

## एनएचआरसी ने दिल्ली सरकार, पुलिस को जारी किया नोटिस

नई दिल्ली, वार्ता। राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने मंगलवार को यहां बारापुला एलिवेटेड रोड के एक गैर-बेरिकेडेड निर्माणाधीन खंड से एक कार के नीचे गिरने की सूचना पर दिल्ली सरकार और पुलिस को नोटिस जारी किया। कार में सवार एक व्यक्ति की मौत हो गयी। मीडिया रिपोर्टों का स्वतः संज्ञान लेते हुए, मानवाधिकार निकाय ने दिल्ली के मुख्य सचिव और लोक निर्माण विभाग के सचिव और दिल्ली पुलिस आयुक्त को चार सप्ताह के भीतर मामले में एक विस्तृत रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने के लिए कहा है। एनएचआरसी ने कहा कि रिपोर्ट में पुलिस की ओर से दर्ज की गई प्राथमिकी की स्थिति, जिम्मेदार अधिकारियों/अधिकारियों के खिलाफ की गई कार्रवाई और मृतक के परिजनों को दिए गए मुआवजे की स्थिति शामिल होनी चाहिए।

आयोग ने कहा कि भविष्य में ऐसी घटनाओं की पुनरावृत्ति न हो, यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए अधिकारियों द्वारा उठाए गए या उठाए जाने वाले प्रस्तावित कदमों के बारे में भी जानना चाहेंगे। एनएचआरसी ने पाया कि मीडिया रिपोर्टों की सामग्री, यदि सत्य है, तो मानवाधिकारों के उल्लंघन के एक गंभीर मुद्दे की राशि है क्योंकि स्पष्ट रूप से फ्लाईओवर के निर्माणाधीन खंड पर किसी वाहन की आवाजाही को रोकने के लिए कोई बेरिकेडिंग नहीं थी। आयोग ने कहा, यह महत्वहीन है कि क्या वाहन चलाते समय पीड़ित द्वारा कोई लापरवाही की गई थी। अधिक गंभीर बात यह है कि अधिकारियों ने लापरवाही से दिल्ली की एक व्यस्त सड़क के एक निर्माणाधीन हिस्से को बिना बेरिकेड के छोड़ दिया जो अक्षम्य है।

## Barapullah accident: NHRC notice to Delhi govt, top cop

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/barapullah-accident-nhrc-notice-to-delhi-govt-top-cop/articleshow/100664029.cms?from=mdr>

New Delhi: The National Human Rights Commission has issued a notice to Delhi government, Public Works Department, and the city police chief over a 42-year-old man dying after his car fell off an unattended under-construction stretch of the Barapullah elevated road on May 26. Jagndeeep Singh, a resident of Krishna Nagar in Delhi, fell 30 feet to the ground, leading to his death. It is suspected that he got confused with the route and drove towards the under-construction flyover, police have said.

The NHRC said in a statement on Wednesday that it is immaterial whether there was any "contributory negligence" by the victim while driving. What is more serious is that the "authorities recklessly left an under-construction portion of a busy Delhi road un-barricaded, which is unpardonable", it said.

Reportedly, there was no signage regarding the work at the site and some of the barriers had been moved.

Accordingly, the NHRC has sought a detailed report within four weeks, the statement said.

An internal report of the PWD said the area is always barricaded and a detailed report has been sought from the contractor. "The recent photographs submitted in the monthly progress report showing complete barricading are also enclosed. However, as noticed by the field staff on the next morning of the accident, one of the installed RCC portable crash barriers was dislocated to make the way for entry towards an incomplete area of the bridge."

The report said the ramp contains 15 incomplete expansion joints having a width of approximately 1,200mm and a depth of 300mm making it extremely difficult for any vehicle to cross.

# Barapullah accident: NHRC notice to Delhi govt, top cop

TNN & AGENCIES

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the ground, leading to his death. It is suspected that he got confused with the route and drove towards the under-construction flyover, police have said.

