

बाल मजदूरी को लेकर  
मानवाधिकार आयोग ने दिल्ली  
के मुख्य सचिव से मांगा जवाब  
नई दिल्ली, 16 जुलाई (ब्यूरो)।

राजधानी दिल्ली के उत्तर पश्चिम जिले के सरस्वती विहार इलाके के कारखानों में बाल मजदूरों से काम कराए जाने की समस्या को राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने गंभीरता से लिया है। आयोग ने इस मामले में दिल्ली के मुख्य सचिव और पुलिस आयुक्त को नोटिस जारी किया है। उनसे दो हफ्ते के भीतर विस्तृत जवाब मांगा गया है। आयोग ने दिल्ली की औद्योगिक इकाईयों में काम करने वाले बाल मजदूरों का पता लगाने के लिए एक सर्वेक्षण कराने का भी निर्देश दिया है।

## **70% private hospitals in Cuttack likely to fail fire safety test**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2024/Jul/16/70-private-hospitals-in-cuttack-likely-to-fail-fire-safety-test>

Unofficial sources said more than 450 private hospitals and nursing homes are running in Cuttack City alone.

CUTTACK: Saturday's fire mishap at a healthcare facility in Cuttack has exposed the lax enforcement activities which have enabled several private hospitals and nursing homes to brazenly operate without fire safety and registration certificates under the Clinical Establishment Act.

If sources are to be believed, more than 70 per cent of the private hospitals and nursing homes operating in Cuttack city will be forced to down their shutters if enforcement is carried out strictly to check fire safety compliance.

A senior fire officer said, "Apart from the entry and exit gates, at least three metre of vacant space surrounding the hospital is required for availing fire safety certificate. But there are several private hospitals and nursing homes in the city which do not have even a metre of vacant space surrounding them."

If a fire breaks out in a private hospital or nursing home operating on the lanes of the city, it will be an impossible task to rescue the patients, he added. According to official reports, of the 363 private hospitals and nursing homes running with valid documents in Cuttack, 274 are operating in the city while the rest 89 are functioning in different rural areas of the district

However, unofficial sources said more than 450 private hospitals and nursing homes are running in Cuttack city alone. While over 175 private hospitals and nursing homes are operating without valid documents including building plan approval, fire safety and registration certificates under the Clinical Establishment Act, several others have obtained the papers illegally in violation of the guidelines.

This was evident from the recent incident in which the administration sealed Chanakya hospital at Ranihat on July 6 after being directed by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). After the death of a patient in 2021, the family had moved the NHRC alleging negligence by the hospital. During hearing of the case, the rights panel came to know that the hospital was running without required documents for the last nine years. Subsequently, it directed the district administration to close the hospital.

Chief district medical officer (CDMO) Makaranda Beuria said his office is authorised to give permission for setting up 30-bed private hospitals. Similarly, the office of DMET is authorised to issue certificates of registration for setting up hospitals with more than 30 beds. "We would carry out enforcement soon to inspect and verify documents of all the private hospitals and nursing homes in the district," he said.



## **For eight million Indians, life is a gig and a mostly terrible one at that**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/web-only/2024/Jul/16/for-eight-million-indians-life-is-a-gig-and-a-mostly-terrible-one-at-that>

NITI Aayog estimates that the numbers of gig workers could expand to 23.5 million by 2029–30 from the 7.7 million they are at now.

You might have heard of it.

A 24-year-old worker being forced to take a pledge to skip toilet and water breaks until packages from six massive trucks -- each 24 feet long -- were unloaded. This message was passed on right after a 30-minute tea break at an Amazon warehouse in Manesar, Haryana.

With media reports painting this dire a picture, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) was moved enough to launch an investigation while demanding answers from the Central Labour Ministry.

The incident might have gained attention because it happened at an Amazon warehouse, where even basic amenities like restrooms are reportedly missing. But it's far from an isolated case. In a country with about 8 million gig workers, such harrowing stories are all too common.

Labour associations in India have accused five warehouses in and around Manesar of violating regulations under the Factories Act, 1948. These cases highlight the broader issue of gig workers' exploitation by the companies that employ them.

With the rise of new-generation business models in retail and delivery, particularly aggregator platforms, the gig worker population is growing rapidly. NITI Aayog estimated that their numbers could expand to 23.5 million by 2029–30 from the 7.7 million they are at now.

India's unrecognised workforce

India's Social Security law defines a gig worker as someone who performs tasks or participates in work arrangements and earns independently.

