

# NHRC seeks report on plight of commercial sex workers

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
BHUBANESWAR, 21 MAY:

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police (DGP) to submit a detailed report on the preventive, reformative and rehabilitation measures taken by the government on the issues related to the sex workers in Bhubaneswar.

The apex rights panel passed the order seeking compliance reports within eight weeks in this regard on a petition filed by rights activist and lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy.

“The authorities are expected to take remedial measures on bare necessities and poverty alleviation and basic amenities within a period of eight weeks”, NHRC stated in the order recently.

The petitioner pointed out the plight of sex workers in brothels in the Master Canteen, Mali Sahi and other Areas of Bhubaneswar stating that they are victims of human trafficking. During the World Cup Hockey some of them were made shelterless without minimum life support, the petition alleged.

Though there exists an anti-Trafficking unit in the Police Stations, it is not

working effectively and police are found wanting in taking sincere steps to prohibit recurrence of sex trade.

The functioning of the State Level Coordination Committee to combat human trafficking of this is not satisfactory. The statutory Institution, set up under Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act, 1956, is not properly functioning. The victims are being deprived of benefits under the various social welfare schemes as the Supreme Court judgment with regard to the rights of the sex workers is not being complied with by the State, Tripathy alleged.



## **NHRC seeks report on plight of commercial sex workers**

<https://www.thestatesman.com/india/nhrc-seeks-report-on-plight-of-commercial-sex-workers-1503183418.html>

The apex rights panel passed the order seeking compliance reports within eight weeks in this regard on a petition filed by rights activist and lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the State's Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police (DGP) to submit a detailed report on the preventive, reformative and rehabilitation measures taken by the government on the issues related to sex workers in Bhubaneswar.

The apex rights panel passed the order seeking compliance reports within eight weeks in this regard on a petition filed by rights activist and lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy.

"The authorities are expected to take remedial measures on bare necessities and Poverty alleviation and basic amenities within a period of eight weeks," NHRC stated in the order recently.

The petitioner pointed out the plight of sex workers in brothels in Master Canteen, Mali Sahi and other areas of Bhubaneswar, stating that they are victims of human trafficking. During the World Cup Hockey some of them were made shelterless without minimum life support, the petition alleged.

Though there exists an anti-trafficking unit in the police stations, it is not working effectively and police are found wanting in taking sincere steps to prohibit recurrence of sex trade.

The functioning of the State Level Coordination Committee to combat human trafficking of this is not satisfactory. The statutory Institution, set up under Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act, 1956, is not properly functioning. The victims are being deprived of benefits under the various social welfare schemes as the Supreme Court judgment with regard to the rights of the sex workers is not being complied with by the State, Tripathy alleged.

## SEXUAL HARASSMENT

### **Wrestlers protest: Brij Bhushan Singh wants Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat to take polygraph tests too**

The BJP MP, accused of sexually harassing several female players, claimed that people of all castes and religions are supporting him.

<https://scroll.in/latest/1049518/wrestlers-protest-brij-bhushan-singh-wants-bajrang-punia-vinesh-phogat-to-take-polygraph-tests-too>

Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who has been accused of sexually harassing women wrestlers, on Sunday said that he was ready to be put through a lie-detector narco analysis test.

Singh, however, put up a condition that Olympic medal winner Bajrang Punia and Commonwealth Games gold medal winner Vinesh Phogat should also take the test.

In a narco analysis test, suspects are injected with a drug called sodium pentothal in an attempt to elicit a confession. The drug dissolves anxiety, thereby allowing them to speak without restrictions.

The country's top wrestlers have been staging a sit-in protest at Jantar Mantar since April 23, demanding Singh's arrest. They have dared him to undergo the test after he denied all the allegations.

Two first information reports have been registered against him after the Supreme Court's intervention. But Singh has refused to step down from his position in the wrestling body and accused the Congress and certain industrialists of instigating the agitation.

"If both the wrestlers are ready for their tests, they should call the media and make that announcement," he wrote on Facebook on Sunday. "And I promise to them that I am also ready for it."

Singh, who is also a Bharatiya Janata Party MP, at a meeting in Gonda district of Uttar Pradesh claimed that people of all castes and religions are supporting him. "Even after four months, they do not have any audio, video or any other recording to prove allegations against me," he claimed. "Story after story is being told. They should know that the whole country is angry today."

On May 7, Singh had said he would hang himself if even one allegation against him was proven right, reported India Today. "I still stand by my words and promise the countrymen to remain firm forever," he added.

Several other athletes as well as farmer bodies have extended their support to the protesting wrestlers.

After the protest began, the National Human Rights Commission issued notices to a host of national sports federations as well as the Union Sports Ministry and Sports Authority of India for failing to adhere to the requirements stated by the Prevention of Sexual Harassment Act, 2013.

According to the Act, sports bodies are required to have an Internal Complaints Committee. This came after a report by The Indian Express revealed that 16 of 30 national sports federations do not fulfil the mandatory criteria, either by not meeting the required stipulations or by not having an Internal Complaints Committee altogether.

