कार्यकर्ता अधिवक्ता अनूप कुमार पात्रो द्वारा दायर एक शिकायत के आधार पर अधिकार निकाय ने निर्देश जारी किया।

हालांकि, अस्पताल प्रबंधन ने पहले स्पष्ट किया था कि ये सभी मरीज गंभीर स्थिति में थे और विभिन्न बीमारियों के कारण दम तोड़ चुके थे। उस दिन, कोरापुट सीडीएमओ अरुण पाधी के नेतृत्व में टीम ने मेडिकल कॉलेज और अस्पताल का दौरा किया और मृत्यु संबंधी दस्तावेजों का सत्यापन किया। उन्होंने मरीजों का इलाज करने वाले डॉक्टरों और अधीक्षक सीताराम महापात्र से भी पूछताछ की। सीडीएमओ राज्य सरकार और एनएचआरसी को रिपोर्ट सौंपेगा। सूत्रों ने कहा कि यह पता चला है कि टीम को इलाज के दौरान मरीजों को दी जाने वाली अस्पताल की पर्चियों में कुछ विसंगतियां मिलीं, जिन्हें स्पष्ट रूप से बनाए रखा जाना चाहिए था। एनएचआरसी के हस्तक्षेप के कारण अस्पताल के कर्मचारी और चिकित्सा अधिकारी चिंतित

रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, पात्रो ने एनएचआरसी के पास एक शिकायत दर्ज कराई थी जिसमें आरोप लगाया गया था कि एसएलएन अस्पताल में इलाज के दौरान 28 लोगों की मौत हो गई। जबकि 27 नवंबर को 13, 28 नवंबर को छह और 29 नवंबर को बाकी लोगों की अस्पताल में मौत हो गई। उन्होंने प्रस्तुत किया था कि मरीजों की मौत डॉक्टरों और अन्य कर्मचारियों की लापरवाही और इलाज के दौरान समय पर हस्तक्षेप की कमी के कारण हुई। एनएचआरसी ने तब सरकार को एक निर्देश जारी किया, जिसमें कोरापुट के मुख्य चिकित्सा अधिकारी, कलेक्टर और एसपी को शिकायत की जांच करने और आयोग के साथ चार सप्ताह के भीतर की गई कार्रवाई रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने के लिए कहा। एसएलएनएमसीएच दक्षिण ओडिशा के कम से कम 4 जिलों की स्वास्थ्य संबंधी जरूरतों को पूरा करता है। अस्पताल में रोजाना 700 से ज्यादा मरीज आते हैं।

## Why central government teams keep paying visits to Bengal

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india-today-insight/story/why-central-government-teams-keep-paying-visits-to-bengal-2320281-2023-01-11>

Union home minister Amit Shah's barely 20 minutes of interaction with West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee at her office in the state secretariat after the Eastern Zonal Council meeting on December 17, followed by pictures of the two at ease with one another—holding hands after an exchange of shawls and flowers—may have made some think that a thaw of sorts was underway between the two sides. But the misconception has cleared and how.

On January 6-7, two central government teams arrived in Bengal to look into allegations of irregularities in allotment of houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). Discontent over PMAY allotment has been growing loud in the state for close to a year now. The Centre has initiated action by withholding its share of funds in the scheme. The Centre-state ratio of bearing the cost of the scheme is 60:40. The total outlay for PMAY in Bengal is Rs 13,000 crore for 2022-23.

Union home minister Amit Shah with West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee at the 25th meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council in Howrah on December 17; (Photo: ANI)

Is the central team's arrival surprising at all? Political watchers say that between 2019 and 2021, coinciding with the BJP's rise as the principal Opposition party in Bengal, the Centre has often responded with alacrity to allegations made by the BJP state unit against the Trinamool Congress (TMC) government. Some even feel that the frequency of central team visits increased after the BJP's defeat in the 2021 assembly polls.

Barely a week after Mamata had formed the government for a third straight term in May 2021, the Centre sent teams and members of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and National Commission for Women (NCW) to probe the post-poll violence, including alleged atrocities on women.

Even during the Covid outbreak in 2020-2021, central teams visited Bengal over the TMC government's perceived mishandling of the pandemic. And last November, the state BJP had demanded that a team of medical experts visit Bengal over a dengue outbreak. Now, with the central investigating agencies probing TMC heavyweights like Anubrata Mondal and Partha Chatterjee in various scams, the pressure of central team inspections in Bengal was seen as somewhat easing.

Many developments happened in between. Mamata met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on various occasions. She met PM Modi at his residence in August 2022. The two again came face to face in December during the PM's meeting with leaders of various parties over India's G20 presidency. Mamata also appeared to have softened her stance on Modi. While her government brought a resolution in the Bengal assembly in September 2022 to condemn the alleged witch-hunt by central agencies, she gave Modi the clean chit on the issue. She also refrained from making the Morbi bridge collapse tragedy in the run-up to the Gujarat state elections in December an issue.

Meanwhile, the Centre cleared for Bengal dues to the tune of Rs 13,000 crore under PMAY and around Rs 400 crore as GST compensation. The Opposition Congress and the Left parties took potshots at the TMC and BJP, suggesting a friendly match, and left the state BJP agitated.

When Shah visited Bengal in December, the TMC government went all out to play the perfect host. Mamata gifted him a panjabi, shawl, sari and nolen gur. The sweetness of the jaggery, though, was cut short by the visit of the central team leaving Mamata fuming.

With panchayat polls expected in the first half of 2023, state BJP leaders conveyed to the central leadership not to go slack on the Bengal government as the party could not afford to miss the opportunity to cash in on anti-incumbency in the rural areas over alleged corruption at the panchayat level.

The political situation is on the boil with over 1.7 million ineligible people found to have made it to the list of PMAY beneficiaries. The ruling party feels cornered and is rolling out outreach schemes like Didir Suraksha Kavach as damage-control. In such a situation, the BJP top duo being perceived as going soft on the Mamata government will spoil the party's chances in the panchayat polls, feels the state BJP. For a party that had run a high-decibel campaign in the last assembly polls and vowed to uproot Mamata from power, it's ironic that the only way the BJP is looking to stay politically relevant in Bengal is to be blessed by the long arm of the Centre.