This includes ridesharing drivers, food delivery couriers, freelance writers, graphic designers, and other service providers who offer their expertise on a project-by-project basis.

"A gig worker has to work over 10 hours a day to earn Rs 1,000. After expenses, he takes home about Rs 700," explains Prashant, an auto rickshaw driver with a ride-sharing platform in Tamil Nadu.

"But there are even days when we get nothing," he quickly adds.

Simon, another auto driver, speaks of how "today is a dull day". "Rides are hard to come by," he bemoans, underlining the insecurity that prompts him and his fellow drivers to "work even when we fall sick."

These gig workers sadly lack even insurance for ill health, death or accidents.

The family of Rabindra Malick (name changed), an AC mechanic in Kolkata who died from an electric shock while working without proper safety measures, received next to no compensation and remains dependent on the workshop owner's mercy as there was no life or accident insurance.

Simply put, Rabindra, Simon, Prashant and millions of their co-workers have been left unrecognised and unregistered, excluded from government labour welfare schemes and protections.

Madan S, a student who is a delivery boy with a food-delivery platform and works nine hours a day, earns about Rs 1000 to support their families and education. Unprotected by anti-exploitation laws, he is a living example of gig workers having no fixed work hours and receiving no minimum wage guarantee or welfare benefits.

A big driver

Many are driven by lack of formal employment opportunities to these unorganised or informal job platforms.

Gopi, 43, who lost his job at Videocon, works 13 to 14 hours a day with a food-delivery platform to support his family.

Long hours and compulsory workdays, often inadequately incentivised, are common.

Prakashan, a delivery boy in Kerala, notes that the promise of flexible work hours is rarely a reality. Some workers juggle multiple delivery apps, working 18 to 20 hours a day.

Discrimination is another issue.

Food delivery workers talk of how they are often treated badly by the restaurants and order placing stores and even by security guards of housing societies.

Raj Kumar, a food delivery person, recounts being denied elevator access and forced to climb stairs to complete deliveries.

Having hopes for a little higher earning, the delivery boys sometimes opt for longer trips. But some struggle to find orders for return trips, resulting in money being spent from the pocket for fuel.

"Recently, I got an order for a delivery that was 30 km away. But, I had to wait for almost three hours to get a return order. Also, since the hiring platform gave only a small petrol allowance, every day saw me spending additional money on fuel," says Durai Murugan, who was with a food delivery platform.

Call for social security

With their cup of concerns brimming over, the All India Gig Workers' Union (AIGWU) has been demanding proper social security schemes for these workers.

"We are asking for the inclusion of gig workers in the category of workers or employees. This will give them access to basic social security schemes like health insurance, leaves and employment security that workers from any other industry now avail," says Saubhik Bhattacharya, General Secretary of AIGWU.

"A large portion of the workers include women in platforms like Zomato and Urban Company, and they must be given the facilities that women working in other sectors get, mainly the privileges like maternity and menstrual leaves," he adds.

According to a recent Employment Outlook Report prepared by Teamlease Service, there were about 68,000 women working in the delivery industry in 2018-2019.

Rajasthan leads the way

Rajasthan was the first state to introduce a law for gig workers, enacting the Platform Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Act on July 24, 2023. This law established a welfare board and unique IDs for workers, and a system to monitor

payments through a Central Transaction Information and Management System (CTIMS).

These new regulations aim to enhance protections, including safeguards against unfair dismissals and a two-tiered grievance redressal system. A welfare board and social security funds, financed by welfare fees and government contributions, will also be established.

NHRC's demands

A universal social security net indeed needs to be in place for the gig economy and the NHRC emphasised this to the Central Ministry of Labour and Employment.

In its letter, the human rights body highlighted the need to ensure proper payment of minimum wages, social security for workers, safe working environments, safety gear, medical insurance, and annual health check-ups.

Will this get a hearing and lead to action? Hopefully, but then again...

## **HC: 13 protesters killed in '18 Tuticorin police firing 'at behest of industrialist'**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/madras-high-court-orders-investigation-into-tuticorin-police-firing-incident/articleshow/111793206.cms>

Chennai: "We believe that the police firing against anti-Sterlite protesters in 2018, wherein 13 people were killed, was a predetermined act carried out at the behest of an industrialist," Madras high court said on Monday.

"All these things happened because one particular industrialist wanted it to happen. He wanted to teach the protesters a lesson and the authorities facilitated it," a division bench of Justice S S Sundar and Justice N Senthil Kumar said.

It then directed the state's Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) to investigate the assets of all the officers, including IPS and IAS officers, who were serving in Tuticorin at the relevant point of time.