## **West Bengal Blast: 3 Killed In Explosion While Making Firecrackers, Second Incident In A Week**

<https://www.timesnownews.com/india/west-bengal-blast-3-killed-in-explosion-while-making-firecrackers-article-100408135>

South 24 Parganas: Another explosion has taken place in the state of West Bengal where three people have lost their lives, including a minor.

Two women were making firecrackers on the rooftop of the house when when the place caught fire resulting in the blast.

One of the women was rushed to the hospital where she died, while the other woman and the child lost their life in the spot. According to local residents, the area where the explosion took place is known as the hub of illegal fire-cracker factories and warehouses.

The explosion and fire at the illegal warehouse took place at around 9.30 pm on Sunday

A woman, identified as Jayashree Ghata (65), and a child, identified as Pampa Ghata (10), died immediately in the incident, while a woman who was rushed to the hospital succumbed to her injuries during treatment.

Second Blast In A Week This comes just days after an explosion at an illegal fire-cracker factory in West Bengal's East Midnapore district left 12 dead.

Prime accused and owner of the illegal firecracker manufacturing unit, Kalipada alias Bhanu Bagh, who was arrested by the West Bengal CID on Thursday, had succumbed to his injuries at a private nursing home in Odisha's Cuttack, where he had fled soon after the blast on May 16. The West Bengal CID, which is investigating the case, has so far arrested at nine people.

The blast angered locals who alleged that cops were aware of the illegal firecracker manufacturing factory but no action was taken against the people involved The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Friday issued a notice to the West Bengal government, seeking a detailed report on the explosion within four weeks.

## **NHRC asks Odisha chief secretary, DGP to act on plight of Bhubaneswar's sex workers**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/nhrc-asks-odisha-chief-secretary-dgp-to-act-on-plight-of-bhubaneswars-sex-workers/articleshow/100397620.cms?from=mdr>

NHRC asks Odisha chief secretary, DGP to act on plight of Bhubaneswar's sex workers

**BHUBANESWAR:** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed Odisha chief secretary and DGP to submit detailed reports on the preventive, punitive, reformatory and rehabilitation measures taken by the state on the issues related to the sex workers of the city.

The Commission issued this direction on May 15 after hearing a petition filed by human rights activist and lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy on November 7 last year. He mentioned in his petition that girls and women working as sex workers in Master Canteen/Mali Sahi locality here are victims of human trafficking.

Tripathy alleged that the police have not taken sincere steps to prohibit recurrence of sex trade. "Functioning of the state-level coordination committee to combat trafficking is not satisfactory. Similarly, statutory institutions set up under the Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act, 1956, are not functional," he added.

The petitioner further alleged that the victims are deprived of benefits under various social welfare schemes like Anganwadi and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).

After taking cognizance of the case, the Commission on December 25 last year directed the state government to submit reports and reply to the allegations made by the petitioner. The Odisha Police have submitted a report before the NHRC this year regarding the matter.

The Commission has considered the police report wherein the fact of indulgence of few women of Malisahi slum area in sex trade activity was admitted. Police mentioned in the report that they conduct regular raids, patrolling and keep close watch to check and prevent immoral activities including human trafficking and forced sex trade.

The government report stated that there are six Anganwadi centres in Mali Sahi area wherein benefits related to ICDS are provided to all beneficiaries. "Besides, there are two primary schools operational in the area for providing education to children. Several NGOs and four self-help groups are also working constantly to uplift the people of the area and bring them in the mainstream of the society," read the Commission's order quoting the government report.

However, the police report has not furnished response to some of the queries raised in the petition, including details of the advisory body for the area as mandated under section 13 of the Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act, 1956. "Therefore, let direction be issued to the DGP, Odisha to submit the details regarding observations made by the Commission in this paragraph for action taken by the police in the last three years. Response within eight weeks," read the order.

The NHRC observed that it has not received any report from the women and child development department. Therefore, it issued directions to the chief secretary to provide detailed response to the queries raised in the complaint, along with action taken by the state and the district administration for upliftment of victims, as mandated under Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act, 1956 and other welfare laws. It has asked for the response within eight weeks.

## **NHRC Awards Rs 1 Lakh Relief To Couple 'Tortured' In Police Custody In Odisha**

<https://odishabytes.com/nhrc-awards-rs-1-lakh-relief-to-couple-tortured-in-police-custody-in-odisha/>

Berhampur: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the Odisha government to pay Rs 1 lakh compensation in an alleged torture of a couple at Gopalpur police station in Ganjam district in November last year.

The couple belong to Raikia area in Kandhamal district and the rights panel's directive came after an inquiry conducted by the additional SP, Berhampur, found the allegation to be true and an FIR was registered against the accused police officer.

Suman Kumar Sahu was tortured in police custody with a plastic pipe on November 27 last year after he and his wife, Subhadra Chandan, were picked from their house at Raikia at 4am. Berhampur-based rights activist Rabindra Kumar Mishra had moved NHRC in the case.



