



NHRC issues notice to Odisha Govt on mishap at 11th century Lingaraj temple

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

BHUBANESWAR, 11 JULY:

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notice to Odisha Government on a mishap which left a priest seriously injured at the 11th century Lingaraj temple in Bhubaneswar on 26 February during the Maha Shivratri celebration.

The mishap occurred when sevayat Jogendra Samartha fell from a height of 20 ft while carrying the sacred lamp to the peak of the temple.

Acting on a complaint filed by Mr. Akhand, human rights lawyer, the top rights panel



asked the District Magistrate, Khurda, and the Special Secretary, Home Department to furnish an Action Taken Report (ATR) within one week. The Commission has also directed that all concerned officials, the complainant, and the victim or their representatives be present at the hearing.

Radha Kishan Sharma, Special Secretary, Home Department, has been appointed as the Nodal Officer for coordinating the participation of the parties involved and ensuring necessary assis-

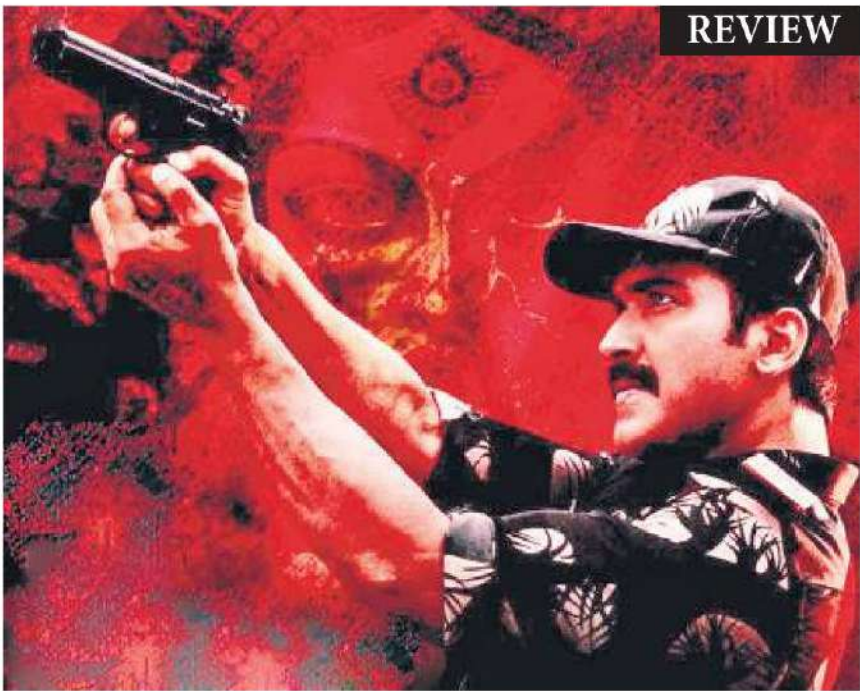
tance for their presence at the hearing.

The incident exposed the absence of safety measures for sevayats (priests) who routinely undertake high-risk climbs in temples such as Shree Lingaraj Temple and the Jagannath Temple in Puri to perform traditional rituals.

The petition also urged the NHRC to ensure the introduction of mandatory safety gear and protective protocols for sevayats across Odisha, conduct an independent inquiry into the Lingaraj Temple incident, ensure adequate compensation to the injured sevayat etc.

Ragging death case: govt. deposits ₹7 lakh with HC

The State government informed the High Court on Friday that it had deposited with its Registry ₹7 lakh – the sum the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) had directed the government to pay to the family of Sidharthan J.S., a 20-year-old student found dead at the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences in Wayanad in February last year allegedly following ragging. He was found hanging in the bathroom of the college hostel. A Division Bench of Chief Justice Nitin Jamdar and Justice Basanth Balaji had on July 2 directed the State government to deposit the sum within 10 days.



REVIEW

Titled *The 100*, but misses the mark

RK Sagar, known for his iconic role as RK Naidu in the TV serial *Mogali Rekulu*, has made several attempts to establish himself on the big screen with films like *Siddhartha*, *Man of the Match* and *Shaadi Mubarak*, though none of them brought him notable success. He's back with *The 100*, released this Friday. Directed by Raghav Omkar Sashidhar, the film features Misha Narang as the female lead, with music composed by Harshavardhan Rameshwar.

STORY

Vikranth (RK Sagar) is a sincere and hard-working police officer. During duty at a function, he notices a young dancer, Aarthi (Misha Narang) and develops feelings for her. Meanwhile, a mysterious gang of masked dacoits has been robbing rich households, stealing only gold while leaving behind money and other valuables.