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## **NHRC issues notice to govt, police; PWD says stretch difficult to drive on**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/nhrc-issues-notice-to-govt-police-pwd-says-stretch-difficult-to-drive-on-8639587/>

As per police, Jagandeep Singh (42) was driving home to Krishna Nagar from his Noida office when the incident took place around 8.30-9 pm on Monday. Police suspect he got confused and drove towards the under-construction flyover.

Days after an East Delhi resident plummeted 30 feet to his death, after his car fell off the under-construction Barapullah Phase III flyover, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to the Delhi government and the Delhi Police and sought a detailed report in the matter within four weeks.

“NHRC, India has taken suo motu cognizance of media reports that a man accidentally drove his car on an unattended and un-barricaded under-construction stretch of the Barapullah elevated road... Reportedly, there was no signage regarding the ongoing work at the site and some of the barriers had been moved,” it stated.

Meanwhile, the Public Works Department in its incident report said the stretch is “extremely difficult to cross by any vehicle”. It has further sought a report from the project’s contractor.

As per police, Jagandeep Singh (42) was driving home to Krishna Nagar from his Noida office when the incident took place around 8.30-9 pm on Monday. Police suspect he got confused and drove towards the under-construction flyover.

In its incident report, PWD said the flyover was barricaded with “heavy portable RCC crash barriers”. “As noticed by field staff the next morning, one of the installed RCC portable crash barriers was dislocated to make the way for entry towards an incomplete area of the bridge,” it stated.

It said the incident happened at the end point of the unfinished part of the flyover, approximately 630 metres away from the starting point (entry) at Mayur Vihar. It contains 15 disjointed spans, each 42.5 metres.

“Each of the spans is disjointed due to pending work, which will be completed at the time of completion of the entire flyover... It is extremely difficult to cross by any vehicle... these unfinished expansion joints each have a gap of 1,200 mm width and 300 mm depth which have only reinforcement without concrete work,” it noted.

The PWD further said work on this part of the bridge is not complete yet due to land acquisition issues. However, it said the constructed and operational portion is “fully secured by a crash barrier since the inauguration of the Mayur Vihar ramps and flyover” by CM Arvind Kejriwal in August 2021. The entry point to the bridge at Mayur Vihar Phase I is “now blocked by replacing the dislocated portable RCC crash barrier”, said the PWD.

Officials said work on the remaining portion will start this week: "Construction material has arrived at the site and work will start in two-three days. The remaining portion is expected to be completed by the year-end."

**NHRC NOTICE TO DELHI GOVT, POLICE CHIEF**

**NEW DELHI:** The National Human Rights Commission has issued a notice to the Delhi government and the city police chief over a man dying after his car fell off an unattended under-construction stretch of the Barapullah elevated road in the national capital. According to the police, the 42-year-old man died after his car fell off the under-construction flyover in east Delhi's Barapullah-Noida Link Road area on May 26. Jagandeep Singh, a resident of Krishna Nagar in Delhi, fell 30 feet to the ground leading to his death. It is suspected that he got confused with the route and drove towards the under-construction flyover, police have said. The National Human Rights Commission, in a statement on Wednesday, observed that it is immaterial whether there was any "contributory negligence" by the victim while driving. What is more serious is that the "authorities recklessly left an under-construction portion of a busy Delhi road un-barricaded, which is unpardonable", it said.

## **NHRC notice to Delhi govt, cops over mishap**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/delhi/2023/jun/01/nhrc-notice-to-delhi-govt-cops-over-mishap-2580671.html>

According to the police, the 42-year-old man died after his car fell off the under-construction flyover in east Delhi's Barapullah-Noida Link Road area on May 26.

NEW DELHI: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a notice to the Delhi government and the city police chief over a man dying after his car fell off an unattended under-construction stretch of the Barapullah elevated road in the national capital.

According to the police, the 42-year-old man died after his car fell off the under-construction flyover in east Delhi's Barapullah-Noida Link Road area on May 26. Jagandeep Singh, a resident of Krishna Nagar in Delhi, fell 30 feet to the ground leading to his death. It is suspected that he got confused with the route and drove towards the under-construction flyover, police have said.

