

Odisha woman hired for surrogacy ends life

NHRC issues notice to Telangana Govt

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognisance of a media report about a woman committing suicide alleging sexual harassment by a man in the Raidurgam area of Hyderabad in Telangana on November 27, 2024.

The victim from Odisha was reportedly brought to the city through middlemen for surrogacy under a deal of Rs 10 lakh with her husband. She was made to stay in a separate flat alone away from her husband.

The NHRC has observed that the contents of the media report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of the human rights of the victim woman.

It has issued notices to the

Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Telangana calling for a detailed report including the status of the FIR registered in the matter within two weeks. The commission would also like to know from the police authorities if there were any complaints from the people regarding harassment of women in the name of surrogacy in the State.

As per the media report, the 25-year-old victim died by suicide allegedly to escape sexual harassment by a man. Her husband stayed nearby at a different accommodation along with their four-year-old son.

Reportedly, the woman had called up her husband over phone on November 26 that she did not want to stay there and would end her life as the man was subjecting her to sexual harassment.

The Times of India

200 families await govt support to move out of KNP

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/200-families-struggle-for-government-support-to-relocate-from-kudremukh-national-park/articleshow/115849650.cms>

TNN | Nov 30, 2024, 11.12 PM IST

Udupi: Gangadhar Gowda, president of the Udupi District Malekudiyara Sangha, said that despite it being over 30 years since Kudremukh was designated as a national park and 50 families were relocated from the protected area, the govt's support for their resettlement has been minimal.

He told reporters on Friday that approximately 200 additional families submitted applications seeking relocation and rehabilitation from Kudremukh National Park. However, these applications remained unprocessed by the forest department for five years, he said.

The encounter of Naxalite Vikram Gowda by the ANF team highlights the susceptibility of Malekudiya communities towards Maoist activities. "Although Malekudiya people reject Naxalism, the govt's indifference towards their welfare remains concerning. The administration needs to ensure essential infrastructure, including roads and bridges, and implement progressive schemes for their holistic development. For the 200 families seeking relocation from the national park, the govt should provide a minimum of two acres per family, alongside access to education, employment, and healthcare services," Gowda urged.

He noted that the forest department lacks funds to support these 200 families who are ready for rehabilitation. "This reflects the govt's inadequate attention towards the tribal population's needs and welfare," Gowda said.

Shridhara Gowda, state president of the Malekudiyara Sangha, said that decade-old demands for a bridge in Mattavu of Mudradi GP, electricity connections to houses in Muranthabailu, and lack of full-fledged roads in Eedu and Nadpalu were not fulfilled by the govt. Delegations of the tribal community met ministers and officials concerned several times, he said.

He alleged that law enforcement agencies deny the rights of forest dwellers to collect minor forest produce. "The govt needs to intervene and find solutions to the issue as forest dwellers have no other source of income," he added.

Encounter: Forum demands judicial probe

The fact-finding team, consisting of members of Coordination of Democratic Rights Organisations (CDRO) and other organisations, demanded a judicial commission be

instituted under a sitting judge of the Supreme Court to probe the encounter of Naxal Vikram Gowda.

The CDRO stated in a release that the encounter killing of Vikram Gowda is a cold-blooded murder. They demanded police register an FIR against the ANF as per the guidelines of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the withdrawal of paramilitary forces from tribal areas.

Times of India

NHRC seeks report on Keonjhar health crisis

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/nhrc-investigates-health-crisis-in-keonjhar-district-after-dengue-death/articleshow/115845456.cms>

Nov 30, 2024, 07.39 PM IST

Bhubaneswar: National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has asked the state health department to submit a detailed report on alleged healthcare inadequacies in Keonjhar district, following the dengue-related death of 37-year-old Biri Biswakarma from Barabil on September 1. The notice was issued to the principal secretary of the health and family welfare department after human rights activist and lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy filed a petition exposing the district's poor medical infrastructure.

"It is alarming that despite having a medical college and a super-specialty district hospital, poor patients, especially tribals, either die without proper treatment or are forced to seek care elsewhere," Tripathy said in his petition. The petition criticised delays caused by the practice of sending blood samples to Cuttack or Bhubaneswar for dengue test, which can lead to fatal delays in diagnosis and treatment.