During his investigation, Vikranth observes a pattern—the robberies all occur on *Amavasya* (new moon) nights. He discovers that Aarthi's house was also targeted, but to his surprise, her family never filed a police complaint. Upon digging deeper, Vikranth learns that Aarthi was raped during the robbery.

Determined to solve the case, he captures the dacoit gang, only to be shocked when they claim they never harmed any women and only stole gold. So, who raped Aarthi and what was the motive? Four young men surrender to the police claiming they committed the crime—but are they really the culprits? Why did Vishnu Priya commit suicide? What's the connection between all these incidents? The crux of the film lies in uncovering the truth behind these events.

ANALYSIS

Director Raghav Omkar Sashidhar comes up with an interesting story, which starts strongly with Vishnu Priya's suicide and the gold heists. These elements spark curiosity and provide a solid setup. However, the film gradually slips into mediocrity due to the director's lack of experience. Instead of turning into a gripping thriller with twists and turns, *The 100* becomes a regular, formulaic outing.

As is often the case in Telugu cinema, the inclusion of a couple of songs hinders the momentum of the

serious narrative. *The 100* belongs to the investigative thriller genre, much like the *HIT* series, which demands a tighter screenplay and less cinematic liberty. Vikranth hiring an ethical hacker who can access any mobile phone or camera within seconds is highly unrealistic and purely cinematic. Most of the investigation takes place in the police station with Vikranth monitoring surveillance footage. While not inherently wrong, it lacks the excitement of on-field investigation, evidence gathering and high-stakes confrontations that make thrillers engaging.

Scenes featuring NHRC officers grilling Vikranth feel excessive and unrealistic. The SI Giridhar character also becomes irritating due to his over-the-top portrayal. The film introduces action scenes and glorifies the protagonist in a way that feels disconnected from the tone of the core story. With a bit more attention to detail and tighter execution, this could have been a taut thriller—but as it stands, it falls short.

PERFORMANCES

RK Sagar fits well into the role of a cop. His body language and dialogue delivery reflect his effort. While playing a police officer isn't new for him, he brings a more serious tone to the role this time.

Misha Narang looks beautiful and delivers a neat performance. She gets a substantial role and makes good use of the opportunity. Dhanya Balakrishnan plays a key part and fits her role perfectly. Vishnu Priya's character is crucial to the storyline and she does justice to her part.

Kalyani Natarajan, as Sagar's mother, performs gracefully. Tarak Ponnappa

appears in a negative role and has a strong screen presence. VV Giridhar, as the SI, occasionally goes overboard with loud dialogues that feel forced.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

Shyam K Naidu's cinematography is good and supports the film's tone. Harshavardhan Rameshwar's music is average and doesn't leave a strong impact. The dialogues are passable but not particularly memorable.

VERDICT

The 100 had the potential to be a gripping investigative thriller, thanks to its interesting premise. However, due to weak execution, forced songs and unnecessary cinematic liberties, it ends up as a formulaic film. Director Raghav Omkar Sashidhar should have focused more on the story and its narration to turn it into a truly intense and engaging thriller.

Cast: RK Sagar, Misha Narang, Dhanya Balakrishnan, Vishnu Priya, Tarak Ponnappa, Kalyani Natarajan, VV Giridhar and others

Music Director: Harshavardhan Rameshwar

Cinematographer: Shyam K Naidu

Producers: Ramesh Karutoori, Venky Pushadapu, J Tarak Ram

Director: Raghav Omkar Sashidhar

Rating: 2/5



Rights panel seeks report on 'social boycott' of ten dalit families in Ganjam

Berhampur: National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) sought an action taken report from the Odisha govt regarding an alleged social boycott of 10 dalit families in a village in Ganjam district. The boycott stemmed from a dispute over the construction of a kalyan mandap (community hall) by the dalit families.

NHRC scheduled a hearing on the matter during its camp sitting in Bhubaneswar on July 21. The commission requested detailed

reports, including action taken report (ATR), to be submitted within a week after issuing the order on Thursday.

The development follows a petition filed by a Berhampur-based rights NGO. In response, NHRC issued letters to the chief secretary, the DGP, and the collector of Ganjam, urging them to address the issue. NHRC also instructed the authorities concerned, the victims and the complainants or their representatives to be present at the hearing. TNN

NHRC seeks report from state govt on Lingaraj servitor's fall

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 11: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought an action taken report (ATR) from the district magistrate (DM) of Khurda and special secretary of Home department within one week in connection with a mishap at Lingaraj Temple in the City in February.