"Assets not just in their names but also in the names of their wives, and close relatives to be collected and produced before this court. From two years prior to the incident and two years after," the judges said. The court directed DVAC to file a preliminary report in two weeks.

The court further expressed dismay over the manner in which CBI probed the incident. "The investigation was not done in a fair manner. How can CBI file a report absolving the allegations against the authorities who were indicted by the Justice Aruna Jagadeesan commission," the court asked. This shows the inefficiency of the CBI in conducting the probe, it said.

The court passed the orders on a plea moved by activist Henri Tiphagne seeking to reopen the probe closed by National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) into the incident. According to the petitioner, NHRC's decision to close its suo motu probe into the incident was arbitrary.

We also published the following articles recently

Tuticorin police firing was predetermined at behest of an industrialist: Madras High court  
Madras High Court suspects 2018 police firing on anti-Sterlite protesters was preplanned by an industrialist. DVAC directed to investigate assets of officers in Tuticorin. Court's decision on plea by activist Henri Tiphagne.111758875

Investigations by Pb DSP shoddy, court orders probe  
Court orders Punjab DGP to investigate flawed inquiries by DSP Gursher Singh Sandhu in Mohali. Concerns raised over victimization of real victims and exoneration of named culprits. Find out more about the court's decision and the problematic cases highlighted in the investigation.111701919

Justice D Krishnakumar appointed Acting Chief Justice of Madras high court  
Learn about the appointment of Justice D Krishnakumar as the Acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court. With a background in civil, criminal, and writ jurisdiction, Justice Krishnakumar brings a wealth of experience to his new role.111779603

## **NHRC seeks ATR on student's death**

<https://www.orissapost.com/nhrc-seeks-atr-on-students-death/>

Kendrapara: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Monday sought an Action Taken Report (ATR) from the District Collector, Superintendent of Police (SP), and District Education Officer (DEO) of Balasore district on the death of a student in the collapse of a water tank inside the school premises. The NHRC passed the order acting on a petition filed by human rights defender Radhakanta Tripathy. The petitioner had earlier drawn the attention of the commission towards a shocking incident June 28 when a 10-year-old student died after the wall of a water tank collapsed on him inside the school premises at Padmapur in Balasore district. The deceased has been identified as Narayan Tudu, a Class V student of Banchhanidhi English Medium School.

The incident took place when he along with other hostel inmates went to wash his hands near the water tank. He was rescued from the debris of the wall and rushed to the District Headquarters Hospital where doctors declared him dead. Several other students also sustained injuries in the mishap, the petition contended. Tripathy earlier requested the commission to ensure justice in the matter, an independent and impartial investigation of the incident with legal action against the culprits and payment of compensation to the next of kin of the deceased student. The NHRC asked the authorities to ensure needful action and submit ATR to the commission within four weeks.



## Odisha News: एनएचआरसी ने छात्र की मौत पर एटीआर मांगी

<https://jantaserishta.com/local/odisha/odisha-news-nhrc-seeks-atr-on-students-death-3394464>

केंद्रपाड़ा Kendrapara: केंद्रपाड़ा राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने सोमवार को बालासोर जिले के जिला कलेक्टर, पुलिस अधीक्षक (एसपी) और जिला शिक्षा अधिकारी (डीईओ) से स्कूल परिसर के अंदर पानी की टंकी गिरने से एक छात्र की मौत पर कार्रवाई रिपोर्ट (एटीआर) मांगी है। मानवाधिकार कार्यकर्ता राधाकांत त्रिपाठी द्वारा दायर याचिका पर कार्रवाई करते हुए एनएचआरसी ने यह आदेश पारित किया। याचिकाकर्ता ने इससे पहले 28 जून की एक चौकाने वाली घटना की ओर आयोग का ध्यान आकर्षित किया था, जब बालासोर जिले के पद्मपुर में स्कूल परिसर के अंदर पानी की टंकी की दीवार गिरने से 10 वर्षीय छात्र की मौत हो गई थी।