NHRC, in a statement, observed that it is immaterial whether there was any "contributory negligence" by the victim while driving. What is more serious is that the "authorities recklessly left an under-construction portion of a busy Delhi road un-barricaded, which is unpardonable", it said.

The commission said it has taken suo motu cognisance of media reports of the incident. Reportedly, there was no signage regarding the ongoing work at the site and some of the barriers had been moved.



## NHRC notice to Govt, police after car falls off under-construction Barapullah stretch

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a notice to the Delhi Government and the city police chief over a man dying after his car fell off an unattended under-construction stretch of the Barapullah elevated road in the national capital.

According to the police, the 42-year-old man died after his car fell off the under-construction flyover in east Delhi's Barapullah-Noida Link Road area on May 26. Jagandeep Singh, a resident of Krishna Nagar in Delhi, fell 30 feet to the ground leading to his death.

It is suspected that he got



confused with the route and drove towards the under-construction flyover, police have said.

The NHRC, in a statement on Wednesday, observed that it is immaterial whether there was any "contributory negligence" by the victim while driving. What is more serious

is that the "authorities recklessly left an under-construction portion of a busy Delhi road unbarricaded, which is unpardonable", it said.

The commission said it has taken suo motu cognisance of media reports of the incident. Reportedly, there was no signage regarding the ongoing work at the site and some of the barriers had been moved.

Accordingly, the NHRC has issued notices to the chief secretary, the secretary, the public works department, the Government of Delhi and the Delhi police commissioner, seeking a detailed report within four weeks, the statement said.



## MAN DIES AFTER CAR FALLS OFF UNDER-CONSTRUCTION FLYOVER

# NHRC issues notice to govt, police; PWD says stretch difficult to drive on

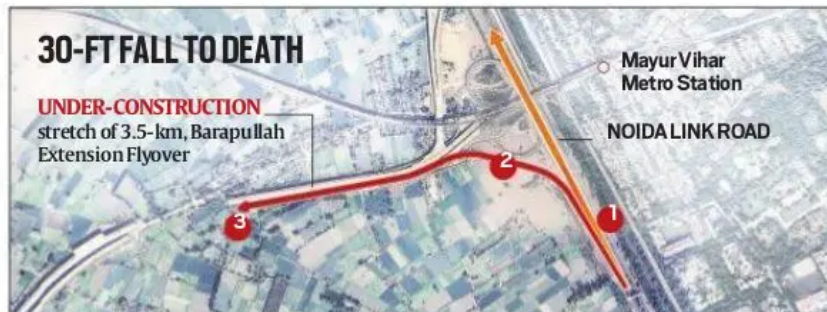
GAYATHRI MANI  
NEW DELHI, MAY 31

DAYS AFTER an East Delhi resident plummeted 30 feet to his death, after his car fell off the under-construction Barapullah Phase III flyover, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to the Delhi government and the Delhi Police and sought a detailed report in the matter within four weeks.

"NHRC, India has taken suo motu cognizance of media reports that a man accidentally drove his car on an unattended and un-barricaded under-construction stretch of the Barapullah elevated road... Reportedly, there was no signage regarding the ongoing work at the site and some of the barriers had been moved," it stated.

Meanwhile, the Public Works Department in its incident report said the stretch is "extremely difficult to cross by any vehicle". It has further sought a report from the project's contractor.

As per police, Jagandeep Singh (42) was driving home to Krishna Nagar from his Noida office when the incident took place around 8.30-9 pm on Monday. Police suspect he got confused and drove towards the under-construction flyover.