## **NHRC seeks report on plight of sex workers in Bhubaneswar**

<https://www.orissapost.com/nhrc-seeks-report-on-plight-of-sex-workers-in-bhubaneswar/>

Bhubaneswar: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed Odisha Chief Secretary PK Jena and the DGP, to submit a detailed report on the preventive, punitive, reformatory and rehabilitation measures taken by the government on the issues related to the plight of sex workers within eight weeks.

Acting on a petition filed by human rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy and a response received from the authorities, the NHRC has passed the order recently. The petitioner pointed out the plight of the girls and women working as sex workers in brothels in Master Canteen/Mali Sahi and other areas of the Odisha capital. Most of these girls/women are victims of human trafficking, the petitioner said.

Tripathy in his plea also said that during the World Cup hockey tournament, some of the sex workers were rendered homeless by the police without minimum life support. Even if there are anti-traffic units in police stations, those do not work, Tripathy said and added that the police don't take sincere steps to prohibit the recurrence of sex trade. Tripathy alleged that the Statutory Institution, set up under Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act, 1956, is not functional.

He pointed out that victims have been deprived of benefits under various social welfare programmes like Anganwadi scheme and integrated child development scheme (ICDS). The Supreme Court judgement about the rights of the sex workers has not been complied with by the state government, Tripathy alleged.



## ओडिशा के सीएस व डीजीपी को सेक्स वर्कर्स की दुर्दशा पर कार्रवाई का निर्देश'



पारित किया है।

केंद्रपाड़ा 21 मई (वार्ता) राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने ओडिशा के मुख्य सचिव (सीएस) और पुलिस महानिदेशक (डीजीपी) को राज्य की ओर से सेक्स वर्करों के प्रति उठाए गए निवारक, दंडात्मक, सुधारात्मक और पुनर्वास उपायों पर आठ सप्ताह के भीतर एक विस्तृत रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने का निर्देश दिया है।

मानवाधिकार कार्यकर्ता राधाकांत त्रिपाठी द्वारा दायर एक याचिका और अधिकारियों से प्राप्त प्रतिक्रिया पर कार्रवाई करते हुए एनएचआरसी ने हाल ही में आदेश

विस्तृत समाचार के लिए हमारी सेवाएं लें।

# NHRC seeks report on plight of sex workers in Bhubaneswar

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, May 21:** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed Odisha Chief Secretary PK Jena and the DGP, to submit a detailed report on the preventive, punitive, reformatory and rehabilitation measures taken by the government on the issues related to the plight of sex workers within eight weeks.

Acting on a petition filed by human rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy and a response received from the authorities, the NHRC has passed the order recently. The petitioner pointed out the plight of the girls and women working as sex workers in brothels in Master



Canteen/Mali Sahi and other areas of the Odisha capital. Most of these girls/women are victims of human trafficking, the petitioner said.

Tripathy in his plea also said that during the World Cup hockey tournament, some of the sex workers were rendered homeless by the police without minimum life support.

Even if there is anti-traffic units in police stations those do not work, Tripathy said and added that the police don't take sincere steps to prohibit the recurrence of sex trade.

Tripathy alleged that the Statutory Institution, set up under Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act, 1956, is not functional. He pointed out that victims have been deprived of benefits under various social welfare programmes like Anganwadi scheme and integrated child development scheme (ICDS). The Supreme Court judgement about the rights of the sex workers has not been complied with by the state government, Tripathy alleged.

## **Act on plight of city's sex workers: NHRC to chief secy, DGP**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/act-on-plight-of-citys-sex-workers-nhrc-to-chief-secy-dgp/articleshow/100407513.cms>

Bhubaneswar: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the state chief secretary and the DGP to submit detailed reports on the preventive, punitive, reformatory and rehabilitation measures taken by the government on the issues related to the sex workers in the state capital.

The commission issued this direction on May 15 after hearing a petition filed by human rights activist and lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy on November 7 last year. He mentioned in his petition that girls and women working as sex workers in Master Canteen/Mali Sahi locality here are victims of human trafficking. Tripathy alleged that the police have not taken sincere steps to prohibit the recurrence of sex trade. "Functioning of the state-level coordination committee to combat trafficking is not satisfactory. Similarly, statutory institutions set up under the Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act, 1956 are not functional," he added.

The petitioner further alleged that the victims are deprived of benefits under various social welfare schemes like anganwadi and integrated child development services (ICDS).

After taking cognizance of the case, the NHRC on December 25 last year directed the state government to submit reports and reply to the allegations made by the petitioner. The Odisha police have submitted a report before the NHRC this year regarding the matter.

The commission has considered the police report where the fact of indulgence of a few women of Malisahi slum area in sex trade activity was admitted. Police mentioned in the report that they conduct regular raids, patrolling and keep a close watch to check and prevent immoral activities, including human trafficking and forced sex trade.

The government report stated that there are six anganwadi centres in the Mali Sahi area where benefits related to ICDS are provided to all the beneficiaries. "Besides, there are two primary schools operational in the area for providing education to children. Several NGOs and four self-help groups are also working constantly to uplift the people of the area," read the commission's order quoting the government report.