Tripathy's appeal also invoked the Supreme Court's ruling that recognises healthcare as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The NHRC has given the state authorities a four-week deadline to submit an action taken report and has also notified Odisha's chief secretary to ensure necessary follow-up.

United News of India

NHRC issues notice on lack of Health Care in Odisha Keonjhar District

<https://www.uniindia.com/~nhrc-issues-notice-on-lack-of-health-care-in-odisha-keonjhar-district/States/news/3335850.html>

Posted at: Nov 30 2024 6:14PM

Kendrapara, Nov 30 (UNI) The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a notice to the Principal Secretary of the Health & Family Welfare Department of Odisha, seeking a detailed report on the lack of healthcare facilities in Keonjhar district.

The notice was prompted by a petition filed by human rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy.

The Apex Human Rights Panel of India passed the order last week, following concerns raised by Tripathy about the dire condition of healthcare in Keonjhar, where residents are reportedly dying from dengue due to inadequate care and treatment at the district headquarters hospital and medical college.

Keonjhar is the home district of Odisha Chief Minister.

The petition highlighted a news report from October 2, which detailed the death of 37-year-old Biri Biswakarma on October 1 due to dengue, alongside several other affected residents.

Tripathy argued that despite the presence of a medical college and a super-specialty district hospital, poor tribal patients often die without proper treatment or are referred to facilities in other regions.

Keonjhar, one of India's highest mining royalty-paying districts with substantial contributions to the District Mineral Foundation (DMF), still suffers from inadequate public healthcare funding.

Tripathy contended that blood samples have to be sent to Cuttack or Bhubaneswar to confirm the presence of the dengue virus, a time-consuming process that has led to an increase in deaths.

The complainant urged the Commission to intervene and take remedial action to safeguard the health and lives of residents. The petition also referenced a Supreme Court ruling that recognizes the right to health as part of the fundamental right to life under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.

The NHRC has directed the authorities to take necessary action and submit a report within four weeks. A copy of the order has been sent to the Chief Secretary of Odisha for further action and information.

OdishaTV

Death of Odisha woman hired for surrogacy: NHRC issues notice to Telangana govt

NHRC has issued notices to Telangana after an Odisha woman's suicide, alleging sexual harassment in Hyderabad. The victim was lured for surrogacy.

<https://odishatv.in/news/crime/death-of-odisha-woman-hired-for-surrogacy-nhrc-notice-to-telangana-govt-250106>

Published: Saturday, 30 November 2024 | Last updated: 30 November 2024, 11:18 AM IST

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India, has taken suo motu cognisance of a media report about a woman committing suicide alleging sexual harassment by a man in the Raidurgam area of Hyderabad in Telangana on November 27, 2024.

The victim from Odisha was reportedly brought to the city through middlemen for surrogacy under a deal of Rs 10 lakh with her husband. She was made to stay in a separate flat alone away from her husband in the city.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the media report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of the human rights of the victim woman.

It has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Telangana calling for a detailed report including the status of the FIR registered in the matter within two weeks. The Commission would also like to know from the police authorities if there were any complaints from the people regarding harassment of women in the name of surrogacy in the State, reported PIB.

As per the media report, the 25-year-old victim woman from Odisha died by committing suicide allegedly to escape sexual harassment by a man. The husband of the victim stayed nearby at a different accommodation along with a four-year-old son.

Reportedly, the woman had called up her husband over the phone on November 26, that she did not want to stay there and would end her life as the man was subjecting her to sexual harassment.

Jharkhand News

Suicide by Odisha Woman: NHRC issued notices to CS & DGP, Telangana

<https://jharkhandstatenews.com/article/top-stories/8772/suicide-by-odisha-woman-nhrc-issued-notices-to-cs-dgp-telangana/>

Admin | 30 November 2024

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The victim from Odisha was purportedly brought to the city through middlemen for surrogacy under a deal with her husband.

The Commission issues notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Telangana calling for a detailed report within two weeks.

It is to include the status of the FIR in the matter and the complaints regarding the harassment of women in the name of surrogacy in the State.

