IN BRIDE



Implement NHRC advisory on child abuse materials: UGC

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has asked all higher education institutions (HEI) to implement the advisory prepared by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) for the protection of the rights of children against production, distribution, and consumption of child-sexual abuse material (CSAM). In a letter addressed to all universities and colleges, UGC secretary Manoj Joshi said that the information in the NHRC's advisory, issued in October, must be disseminated, and its recommendations implemented. He requested the HEIs to inform the UGC about the action taken on this matter.

NHRC urged for withdrawal of cases against Sompeta thermal plant agitators

https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/nhrc-urged-for-withdrawal-of-cases-against-sompeta-thermal-plant-agitators/article67610502.ece

The agitators are unable to get passports, government jobs and other benefits owing to the cases registered against them 13 years ago, says A.P. BC Association

Andhra Pradesh Backward Classes' Association State general secretary Beena Dhilli Rao on December 6 (Wednesday) urged the National Human Rights Commission (NHARC) to ensure justice for the 723 persons who were unable to get passports, government jobs and other benefits owing to pending criminal cases against them. Criminal cases were registered against the people in question for participating in the agitation against the establishment of a thermal power plant at Sompeta in Srikakulam district on July 14, 2010.

Mr. Dhilli Rao and association's district secretary T. Dharma Rao handed over a petition to the NHRC officials in New Delhi, while explaining the ordeals of the people who were booked under various sections of the IPC in the Sompeta case.

"The people voluntarily fought against the establishment of the thermal power plant near Sompeta to keep the area free from pollution. Three persons—Gunna Jogarao, Bendalam Krishnamurthy and Gonapa Krishnamurthy—were killed in police firing while thousands of people faced lathi-charge during the agitation. Unfortunately, the government has not withdrawn the cases registered 13 years ago. We urged the NHRC to intervene," said Mr. Dhilli Rao in a release.

Odisha Forms Medical Boards At District Level To Assist Transgenders

https://medicaldialogues.in/news/health/government-policies/odisha-forms-medical-boards-at-district-level-to-assist-transgenders-121200

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government has set up medical boards at the district level to assist transgender persons, a health department order said.

The Health and Family Welfare department has constituted medical boards at district level for consultation, treatment and counselling facilities for transgender persons during their sex reassignment surgery, it said. The medical boards have been set up as per the recommendation made by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to central and state authorities. "As per the advisory issued by NHRC for ensuring the welfare of transgender persons to the union and state government, in order to enhance the welfare and rights of transgender persons, a district level medical board is hereby constituted....to assist transgender persons regarding their health issues," said the order issued by the department on December 1. Chief District Medical and Public Health Officer (CDM&PHO) has been appointed as chairman of the six-member medical board while district medical officer (medical superintendent) is the member convenor. Specialists in surgery, obstetricians and gynaecologists, psychiatry or mental health and a clinical psychologist are the other members of the panel. As per the order, the board will meet as and when required as per requests received from transgender persons. Last month, complying with another recommendation made by the NHRC, the Odisha Higher Education department had directed registrars and principals of all the universities and degree colleges in the state to ensure the safety of the transgenders on campuses. The department had requested the educational institutes to protect gender nonconforming students from bullying, harassment or other forms of violence in their respective jurisdictions. On September 26, the NHRC had issued the advisory to the central and state governments and UT administrations to ensure the welfare of transgender persons.

पैसे का लालच दे बांदा के 22 मजदूरों को लाया गया ईंट भट्टे पर, डरा-धमकाकर करायी जा रही थी बंधुआ मजदूरी

https://janjwar.com/livelihood/22-laborers-were-brought-to-the-brick-kiln-after-luring-them-with-money-they-were-forced-to-do-bonded-labor-by-intimidation-uttar-pradesh-banda-labour-yogi-adityanath-884290?infinitescroll=1