### 30-FT FALL TO DEATH

**UNDER-CONSTRUCTION**  
stretch of 3.5-km, Barapullah  
Extension Flyover

**1** Singh was heading to his Krishna Nagar home from his Noida office

**2** But he ended up driving onto the unfinished flyover in East Delhi

**3** His WagonR fell 30 feet off the flyover onto the Yamuna floodplains

### WHAT POLICE SAY

Police said jersey barricades were put on the stretch, however, "one of them was not in place". "There was some gap between barricades. He went through the gap," said a police officer

### WHAT PWD SAYS

■ Flyover barricaded with "heavy portable RCC crash barriers". "... One of the installed... crash barriers was dislocated to make way for entry towards incomplete area of bridge," it said in its incident report



The WagonR car fell off the under-construction Barapullah Phase III flyover on Monday night. Prem Nath Pandey

In its incident report, PWD said the flyover was barricaded with "heavy portable RCC crash barriers". "As noticed by field staff the next morning, one of the installed RCC portable crash barriers was dislocated to make the way for entry towards an incomplete area of the bridge," it stated.

It said the incident happened at the end point of the unfinished part of the flyover, approximately 630 metres away from the starting point (entry) at Mayur Vihar. It contains 15 disjointed spans, each 42.5 metres.

"Each of the spans is disjointed due to pending work, which will be completed at the time of completion of the entire flyover... It is extremely difficult to cross by any vehicle... these unfinished expansion joints each have a gap of 1,200 mm width and 300 mm depth which have only reinforcement without concrete work," it noted.

The PWD further said work on this part of the bridge is not complete yet due to land acquisition issues. However, it said the constructed and operational portion is "fully secured by a crash barrier since the inauguration of the Mayur Vihar ramps and flyover" by CM Arvind Kejriwal in August 2021. The entry point to the bridge at Mayur Vihar Phase I is "now blocked by replacing the dislocated portable RCC crash barrier", said the PWD.



# Man falls to death off unfinished flyover; why wasn't it barricaded, NHRC asks govt., police chief

**Mehul Malpani**  
NEW DELHI

Five days after a man allegedly drove off an unfinished flyover in east Delhi and plunged to his death, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has questioned the Delhi government and Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora why the elevated road was left "unattended and un-barricaded".

In a notice issued to them on Wednesday, the NHRC said it has taken cognisance of reports on the accident. "The commission has further observed that it is immaterial whether there was negligence by the victim while driving. What is more serious is that the authorities recklessly left an under-construction portion of a busy Delhi road un-barricaded, which is unpardonable."

The police said Jagandeep Singh, 42, died on May 26 after his car fell 30



PWD Minister Atishi. FILE PHOTO

feet to the ground from an under-construction stretch of the Barapullah elevated road. A resident of Krishna Nagar, Mr. Singh was going home from his office in Noida Sector 16 around 6.30 p.m., they added.

## 'Barriers after accident'

The NHRC said, "Reportedly, there was no signage regarding the ongoing work at the site and some of the barriers had been moved." Quoting news reports, it said, "It was only after the accident that the barriers were put up."

Officials of the Public Works Department (PWD)

did not respond to requests for a comment. Seeking a detailed report within four weeks, the NHRC said, "The reports are expected to include the status of the FIR, action taken against the responsible officers/officials and compensation, if any, granted to the next of kin of the deceased."

"The commission would also like to know about the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the authorities to ensure that such incidents do not recur anywhere in the future." It also issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the PWD Secretary.

## 'No jersey barricades'

The police had earlier suspected that Mr. Singh "got confused with the route and went on the flyover".

On Wednesday, a senior officer said, "The victim would not have taken the flyover if there were jersey barricades in place."

## मानवाधिकार आयोग का नोटिस

राज्य ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली: राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने राष्ट्रीय राजधानी में बारापुला एलिवेटेड रोड के निर्माणाधीन खंड से एक व्यक्ति की कार के गिरने से मौत के मामले में दिल्ली सरकार और शहर के पुलिस आयुक्त को नोटिस जारी किया है। राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने बुधवार को एक बयान में कहा कि यह जांच की जानी चाहिए कि इस मामले में किस की लापरवाही रही है। अधिकारियों ने दिल्ली की एक व्यस्त सड़क के एक निर्माणाधीन हिस्से को बैरिकेड्स के बिना छोड़ दिया, जो अक्षम्य है।