Startup News

Amazon India Workers Join Global Strike To Seek Better Pay

<https://startupnews.fyi/2024/11/30/amazon-india-workers-join-global-strike-to-seek-better-pay/>

November 30, 2024

SUMMARY

Amazon workers in India joined a global strike on the day of 'Black Friday', demanding better pay and working conditions

An Amazon worker claimed that their "basic salary is INR 10,000 (\$120), which should be at least INR 25,000 (\$295)"

Meanwhile Amazon said that workers are "intentionally misleading and continuing to promote a false narrative"

Amazon workers in India joined a global strike on the day of 'Black Friday', demanding better pay and working conditions.

According to news agency AP News, about 200 workers protested in New Delhi under the "Make Amazon Pay" campaign.

"Our basic salary is INR 10,000 (\$120), which should be at least INR 25,000 (\$295)," the report quoted an Amazon India worker as saying.

Meanwhile, the ecommerce giant denied the allegations in a statement given to the news agency. "Our facilities are industry-leading and provide competitive pay, comfortable working conditions, and specially designed infrastructure to ensure a safe and healthy working environment for all," it said.

Amazon said that workers are "intentionally misleading and continuing to promote a false narrative".

In a separate statement, the Amazon India Union Workers said that the workers plan to intensify the protests across the country.

"We are here in Jantar Mantar, Delhi with Amazon India Union Workers & warehouse workers of Amazon to demand #MakeAmazonPay for minimum pay, decent working conditions and recognition of Amazon workers union," said UNI Global Union's Asia and Pacific arm in a post on X.

UNI is a global trade union federation which claims to represent more than 20 Mn workers in the services and skill sector across 150 countries .

It is pertinent to note that this is not the first time that Amazon India has been in the news over the working conditions of its employees. Earlier this year, the National Human Rights

Commission (NHRC) sought a detailed report from the Centre over allegations of labour law violations at Amazon India's warehouse in Manesar.

At the time, the NHRC took suo motu cognisance of a report by the Indian Express which alleged harsh working conditions at the ecommerce major's warehouse.

The company reportedly acknowledged lapses in workplace safety at its Haryana's Manesar warehouse.

Meanwhile, commerce minister Piyush Goyal recently directed ecommerce platforms to stick to the rule of the law on foreign direct investments (FDI).

The comment came after reports surfaced that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) found "direct links" between Amazon and Flipkart and their preferred sellers.

Before this, Goyal had publicly lashed out at Amazon for its alleged predatory pricing tactics. He went on to say that the ecommerce major plans to invest billions of dollars in India only to offset its losses and not for any great service or any great investment to support the Indian economy.

However, Goyal also clarified that the government is not against online marketplaces but wants them to operate fairly.

Good Returns

Amazon Workers Strike: Indian Staff Join Global Black Friday Protests, Demanding Fair Treatment

<https://www.goodreturns.in/news/amazon-workers-strike-indian-staff-join-global-black-friday-protests-demanding-fair-treatment-1391113.html>

By Madhulika Pandey Published: Saturday, November 30, 2024, 10:01 [IST]

Amazon workers in India have joined a global strike movement as the company prepares for the Black Friday sale. Employees from cities such as New Delhi, Agra, Patna, Rishikesh, and Varanasi have rallied to demand better wages, improved working conditions, and recognition of workers' unions. Protestors in New Delhi gathered at Jantar Mantar under the "Make Amazon Pay" campaign, using the hashtag to amplify their voices on social media. Their demands include fair pay and humane working conditions, which they believe are long overdue.

A Global Movement Across 20+ Countries:

The strike is part of a coordinated international effort, with protests spanning over 20 countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Brazil, and Japan. Thousands of Amazon workers have taken part, targeting the retail giant during Black Friday and Cyber Monday—two critical shopping events for the company. This protest is organized by UNI Global Union and Progressive International, and it aims to hold Amazon accountable for alleged labor abuses, environmental negligence, and threats to democratic systems. According to Christy Hoffman, General Secretary of UNI Global Union: "We stand united in demanding that Amazon treat its workers fairly, respect fundamental rights, and stop undermining the systems meant to protect us all." It should be noted that this is the fifth consecutive global strike against Amazon, which is held every year, with each campaign focusing on different issues.