Mau News: कल 5 दिसंबर को बांदा के 23 बाल एवं बंधुआ मजदूरों को यूपी के मऊ जनपद से मुक्त कराया गया है। शुरुआती जानकारी के मुताबिक इन मजदूरों जिनमें महिलायें और बच्चे भी शामिल हैं, को पैसे का लालच देकर ईंट भट्टे पर लाया गया था और बाद में डरा-धमकाकर काम कराया जा रहा था। असंगठित मजदूर मोर्चा के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष दलसिंगार के पास एक बंधुआ मजदूर के पहुंचने के बाद मामला सामने आया और प्रशासन के हस्तक्षेप के बाद 23 बंधुआ मजदूर ईंट भट्टा मालिक के बंधन से मुक्त हो पाये और आज 6 दिसंबर को सभी मजदूर बांदा जनपद स्थित बबेरू तहसील के अपने गांव परसौली पहुंच चुके हैं।जानकारी के मुताबिक 29 नवंबर को दल सिंगार से दलित जाति से संबंध रखने वाले 45 वर्षीय मजदूर रामफल पुत्र खूबी जोकि मूल रूप से बांधा जिला स्थित बबेरू पहसील के परसौली का रहने वाला है, ने संपर्क किया। उसने बताया कि वह एक अन्य बंधुआ मजदूर के साथ किसी तरह ईंट-भट्ठा मालिक से जान बचाकर भागकर आया है और उसके कई अन्य साथियों से जबरन काम करवाया जा रहा है।

बकौल पीड़ित मजदूर रामफल ईंट भट्टा- अंकुर ब्रिक फील्ड में उन्हें पैसे का लालच देकर ले जाया गया था। यह ईंट भट्टा मऊ जनपद के रामपुर धनौली, (नई बाजार) दोहरीघाट में है। ईंट पथाई के लिए इसी साल अक्टूबर में कर्ज/एडवांस और अग्रिम रुपये का लालच देकर 5 परिवारों के कुल 22 बाल एवं बंधुआ मजदूरों को कार्य कराने के लिए ठेकेदार दीपक कुमार और ईंट भट्टा मालिक अंकुर अपने साथ लेकर गये थे।रामफल कहता है, जैसे ही हम सभी मजदूर कार्यस्थल पर पहुँचे तो पाया कि कार्यस्थल पर बुनियादी सुविधाएं भी नहीं थी। काम के बहुत बुरे हालातों को देखकर जब मजदूरों ने कहा कि हम यहाँ कार्य नहीं करेंगे, एडवांस रुपये वापिस ले लो और सभी को वापिस घर भिजवा दीजिये, तो भट्टा मालिक और ठेकेदार ने मजदूरों की बात नहीं सुनी। मजदूरों को डरा धमकाकर ईंट भट्ठा मालिक ने जबरन रोके रखा और काम कराता रहा। बच्चों से भी ईंट भट्टा मालिक खूब काम करवाता था।

दलसिंगार कहते हैं बंधुआ मजदूरों को छुड़वाने के लिए मऊ के जिलाधिकारी, पुलिस अधीक्षक, उप श्रमायुक्त मण्डल आजमगढ़, सहायक श्रमायुक्त मऊ, के अलावा श्रम आयुक्त कानपुर, मुख्य सचिव लखनऊ से भी निवेदन किया गया था। जिलाधिकारी बांदा,राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग, नई दिल्ली को बंधुआ मज़दूरी प्रथा (उन्मूलन) अधिनियम, 1976, अनुसूचित जाति, अत्याचार निरोधक, अधिनियम, 1989 एवं न्यूनतम मज़दूरी अधिनियम, 1948 तथा मानव तस्करी के तहत कार्यवाही कर 22 बंधुआ मजदूरों को मुक्त कराने के लिए पत्र भेजा गया, जिसके बाद 5 दिसंबर को सभी बाल एवं बंधुआ मजदूरों को मुक्त कराया गया, लेकिन अभी भी जिला प्रशासन मऊ द्वारा मुक्ति प्रमाणपत्र नहीं दिया गया है, और हम इसके लिए प्रयासरत हैं।