The NHRC move came while hearing a petition filed by rights activist Akhand. The petitioner informed the commission that servitor Jogendra Samarth, while carrying the sacred 'Mahadeepa' (holy lamp) to the peak of the 11th century temple on Mahashivaratri in February this year, sustained critical injuries after falling from a height of nearly 20 feet.

Akhand said the incident highlighted the absence of safety measures for servitors who routinely undertake high-risk climbs in temples such as Lingaraj Temple and Srimandir in Puri to perform traditional rituals.

"Despite being state-managed temples, there is a glaring lack of safety equipment like helmets, or other protective gear, thereby endangering their



KEY TAKEAWAYS

« A Lingaraj temple servitor sustained critical injuries after falling from a height of nearly 20 feet while carrying 'Mahadeepa' to the peak of the temple

« Expressing concern over the mishap, rights activist Akhand moved NHRC seeking an inquiry into the February incident and introduction of mandatory safety gear as well as protective protocols for servitors

While seeking report from the Khurda DM and Home department special secretary, the NHRC listed the hearing for July 21

lives. Such neglect amounts to a violation of their fundamental right to life and safety," the petitioner maintained.

The petitioner also urged the NHRC to ensure the introduction of mandatory safety gear and protective protocols for servitors, conduct an independent inquiry into the Lingaraj Temple incident, ensure adequate compensation to the injured servitor, and issue preventive directions to safeguard the rights and lives of all temple servitors.

The matter has been listed

for hearing during the NHRC's camp sitting/open hearing scheduled for July 21, 2025 in Bhubaneswar. The commission has also directed that all officials concerned, the complainant, and the victim or their representatives be present during the hearing.

Radha Kishan Sharma, Special Secretary, Home department, has been appointed as the nodal officer for coordinating the participation of the servitors involved and ensuring necessary assistance for their presence at the hearing.

NHRC

राष्ट्रीय मानव अधिकार आयोग, भारत के प्रतिष्ठित चार-सप्ताह के ग्रीष्मकालीन इंटरनशिप कार्यक्रम का समापन

प्रेस विज्ञप्ति

राष्ट्रीय मानव अधिकार आयोग

<https://nhrc.nic.in/media/press-release/%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B7%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%9F%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%AF-%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%B5-%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%A7%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0-%E0%A4%86%E0%A4%AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%97-%E0%A4%AD%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%A4-%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%87-%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%B7%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A0%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A4-%E0%A4%9A%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0-%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%AA%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B9-%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%87-%E0%A4%97%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%B7%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B2%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%A8>

नई दिल्ली: 11 जुलाई, 2025

राष्ट्रीय मानव अधिकार आयोग, भारत के प्रतिष्ठित चार-सप्ताह के ग्रीष्मकालीन इंटरनशिप कार्यक्रम का समापन

देशभर के विभिन्न विश्वविद्यालयों से चयनित 80 छात्रों को मानव अधिकार संरक्षण और संवर्धन में आयोग की गतिविधियों तथा मानव अधिकारसमर्थन के विभिन्न पहलुओं से अवगत कराया गया।

समापन सत्र को संबोधित करते हुए, एनएचआरसी, भारत के अध्यक्ष, न्यायमूर्ति श्री वी. रामसुब्रमण्यन ने कहा कि सच्ची सफलता करुणा के साथ लोगों के जीवन में सकारात्मक बदलाव लाने में निहित है।

एनएचआरसी, भारत के महासचिव श्री भरत लाल ने प्रशिक्षुओं से कहा कि जीवन में अनिश्चितता के समय मूलभूत सिद्धांतों और मूल्यों पर मनन करें और उनके अनुरूप चलें, यही आगे बढ़ने का मार्ग है।

राष्ट्रीय मानव अधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी), भारत के प्रतिष्ठित चार-सप्ताह के ग्रीष्मकालीन इंटरनशिप कार्यक्रम का समापन आज नई दिल्ली में हुआ। देश के विभिन्न विश्वविद्यालयों से चयनित 80 छात्रों को मानव अधिकारों के समर्थन तथा मानव अधिकारों के संवर्धन और संरक्षण में आयोग की गतिविधियों के विविध पहलुओं से अवगत कराया गया।

समापन सत्र को संबोधित करते हुए न्यायमूर्ति श्री वी. रामसुब्रमण्यन, अध्यक्ष, एनएचआरसी, भारत ने प्रशिक्षुओं से कहा कि वे भौतिक सुख-सुविधाओं की तुलना में मानवीय संबंधों और दयालुता को प्राथमिकता दें, जिससे साझा मानवता से जुड़ा एकजुट समाज विकसित हो सके। उन्होंने कहा कि कार्यक्रम के दौरान विभिन्न पृष्ठभूमियों से आए प्रशिक्षुओं के बीच बने आपसी रिश्ते ही इसकी असली पूंजी हैं।