Why Are Amazon Workers on Strike?

The workers' demands highlight long-standing redressal of allowances. In India, many Amazon employees earn as little as Rs.10,000 monthly, far below their demand of Rs.25,000 as per reports. This payout is extremely meager in this inflationary economy. Not just that, there are allegations of toxic environments, such as forced work during peak summer heat without breaks for the workers.

Last year, in June 2023, India's National Human Rights Commission previously sent a notice to Amazon India when reports of unsafe work conditions surfaced. However, Amazon denied the claims, stating compliance with local labor laws.

This year again, union recognition Workers are calling for their right to organize and collective bargaining to be acknowledged.

The "Make Amazon Pay" campaign shines a spotlight on the challenges faced by gig economy workers worldwide. While Amazon's global operations depend heavily on its workforce, the protests underline the widening gap between corporate profitability and worker welfare. The coordinated strikes definitely serve as a reminder of how important it is to comply with ethical labor practices, and corporate accountability should be non-negotiable.

Amazon's Response To The Protest

Amazon currently is facing mounting pressure from its workforce across the globe, with Indian workers now involved; the movement is growing bigger. In one of the recent announcements, Amazon has dismissed the strikes as being based on misleading narratives promoted by specific groups. A company spokesperson asserted that the protests have not impacted operations and also stressed that wages are competitive and aligned with local regulations. Despite this, worker dissatisfaction continues to grow.

New Indian Express

Every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2024/Nov/30/every-saint-has-a-past-and-every-sinner-has-a-future>

Tamil Nadu : This abuse of power not only undermines the dignity of inmates but also reflects a severe lapse in oversight within the correctional institutions.

Vigneshwaran Venkatesan

Updated on: 30 Nov 2024, 3:00 am

3 min read

Ensuring reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners and protecting their rights are the significant objectives of prison administration. But the recent incident in Vellore Central Prison, where a life convict has been illegally utilised for domestic work in the residence of the DIG-Prisons and assaulted for alleged theft of Rs 4.5 lakh is a matter of grave concern.

The issue came into the light when the Madras High Court directed the chief judicial magistrate to inquire about the incident following a writ petition filed by the life convict's mother. This incident displays a clear violation of prisoners' rights and prison regulations. This abuse of power not only undermines the dignity of inmates but also reflects a severe lapse in oversight within the correctional institutions.

Existing monitoring mechanism

Each prison has a board of visitors, including both official and non-official members, who periodically visit prisons to ensure prisoners are treated according to rules and their security is maintained. Though having non-official members in the board of visitors provides an avenue for public participation, the effectiveness and impact of these visits in protecting prisoners' rights raise serious questions, especially in light of recent incidents at Vellore Central Prison.

What is happening to the prisoners throughout India?

The National Crime Records Bureau data from 2017 to 2022 reveal a concerning trend in crimes committed by prison staff against prisoners. It brings to light 36 incidents involving 127 prison staff. Departmental action against erring staff shows that 13 have been awarded major punishments, while 30 received minor ones. Criminal cases were filed against only 44 prison staff, and none of them have been convicted.

The situation demands a re-evaluation of how complaints are handled, how investigations are conducted, and how perpetrators prosecuted, ensuring that the criminal justice system effectively deters and addresses misconduct by prison staff.

What does the regulatory and legal framework say?

The Model Prison Manual 2016 and the Model Prisons Act 2023 both prohibit forced labour of prisoners, especially personal tasks for prison staff. It emphasises that all labour must align with rehabilitation goals and legal standards.

Various reports from the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) have highlighted persistent issues with the treatment of prisoners, including illegal labour practices, and have called for rigorous enforcement of standards and regular inspections to safeguard prisoners' rights.

Implications and reforms

The allegations against the Vellore Central Prison officials highlight a significant failure in maintaining accountability and ensuring the humane treatment of prisoners. The involvement of senior officials underscores the need for systemic reforms within the prison system. To address these issues, it is crucial to enforce stringent disciplinary measures, enhance oversight mechanisms, and uphold legal and ethical standards rigorously. Also, it is important to convey to the larger public that prisoners too have human rights that need to be upheld.