दल सिंगार कहते हैं, हमारे देश में बाल मजदूरी, बंधुआ मजदूरी अभी भी बरकरार है। बुंदेलखंड के मजदूरों की स्थिति दिन पर दिन दयनीय होती जा रही है, लेकिन प्रशासन इन मजदूरों के लिए कुछ भी नहीं कर रहा है, जबिक मजदूरों के पलायन रोकने एवं स्थानीय रोजगार के सृजन के लिए स्थानीय प्रशासन एवं सरकार को कई बार पत्र के माध्यम से ध्यान आकृष्ट कराया जा चुका है। शासन—प्रशासन इनके पलायन एवं स्थानीय रोजगार के लिए कुछ भी नहीं कर रहे हैं। आज भी लाखों मजदूर बंधुआ मजदूरी का जीवन यापन करने को मजबूर हैं और सरकारें अपना पीठ थपथपाती हैं कि देश का विकास हो रहा, देश तरक्की पर है। जिस देश में लाखों मजदूर- बंधुआ मजदूरी जीवन जीने को मजबूर हैं, लाखों बच्चे- बच्चियाँ शिक्षा से दूर हैं, अधिकतर वंचित समुदाय के पास आज भी रहने के लिए खुद की जमीन नहीं, उनके पास रोजगार नहीं हैं, फिर सरकार कह रही है देश तरक्की पर है।

NHRC sends notice over reported death of seven workers

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India has taken suo moto cognisance of a media report that seven workers died and 24 were injured after a massive blast at a chemical manufacturing factory in Surat on November 30.

The incident indicates possible negligence on the part of the factory management which requires an investigation as the incident has resulted in human rights violations of the victim workers. Accordingly, it has issued notices to the concerned authorities.

Gujarat News: गुजरात के वलसाड में कारखाने में फैला रसायन, दम घुटने से बिहार के दो श्रमिकों की मौत

https://www.abplive.com/states/gujarat/gujarat-news-chemical-spread-in-factory-in-valsad-two-workers-from-bihar-bhagalpur-died-due-to-suffocation-2554276

Valsad News: गुजरात के वलसाड में हादसा हो गया है. एक कारखाने में रसायन फैलने से दो श्रमिकों की दम घुटने से मौत हो गई है. ये दोनों श्रमिक बिहार के बताये जा रहे हैं.

Valsad Factory News: गुजरात के वलसाड जिले में मंगलवार को एक कारखाने में रसायन फैलने के बाद दम घुटने से बिहार के दो श्रमिकों की मौत हो गई. पुलिस ने यह जानकारी दी. वापी उद्योगनगर थाने के निरीक्षक वी. जी. भरवाड ने बताया कि यह घटना दोपहर में वापी औद्योगिक क्षेत्र में एक रसायन विनिर्माण इकाई में हुई. उन्होंने बताया कि मृतकों की पहचान गोरेलाल मंडल (41) और दिलीप तांती (37) के रूप में हुई है, दोनों बिहार के भागलपुर जिले के रहने वाले थे.

फॉरेंसिक विश्लेषण के लिए भेजा गया रसायन का नमूना

भरवाड ने कहा कि जब मंडल और तांती कारखाने के अंदर कुछ ड्रम को एक स्थान से दूसरे स्थान पर स्थानांतिरत कर रहे थे, तो अज्ञात रसायन से भरा एक ड्रम ट्रॉली से गिर गया. अधिकारी ने कहा, 'रसायन से निकलने वाले जहरीले धुएं के कारण दोनों बेहोश हो गए. नजदीकी अस्पताल में भर्ती कराए जाने के तुरंत बाद उनकी मौत हो गई. हमने आकस्मित मौत का मामला दर्ज किया है और रसायन का एक नमूना फॉरेंसिक विश्लेषण के लिए भेजा है.'

कुछ दिन पहले सूरत की एक फैक्ट्री में हुआ था ब्लास्ट

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने बीते सोमवार को गुजरात के मुख्य सचिव और पुलिस महानिदेशक को नोटिस जारी कर उस घटना की विस्तृत रिपोर्ट मांगी, जिसमें एक बड़े विस्फोट के बाद सात श्रिमकों की मौत हो गई और 24 घायल हो गए थे. ये घटना 30 नवंबर की है. आयोग ने पाया कि ज्वलनशील रसायनों से भरे टैंक में कथित विस्फोट, प्रथम दृष्टया, फैक्ट्री प्रबंधन की ओर से संभावित लापरवाही का संकेत देता है, जिसके लिए जांच की आवश्यकता है. आयोग ने इस त्रासदी के लिए जिम्मेदार व्यक्तियों के खिलाफ की गई कार्रवाई का विवरण भी मांगा है.