आयोग ने कहा कि मीडिया रिपोर्टों का स्वतः संज्ञान लिया है। कथित तौर पर साइट पर चल रहे काम के बारे में कोई संकेत नहीं था। यह देखा गया है कि मीडिया रिपोर्ट्स, अगर सच हैं, मानवाधिकारों के उल्लंघन के एक गंभीर मुद्दे के बराबर हैं क्योंकि निर्माणाधीन खंड पर किसी वाहन की आवाजाही को रोकने के लिए कोई बैरिकेडिंग नहीं थी। एनएचआरसी ने मुख्य सचिव, लोक निर्माण विभाग के सचिव, दिल्ली सरकार और दिल्ली पुलिस आयुक्त को नोटिस जारी कर चार सप्ताह के भीतर विस्तृत रिपोर्ट मांगी है।



# NHRC notice to govt, cops over mishap

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @**  
New Delhi

THE National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a notice to the Delhi government and the city police chief over a man dying after his car fell off an unattended under-construction stretch of the Barapullah elevated road in the national capital.

According to the police, the 42-year-old man died after his

car fell off the under-construction flyover in east Delhi's Barapullah-Noida Link Road area on May 26. Jagandeep Singh, a resident of Krishna Nagar in Delhi, fell 30 feet to the ground leading to his death. It is suspected that he got confused with the route and drove towards the under-construction flyover, police have said.

NHRC, in a statement, observed that it is immaterial whether there was any "contrib-

utory negligence" by the victim while driving. What is more serious is that the "authorities recklessly left an under-construction portion of a busy Delhi road un-barricaded, which is unpardonable", it said.

The commission said it has taken suo motu cognisance of media reports of the incident. Reportedly, there was no signage regarding the ongoing work at the site and some of the barriers had been moved.

## **NHRC notice to Delhi govt, police chief after car falls off flyover**

**New Delhi:** National Human Rights Commission has issued a notice to Delhi government and the city police chief over a 42-year-old man dying after his car fell off an unattended under-construction stretch of the Barapullah elevated road on May 26. Jagandeep Singh, a resident Delhi, fell 30 feet to the ground, leading to his death. It is suspected that he got confused with the route and drove towards the under-construction flyover, police have said.

The NHRC said in a statement on Wednesday that it is immaterial whether there was any “contributory negligence” by the victim. TNN

## निर्माणाधीन फ्लाईओवर से कार गिरने के बाद चालक की मौत पर एनएचआरसी ने नोटिस भेजा

नई दिल्ली, (वीअ)। राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने राष्ट्रीय राजधानी में बारापुला एलिवेटेड रोड के बिना देखभाल वाले निर्माणाधीन हिस्से से एक कार के गिरने के बाद उसके चालक की मौत पर दिल्ली सरकार और शहर के पुलिस प्रमुख को नोटिस भेजा है। पुलिस ने बुधवार को यह जानकारी दी। पुलिस के मुताबिक, पूर्वी दिल्ली में 26 मई को 42 वर्षीय व्यक्ति की मौत बारापुला-नोएडा लिंक रोड पर निर्माणाधीन फ्लाईओवर से उसकी कार के गिरने के बाद हो गई थी। दिल्ली के कृष्णा नगर निवासी जगनदीप सिंह 30 फुट नीचे जमीन पर गिर गए, जिससे उनकी मौत हो गई। पुलिस ने कहा कि आशंका जताई जा रही है कि पीड़ित व्यक्ति मार्ग को लेकर भ्रमित हो गया और उसने

अपनी कार निर्माणाधीन फ्लाईओवर की तरफ बढ़ा दी। एनएचआरसी ने बुधवार को कहा कि यह मायने नहीं रखता कि पीड़ित की ओर से वाहन चलाते समय कोई लापरवाही बरती गई या नहीं। एनएचआरसी ने कहा कि अधिक गंभीर बात यह है कि अधिकारियों ने दिल्ली की एक व्यस्त सड़क के एक निर्माणाधीन हिस्से को लापरवाही दिखाते हुए बिना बैरिकेडिंग किये छोड़ दिया जो अक्षम्य है। आयोग की ओर से जारी बयान में कहा गया कि उसने मीडिया में आयी खबर पर स्वतः संज्ञान लिया। बयान में कहा गया है कि एनएचआरसी ने मुख्य सचिव, सचिव लोक निर्माण विभाग, दिल्ली सरकार और दिल्ली के पुलिस आयुक्त को नोटिस जारी कर चार सप्ताह के भीतर विस्तृत रिपोर्ट मांगी है।