Finally, every prison staff member should keep in mind the words of Oscar Wilde: "Every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future."

Fact check

The National Crime Records Bureau data from 2017 to 2022 reveal a concerning trend. It brings to light 36 incidents involving 127 prison staff. Departmental action against erring staff shows that 13 have been awarded major punishments, while 30 received minor ones.

(The writer is UGC- Senior Research Fellow, Department of Defence and Strategic Studies, University of Madras)

Siyasat

Hyderabad: Jilted lover dies by suicide in Jalpally

The deceased has been identified as Naveen Sharma, a driver.

<https://www.siasat.com/hyderabad-jilted-lover-dies-by-suicide-in-jalpally-3139711/>

Updated: 30th November 2024 8:23 am IST

Hyderabad: A man died by suicide at his house in Natua Enclave of Jalpally in Rangareddy district, after being heartbroken upon knowing that his long-term girlfriend was having an affair, on Wednesday, 27 November.

The deceased has been identified as Naveen Sharma, a driver. According to the police, he was in love for 10 years with a woman and was upset before committing suicide.

In another case of alleged suicide in the city, The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has filed a suo motu case into the death of a surrogate woman in Raidurg, Hyderabad, reportedly to escape sexual abuse.

The 25-year-old woman, a native of Odisha, was allegedly brought to Hyderabad by agents of surrogacy rackets under an arrangement with her husband, according to a statement by the NHRC.

According to local reports, after arriving in Hyderabad with her husband, who had reportedly agreed to a deal worth Rs 10 lakh, she was made to stay alone in a separate room in a high-rise apartment complex in Raidurg.

On Tuesday, November 26, she fell from the 9th floor of the building where the surrogate couple were staying and had allegedly abused the victim.

The victim's husband later alleged that the man who hired her for surrogacy had been behaving inappropriately and attempting to abuse her. Unhappy with his behaviour over the past few months, she is believed to have attempted to flee, which led to her accidental fall, police told the local media.

The Human Rights Commission has issued notices to the state chief secretary and the director general of police, directing them to submit a detailed report on the case within two weeks.

(If you need support or know someone who does, please reach out to your nearest mental health professional or contact Roshni, suicide prevention helpline, 040-66202000)

Hindustan Times

Telangana govt withdraws land acquisition proposal for pharma city project

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/telangana-govt-withdraws-land-acquisition-proposal-for-pharma-city-project-101732906664888.html>

November 30, 2024

The Telangana government on Friday withdrew the controversial proposal of land acquisition for the pharma city project at Lagacharla and Polepally villages of Dudyal block in Vikarabad district, following massive protests from the villagers in the last three weeks.

A notification to this effect was released by Vikarabad district collector Prateek Jain. The notification said the government has withdrawn the total acquisition of 71.31 acres of assigned land in the Polepally village and another 632.26 acres of land from the neighbouring Lagacharla village.

The proposed Pharma City, planned to be built in the villages of Hakeempet, Lagacharla, and Polepally, received strong resistance from the villagers, who were apprehensive that the project will take away their fertile lands and affect their livelihoods.

The protests took a violent turn on November 11, when irate villagers resisted an attempt by the district authorities to conduct a public hearing at Lagacharla. Some villagers tried to manhandle the district collector, who managed to escape, but they hurled stones at his vehicle and attacked other officials.

Following the incident, police swooped on the village and detained more than 20 people, including senior Bharat Rashtra Samithi leader and former lawmaker Patnam Narendra Reddy, who was charged with engineering the attack on the district collector. He has since been in judicial custody.

The attack on the district officials and the arrests made by police triggered an outrage across the state, as the farmers went to New Delhi and lodged a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission, which sent a fact-finding team to Lagacharla last week.

The National ST Commission also conducted an independent inquiry and found fault with police for targeting innocent members of the tribal community.

As the issue is snowballing into a major controversy, the (chief minister) Revanth Reddy government finally decided to withdraw the proposal to acquire land for the pharma city.