India: Arrest of human rights defender Arul Arumugam and judicial harassment of key leaders of farmers movement in Tamil Nadu

https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/statement-report/india-arrest-human-rights-defender-arul-arumugam-and-judicial-harassment-key

Front Line Defenders is deeply concerned by the arrest of human rights defender Arul Arumugam by the Tamil Nadu police on 4 November 2023, as well as his continued incarceration under multiple First Information Reports (FIRs) and preventive detention under the regressive Goonda's Act in Tamil Nadu. The human rights defender and 20 farmers/community leaders were arrested in connection with their involvement in a peaceful protest against the forcible acquisition of land by the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) in the Tiruvannamalai district of Tamil Nadu. Arul Arumugam is currently being held in the Palayamkottai Central Prison, Tamil Nadu.

Arul Arumugam is a human rights defender from Tamil Nadu State and a vocal advocate on the rights of farmers and local communities impacted by develoment related displacement - especially the violation of rights to land and livelihood. Since 2 July 2023, local farmers have been engaged in a peaceful protest against the acquisition of 3,174 acres of wetlands by SIPCOT for an industrial park. The land to be acquired by SIPCOT stretches over nine agricultural villages, meaning its dispossession could severely impact the livelihood of the farmers who use the land for crop cultivation. Instead of engaging in a meaningful dialogue with the farmers regarding their concerns, the government of Tamil Nadu has responded with a crackdown on their peaceful protest and the criminalisaton of human rights defenders and leaders associated with it.

On 4 November 2023, at around 1am, the Tamil Nadu police arrested 21 farmers, including human rights defender Arul Arumugam. The farmers had been voicing their opposition to the acquisition of land by SIPCOT. The human rights defender and assembly of farmers were arrested under the FIR 324/23 filed at Anakkavoor Police station which includes offences related to obstructing a public servant from discharging their functions, disturbing public order, preventing people from voluntarily selling land to the government, and damaging public assets. The FIR was filed on 29 August 2023 when human rights defender Arul Arumugam and farmers were walking together to attend a public hearing organised by the Tiruvannamalai district administration. They were obstructed by the police en route to the hearing and were charged with unlawful assembly and other related offences. Multiple FIRs have been filed against the farmers and Arul Arumugam between July and September 2023.

On 14 November 2023, senior civil society activists wrote to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu demanding the immediate release of the arrested farmers and leaders of the protest.

In a disturbing development, on 15 November 2023, police invoked the Goonda's Act 1982 against seven of those arrested, including human rights defender Arul Arumugam. The Tamil Nadu Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Drug Offenders, Goonda's, Immoral Traffic Offenders, Forest Offenders, Sand Offenders, Slum-Grabbers and Video Pirates Act, 1982 – commonly referred to as the Goondas Act – is a draconian preventive detention law which makes it difficult to obtain bail through court. While charges under the Goonda's Act were subsequently withdrawn against six of the farmers, human rights defender Arul Arumugam continues to be detained under the regressive preventive detention law.

On 20 November 2023, the 20 farmers and leaders arrested in the context of the protest movement were granted conditional bail by the Tiruvannamalai District Court. There is concern that the arrest, multiple charges, and invoking of the preventive detention law were aimed at pressuring the farmers to stop their protest and silence those speaking out peacefully against rights violations in the area. A complaint filed to the National Human Rights Commission of India regarding the wrongful arrests and continued incarceration of human rights defender Arul Arumugam was dismissed by the Commission on 30 November 2023, directing the Superintendent of Police of Tiruvannamalai district to take appropriate action.

Front Line Defenders strongly condemns the repression of the peaceful protests by farmers in Tamil Nadu and the continued incarceration of human rights defender Arul Arumugam in reprisal for his peaceful and legitimate human rights work. We call upon the authorities in India to immediately release Arul Arumugam and quash the fabricated charges against him and the 20 other leaders of the protest.