## निर्माणाधीन फ्लाईओवर से कार गिरने के बाद चालक की मौत पर एनएचआरसी ने नोटिस भेजा

<https://hindi.theprint.in/india/nhrc-issues-notice-on-drivers-death-after-car-falls-from-under-construction-flyover/545647/>

नयी दिल्ली, 31 मई (भाषा) राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने राष्ट्रीय राजधानी में बारापुला एलिवेटेड रोड के बिना देखभाल वाले निर्माणाधीन हिस्से से एक कार के गिरने के बाद उसके चालक की मौत पर दिल्ली सरकार और शहर के पुलिस प्रमुख को नोटिस भेजा है। पुलिस ने बुधवार को यह जानकारी दी।

पुलिस के मुताबिक, पूर्वी दिल्ली में 26 मई को 42 वर्षीय व्यक्ति की मौत बारापुला-नोएडा लिंग रोड पर निर्माणाधीन फ्लाईओवर से उसकी कार के गिरने के बाद हो गई थी।

दिल्ली के कृष्णा नगर निवासी जगनदीप सिंह 30 फुट नीचे जमीन पर गिर गए, जिससे उनकी मौत हो गई।

पुलिस ने कहा कि आशंका जताई जा रही है कि पीड़ित व्यक्ति मार्ग को लेकर भ्रमित हो गया और उसने अपनी कार निर्माणाधीन फ्लाईओवर की तरफ बढ़ा दी।

एनएचआरसी ने बुधवार को कहा कि यह मायने नहीं रखता कि पीड़ित की ओर से वाहन चलाते समय कोई लापरवाही बरती गई या नहीं।

एनएचआरसी ने कहा कि अधिक गंभीर बात यह है कि अधिकारियों ने दिल्ली की एक व्यस्त सड़क के एक निर्माणाधीन हिस्से को लापरवाही दिखाते हुए बिना बैरिकेडिंग किये छोड़ दिया जो अक्षम्य है।

आयोग की ओर से जारी बयान में कहा गया कि उसने मीडिया में आयी खबर पर स्वतः संज्ञान लिया। बयान में कहा गया है कि एनएचआरसी ने मुख्य सचिव, सचिव (लोक निर्माण विभाग), दिल्ली सरकार और दिल्ली के पुलिस आयुक्त को नोटिस जारी कर चार सप्ताह के भीतर विस्तृत रिपोर्ट मांगी है।

भाषा संतोष माधव

माधव

## देश की खबरें | निर्माणाधीन फ्लाईओवर से कार गिरने के बाद चालक की मौत पर एनएचआरसी ने नोटिस भेजा

<https://hindi.latestly.com/agency-news/nhrc-sends-notice-on-drivers-death-after-car-falls-from-under-construction-flyover-1823734.html>

Get Latest हिन्दी समाचार, Breaking News on India at LatestLY हिन्दी. राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने राष्ट्रीय राजधानी में बारापुला एलिवेटेड रोड के बिना देखभाल वाले निर्माणाधीन हिस्से से एक कार के गिरने के बाद उसके चालक की मौत पर दिल्ली सरकार और शहर के पुलिस प्रमुख को नोटिस भेजा है। पुलिस ने बुधवार को यह जानकारी दी।

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(यह सिंडिकेटेड न्यूज़ फीड से अनएडिटेड और ऑटो-जेनरेटेड स्टोरी है, ऐसी संभावना है कि लेटेस्टली स्टाफ द्वारा इसमें कोई बदलाव या एडिट नहीं किया गया है)

# Manual scavenging is a curse, must end now

To end this menace Govt must provide alternative employment opportunities and encourage mechanised cleaning technologies

“Death does not discriminate, but the system does,” cried out Rukmani Devi, a grief-stricken relative who lost her cousin, Nand Kushwaha, and his son Nitesh, in a horrifying incident that unfolded in Bahora Ramnagar village. The tight-knit community mourns the loss of four lives, all victims of the archaic and inhumane practice of manual scavenging. On a sombre Sunday morning, tragedy struck as these brave souls descended into a septic tank, unaware of the deadly consequences that awaited them.