मृतक की पहचान बंछानिधि इंग्लिश मीडियम स्कूल के कक्षा पांच के छात्र नारायण टुडू के रूप में हुई है। यह घटना उस समय हुई जब वह अन्य छात्रावास के छात्रों के साथ पानी की टंकी के पास हाथ धोने गया था। उसे दीवार के मलबे से बचाया गया और जिला मुख्यालय अस्पताल ले जाया गया, जहां डॉक्टरों ने उसे मृत घोषित कर दिया। याचिका में कहा गया है कि इस दुर्घटना में कई अन्य छात्र भी घायल हुए हैं। त्रिपाठी ने पहले आयोग से मामले में न्याय सुनिश्चित करने, घटना की स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष जांच के साथ दोषियों के खिलाफ कानूनी कार्रवाई और मृतक छात्र के परिजनों को मुआवजा देने का अनुरोध किया। एनएचआरसी ने अधिकारियों से आवश्यक कार्रवाई सुनिश्चित करने और चार सप्ताह के भीतर आयोग को एटीआर जमा करने को कहा।

## **Sterlite firing: Madras High Court orders DVAC probe into 21 officers**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2024/Jul/16/sterlite-firing-madras-high-court-orders-dvac-probe-into-21-officers>

“The people at the helm of affairs were unable to tolerate the peaceful protest prolonging for about a 100 days against the individual.

CHENNAI: Stating that the police had opened fire on peaceful anti-Sterlite protesters in Thoothukudi because the people at the helm of affairs and an industrialist wanted to teach them a lesson, the Madras High Court on Monday ordered a Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) investigation into the assets of 21 officers, including one IAS and a few IPS officers.

The strong remarks were made by Justices SS Sundar and N Senthilkumar while hearing a petition filed by Henry Tiphagne, executive director of People’s Watch, seeking orders to the NHRC to reopen its inquiry into the 2018 firing in which 13 people were killed.

“The people at the helm of affairs were unable to tolerate the peaceful protest prolonging for about a 100 days against the individual. Their intention/ target is to teach a lesson to the people, who participated in the protest all those 100 days,” the court said.

“All these incidents happened (because) one industrialist wanted them to happen; he wanted to teach a lesson to everyone. Therefore, he made it happen. That’s all. You people (government officials) acted only for him,” the court added.

Madras HC slams CBI for shoddy probe into Thoothukudi firing

Finding lapses on the part of the 21 officials stated to be responsible for the firing, the court ordered a DVAC probe into their assets and sought a preliminary report in two weeks. Further time for probing the assets would be given by taking into account the progress of investigation.

“There must be an inquiry by the DVAC against the assets and liabilities of the officials - police and revenue - who are arrayed as parties in the case and had been working in Thoothukudi during the relevant point of time,” the court ordered. Details of assets acquired by the officials, their spouses and close relatives two years before and after the incident must be collected, the court said.

The court also sought details of the nature of the weapons used during the shooting and the number of rounds fired on the protesters.

The CBI was not spared the court’s fury for its alleged shoddy probe into the incident, which resulted in a “false story” and clean chit to the officials as the agency

had claimed that “there was no criminality on the part of the officials ordering the firing, which was not predetermined but done to prevent untoward incidents”.

Pointing to CBI’s report before the special court in Madurai, the court questioned the agency’s neutrality. “Conclusions of the CBI worry us. It is an independent agency but this conclusion shows its inefficiency. It is independent but under control of a single man,” the court observed, noting it had failed to probe the complaint of a mother that her son was shot at their Therespuram home that is 7km away from the collectorate, the epicentre of the protests.

“You (CBI) should keep in mind that some one (God) above us is watching everything,” the court added.

The court however noted that the CBI had ‘acted fairly’ in the probe into the Sathankulam custodial deaths and adjourned the case by two weeks.

## दिव्यांग को गर्भवती करने के मामले में आयोग ने लिया संज्ञान

<https://www.livehindustan.com/jharkhand/chakradharpur/story--10475148.html>

पश्चिमी सिंहभूम जिले के मुफ्फसिल थाना क्षेत्र में 12 वर्षीय दिव्यांग को गर्भवती करने के मामले राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने संज्ञान लिया है...

चक्रधरपुर। पश्चिमी सिंहभूम जिले के मुफ्फसिल थाना क्षेत्र में 12 वर्षीय दिव्यांग को गर्भवती करने के मामले राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने संज्ञान लिया है और आयोग के उप रजिस्ट्रार ( कानून) के श्रीवास्तव ने इस मामले में पुलिस अधीक्षक चाईबासा को चार सप्ताह का समय देते हुये कार्रवाई रिपोर्ट देने को कहा है। वहीं आयोग ने उपायुक्त चाईबासा को पीड़िता का पुनर्वास सुनिश्चित करने, उसके लिए उचित ईलाज की व्यवस्था करने और बेहतर शिक्षा की व्यवस्था कराने का आदेश दिया है। शिकायतकर्ता बैरम खान ने कहा कि आयोग के हस्तक्षेप के बाद पीड़िता को न्याय मिलेगा। वहीं उन्होंने ने इस मामले के आरोपी चाचा को फास्ट ट्रैक कोर्ट का गठन कर सुनवाई करने की मांग की है।

## HC: Sterlite police firing that killed 13 'at behest of an industrialist'

**Chennai:** "We believe that police firing against anti-Sterlite protesters in 2018, wherein 13 persons were killed, was a pre-determined act carried out at the behest of an industrialist," the Madras HC said Monday, adding "one particular industrialist... wanted to teach the protesters a lesson and the authorities facilitated it."