NHRC canvasses constitution amendment to promote human rights

https://guardian.ng/news/nhrc-canvasses-constitution-amendment-to-promote-human-rights/

Stakeholders tackle police, judges for allegedly encouraging impunity

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has urged the federal legislature to immediately amend the 1999 Constitution to strengthen the rights of Nigerians.

Chairperson of its governing council, Dr Salamatu Suileman, made the call yesterday in Abuja at a national town hall on future of litigating human rights in Nigeria.

According to her, there is an urgent need to tinker with the nation's lawbook to make the rights in Chapter II justiciable. This, she said, would empower individuals to enforce their socio-economic rights through the courts, thus ensuring greater accountability and protection for all Nigerians.

The organisation implored government to enact a specific legislation that provides for enforcement of socio-economic rights, explaining: "This legislation should clearly define these rights, establish procedures for seeking redress, and ensure robust enforcement mechanisms."

The United Nations Resident Coordinator on Humanitarian Affairs in Nigeria, Mathias Schmale, urged the country to strengthen institutions to address injustice.

Earlier in his welcome address, NHRC Executive Secretary, Tony Ojukwu (SAN), said the meeting was part of strategies to advance human rights in the country, by aggregating opinions from stakeholders.

Also, stakeholders attributed the slow pace of human rights litigation in the country to the activities of some judges in collaboration with law enforcement agencies.

They made claim at same event held to mark 75 years of the International Declaration of Human Rights. Director General of Legal Aid Council, Aliyu Abubakar, revealed that in many instances, his organisation is stampeded to discontinue human rights cases in the name of national security.

On their part, chairperson of Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) Human Rights Committee, Bauchi chapter, Sadiya Bahjatu, and a human rights lawyer, Maxwell Opara, attributed the poor success in litigating human rights to factors like undue adjournments by judges, cultural beliefs and deployment of technicalities to escape justice.

According to a senior lawyer, Prof. Joy Ngozi, access to courts and unfriendly nature of court impede pursuit of rights. Prof. Adedeji Adekunle (SAN) of the Juritrust Centre for

Sociolegal Research and Documentation, while stating that even the institute saddled with the responsibility of advancing human rights also faces challenges from government agencies in the course of pursuing remedies for victims, he, however, advised Nigerians to continue exploring the advantage provided by NHRC to report violations and seek redress.

Manipur to submit report on steps taken for de-escalation of violence: NHRC chairman

https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/manipur-to-submit-report-on-steps-taken-for-de-escalation-of-violence-nhrc-chariman-101701887319496.html

The report will include details of compensation disbursed to people affected , management of blockades on national highways, and an update on the well-being of those in relief camps, NHRC chairman said

New Delhi: The Manipur government will in a new weeks submit to the National Human Rights Commission a report on efforts taken by the administration to "de-escalate the violent situation (in the state) and return to normalcy," the body's chairperson Justice (retd) Arun Kumar Mishra said on Wednesday.

The report will include details of compensation disbursed to people affected, management of blockades on national highways, and an update on the well-being of those in relief camps," he added, pointing out both the decades-long issue behind ethnic violence in the state, and the fact that the current situation, "is not normal".

HT reported on 5 December that at least 13 people were killed in a fresh incident of violence on Monday afternoon — the highest single-day toll reported in the state in six months and one that punctured the tenuous peace in the strife-torn region once again.

Manipur has been roiled by ethnic clashes between the Meiteis and the Kukis since May 3. The clashes have left at least 182 dead (excluding the 13 who died on Monday) and around 50,000 homeless. The largest single-day toll in the state before Monday was reported on June 14, when nine people were shot dead in different areas of Kangpokpi district.

"We have asked Manipur government to make an endeavour and to make peace. Large number of people including the ones in the government are residing in the relief camp so we have issued direction that there should be regular health facilities provided, good educational facilities, employment and livelihood opportunities to the incumbent besides nutritious food," Mishra added.