The incident occurred under the jurisdiction of the Nebua Naurangia police station in the Kushinagar district of Uttar Pradesh, a region plagued by the persisting men-



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ace of manual scavenging. Despite numerous promises and legislative measures to eradicate this degrading practice, it continues to thrive, claiming innocent lives and shattering families.

Manual scavenging, a practice that involves the manual cleaning of septic tanks, drains, and dry latrines, has been banned in India since 1993 under the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act. However, the law remains largely ineffective, with thousands of individuals still forced into this hazardous occupation due to poverty, social discrimination, and a lack of alternative livelihood options.

Incidentally, the government, which has introduced

several measures to prohibit manual scavenging and rehabilitate those involved, does not consider septic cleaning as manual scavenging, despite the National Human Rights Commission's (NHRC) recommendation to expand the definition of manual scavengers. The incident serves as a stark reminder of the hazardous conditions faced by manual scavengers. "Nand was our sole breadwinner," sobbed Rukmani Devi, her voice heavy with grief. "We had hoped for a brighter future for Nitesh, but now he is gone too. Why does no one care about our lives?"

The tragedy that befell the Kushwaha family is not an isolated incident. According to a report by Safai Karamchari Andolan, an organization

fighting for the rights of sanitation workers, there have been over 1,800 deaths related to manual scavenging in the past decade alone. In four years, between 2017-2021, 330 people lost their lives due to "hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks" in India, as per the data presented in Lok Sabha in August 2022.

"Each death represents a life cut short, dreams left unfulfilled, and families left devastated," Dinesh Kanojia, an office-bearer of Safai Karamchari Aandolan said and added: "We clean society's waste, but society refuses to acknowledge us as humans."

Despite the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and the Rehabilitation Act of 2013, which outlawed the employ-

ment of manual scavengers and aimed to provide rehabilitation measures, the implementation has been woefully inadequate. The lack of political will, insufficient enforcement, and social apathy have perpetuated this grave injustice. The dangers of manual scavenging extend beyond the risk of asphyxiation and drowning. The workers are often exposed to toxic gases, disease-causing pathogens, and unsanitary conditions that pose serious health risks. The absence of social safety nets and adequate welfare measures further deepens their economic struggles, leaving them with limited choices.

"The persistence of manual scavenging in India is a grave violation of human rights, as it subjects individu-

als to dehumanizing conditions, health hazards, and social exclusion," Raghuvanshi, a Dalit activist, said. The tragedy in Bahora Ramnagar village should serve as a wake-up call for the authorities and society at large. Immediate action is needed to ensure justice for the victims and their families and to put an end to this brutal practice.

To address this grave issue, a multi-pronged approach is necessary. Strengthening the implementation of existing laws, providing alternative employment opportunities, investing in mechanized cleaning technologies, and raising public awareness are crucial steps toward eradicating manual scavenging. Collaboration between government bodies, civil society organizations, and

affected communities is essential to ensure sustainable change. "No more lives should be lost in the depths of septic tanks," declared Smita Yadav, a social worker. "It is time to break the chains of this exploitative practice and work towards a future where dignity and equality prevail."

She said: "As the Kushwaha family and the entire community grieve the loss of Nand and Nitesh, their deaths must not be forgotten. Their tragedy should ignite a collective resolve to eliminate manual scavenging and create a society where every life is valued and respected. Let us unite in our demand for justice and in our commitment to building a future free from this dark chapter of human suffering."



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