HC directed Tamil Nadu's Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption to scrutinise the assets of all officers, including IPS and IAS officers, who were serving in Tuticorin from 2016 to 2020, reports **Sureshkumar K.**

HC also said CBI didn't probe the incident "in a fair manner" and this shows the probe agency's "inefficiency". "How can CBI file a report absolving the allegations against the authorities who were indicted by the Justice Aruna Jagadeesan Commission," a division bench of Justice SS Sundar and Justice N Senthil Kumar asked.

It also directed DVAC to scrutinise the assets of all officers in Tuticorin and file a preliminary report in two weeks. "Assets not just in their name but also in the names of their wives and close relatives are to be collected and produced before this court. From two years prior to the incident and two years after," the judges said. Madras HC passed the orders on a plea moved by activist Henri Tiphagne seeking to reopen the probe closed by National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) into the incident. According to the petitioner, NHRC's decision to close its suo motu probe into the incident was arbitrary.

## Student's death due to wall collapse NHRC notice to Baleswar DM, SP, DEO

**RAJESH BEHERA**  
BHUBANESWAR

**T**he National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on July 15 sought for an Action Taken Report (ATR) from the district Collector, Superintendent of Police and District Education Officer of Baleswar district on the issue of death of a student due to wall collapse.

The NHRC passed the order acting on a petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer and rights defender, Radhakanta Tripathy.

The petitioner earlier had drawn attention of the Commission towards a shocking incident on June 28, when a 10-year-old student died, after the wall of a water tank collapsed on him in a school premises at Padmapur in Baleswar district. The deceased was identified as Narayan

Tudu, a class V student of Banchhanidhi English Medium School.

The incident took place when he along with other hostel inmates went to wash their hands near the water tank, after completing breakfast. He was rescued from under the debris of the wall and rushed to the District Headquarters Hospital where doctors declared him dead. Several other students also sustained injuries in the mishap, the petition contended.

Tripathy earlier requested to ensure justice in the matter, an independent and impartial investigation of the incident with legal action against the culprits and payment of compensation to the next of kin (NoK) of the deceased student. The NHRC asked the authorities to ensure the needful action and submit their ATR to the Commission within four weeks.



## बाल मजदूरी को लेकर मानवाधिकार आयोग ने दिल्ली के मुख्य सचिव से मांगा जवाब

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो  
नई दिल्ली, 16 जुलाई।

राजधानी दिल्ली के उत्तर पश्चिम जिले के सरस्वती विहार इलाके के कारखानों में बाल मजदूरों से काम कराए जाने की समस्या को राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने गंभीरता से लिया है।

आयोग ने इस मामले में दिल्ली के मुख्य सचिव और पुलिस आयुक्त को नोटिस जारी किया है। उनसे दो हफ्ते के भीतर विस्तृत जवाब मांगा गया है। आयोग ने दिल्ली की औद्योगिक इकाइयों में काम करने वाले बाल मजदूरों का पता लगाने के लिए एक सर्वेक्षण कराने का भी निर्देश दिया है।

आयोग ने मीडिया की एक खबर का खुद संज्ञान लेते हुए यह कदम उठाया है। खबर में बताया गया था कि सरस्वती विहार क्षेत्र से 23 बाल मजदूरों को मुक्त कराया गया था। जिनमें 14 लड़के और नौ लड़कियां थीं। उन्हें पड़ोसी राज्यों से दिल्ली लाया गया था। आयोग ने कहा है कि अगर खबर के तथ्य वाकई सही हैं तो यह बच्चों के अधिकारों के हनन का गंभीर मामला है। बाल श्रमिक निषेध कानून 14 साल से कम उम्र के किसी भी बच्चे को किसी भी तरह की नौकरी देने की मनाही करता है। कानून के हिसाब से किसी बच्चे को मजदूरी के लिए रखना गंभीर अपराध है।