The Supreme Court appointed panel headed by former chief justice of J&K high court, Gita Mittal, submitted a report on release of ex-gratia payment, given to families of 169 people who were killed and identified. This include three members from the central security forces - two from the Border Security Force (BSF) and one from the Assam Rifles, and three personnel of the Manipur Police. Six bodies mentioned in this report remained identified and data provided in the report is only till October 7.

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The report that is to be submitted is a follow-up to the commission's instructions to the state from November.

That month, NHRC held a two-day camp in Guwahati to hear cases from the northeastern states during which it asked the Manipur government to pay ₹10 lakh compensation each within four weeks to the next of kin of all the people who died in ethnic clashes since May. The rights body also asked the state to clear the blockade on National Highways 2 and 37 passing through Manipur.

The Manipur government on Sunday resumed mobile internet services across the state, except in the buffer zones — areas that connect valley districts with hill districts.

MANIPUR TO SEND REPORT ON ITS DE-ESCALATION MOVES TO NHRC

Saptarshi Das

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Manipur government will in a few weeks submit to the National Human Rights Commission a report on efforts taken by the administration to "de-escalate the violent situation and return to normalcy", the body's chairperson justice (retd) Arun Kumar Mishra said on Wednesday. The report will also include details of compensation disbursed to people affected, he added. →P9

Manipur to submit report on de-escalation steps to NHRC

Saptarshi Das

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NEW DELHI: The Manipur government will in a few weeks submit to the National Human Rights Commission a report on efforts taken by the administration to "de-escalate the violent situation (in the state) and return to normalcy," the body's chairperson Justice (retd) Arun Kumar Mishra said on Wednesday.

The report will include details of compensation disbursed to people affected, management of blockades on national highways, and an update on the well-being of those in relief camps." he added, pointing out both the decades-long issue behind ethnic violence in the state, and the fact that the current situation, "is not normal"

HT reported on 5 December that at least 13 people were killed in a fresh incident of violence on Monday afternoon—the highest single-day toll reported in the state in six months and one that punctured the tenuous peace in



Justice (retd) Arun Mishra

the strife-torn region once again.
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UGC asks colleges, universities to implement NHRC advisory against child-sexual abuse materials

https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ugc-asks-colleges-universities-to-implement-nhrc-advisory-against-child-sexual-abuse-materials/article67611946.ece

The NHRC said that identification and blocking of CSAM content, sharing of data among stakeholders and expedited prosecution of offenders is the need of the hour

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has asked all higher education institutions (HEI) to implement the advisory prepared by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) for the protection of the rights of children against production, distribution, and consumption of child-sexual abuse material (CSAM).

In a letter addressed to all universities and colleges, UGC secretary Manoj Joshi said that the information in the NHRC's advisory, issued in October, must be disseminated, and its recommendations implemented. He requested the HEIs to inform the UGC about the action taken on this matter.

The NHRC had said in the advisory that 1,505 instances of publishing, storing, and transmitting CSAM under Section 578 of the Information Technology Act and Sections 14 and 15 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, had been reported in 2021. "Production of CSAM creates a permanent record of sexual abuse while its subsequent transmission and consumption via internet and other means results in perpetual victimisation of children thereby having a lasting psychological impact on the child leading to further disruption of his/her overall development," the NHRC had noted.

The NHRC said effective identification and blocking of CSAM content, timely sharing of data among stakeholders and expedited prosecution of offenders is the need of the hour.

The NHRC has also recommended schools, colleges, and institutions to ensure continuous education and generation of awareness among students, parents, and teachers on the modus operandi of online child-sexual abusers, specific vulnerabilities of children online, reporting mechanisms, recognising early signs of online child abuse and grooming through emotional and behavioural indicators, use of parental control apps, internet safety among children through different means, like conducting workshops in schools, involving civil society, etc.

The NHRC also wanted Central and State Education Boards to draft and incorporate cyber curriculum in schools, including cyber safety, personal safety, relevant child care legislation, national-local policies, and legal consequences of violating the laws. "Psycho-social care centres may be established in every district to facilitate need-based support services and organisation of stigma eradication programmes," the advisory had said.