उन्होंने जोर देकर कहा कि सच्ची सफलता करुणा के साथ लोगों के जीवन में सकारात्मक बदलाव लाने में निहित है। उन्होंने प्रशिक्षुओं को उज्ज्वल और सार्थक भविष्य की शुभकामनाएं देते हुए प्रेरित किया कि वे प्रतिदिन स्वयं को और बेहतर व्यक्ति बनाने का प्रयास करें ताकि अपनी दक्षताओं और मानवीय संवेदनाओं के माध्यम से समाज में अधिक अर्थपूर्ण योगदान दे सकें।

इससे पूर्व, महासचिव श्री भरत लाल ने अपने मुख्य भाषण में प्रशिक्षुओं को बधाई देते हुए कहा कि प्रत्येक कार्य में उत्तम उद्देश्य और ईमानदारी बनाए रखना अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है। उन्होंने सलाह दी कि प्रशिक्षुओं को न केवल यह देखना चाहिए कि उन्हें क्या करना है, बल्कि यह भी विचार करना चाहिए कि क्या नहीं करना चाहिए, क्योंकि छोटे से छोटा नैतिक निर्णय भी समाज पर गहरा प्रभाव डालता है। उन्होंने आगे कहा कि जीवन में अनिश्चितता के समय वे आत्मचिंतन करें और मूलभूत सिद्धांतों तथा मूल्यों के अनुरूप निर्णय लें, यही आगे बढ़ने का सही मार्ग है।

एनएचआरसी, भारत की संयुक्त सचिव सुश्री सैदिंगपुई छकछुआक ने इंटरैक्टिव रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की, जिसमें कार्यक्रम की उपलब्धियों का उल्लेख किया गया तथा पुस्तक समीक्षा, समूह शोध परियोजना प्रस्तुति और भाषण प्रतियोगिताओं के विजेताओं की घोषणा की।

समारोह का समापन राष्ट्रीय मानव अधिकार आयोग, भारत के निदेशक लेफ्टिनेंट कर्नल वीरेंद्र सिंह के धन्यवाद ज्ञापन के साथ हुआ। इस अवसर पर राष्ट्रीय मानव अधिकार आयोग, भारत के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी उपस्थित थे, जिनमें श्री आर. पी. मीणा, महानिदेशक (अन्वेषण), श्री जोगिंदर सिंह, रजिस्ट्रार (विधि), और श्री समीर कुमार, संयुक्त सचिव शामिल थे।

कार्यक्रम के दौरान, प्रशिक्षुओं ने राष्ट्रीय मानव अधिकार आयोग के अध्यक्ष, सदस्यों, वर्तमान और पूर्व केंद्रीय सचिवों, कई आयोगों और मंत्रालयों के अधिकारियों, नागरिक समाज संगठनों के निदेशकों और अन्य विशेषज्ञों सहित प्रतिष्ठित पेशेवरों के नेतृत्व में सत्रों में भाग लिया। इन सत्रों ने आयोग के कार्यों और मानव अधिकार उल्लंघनों से जुड़ी चुनौतियों के बारे में अमूल्य जानकारी प्रदान की।

कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत प्रशिक्षुओं ने तिहाड़ जेल, एसएचईओडब्ल्यूएस एनजीओ, राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग और राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण जैसे प्रमुख संस्थानों का क्षेत्रीय भ्रमण भी किया, जिससे उन्हें जमीनी हकीकत और मानव अधिकारसमर्थन के व्यावहारिक पहलुओं की प्रत्यक्ष जानकारी मिली।

PIB

NHRC, India's coveted four- week Summer Internship Programme concludes

80 students selected from various universities across the country, exposed to various aspects of human rights advocacy and the Commission's activities promoting and protecting human rights

Addressing the valedictory session, NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Rama subramanian, says true success lies in touching lives with compassion

NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal urges the interns to reflect and align with core principles when faced with uncertainty in life as a way forward

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2144155>

Posted On: 11 JUL 2025 10:12PM by PIB Delhi

The coveted four-week Summer Internship Programme of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India, concluded in New Delhi today. 80 students selected from different universities across the country for the internship, were exposed to the various aspects of human rights advocacy, and the Commission's activities promoting and protecting human rights.

Addressing the valedictory session, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian, Chairperson, NHRC, India, urged the interns to prioritize human connection and kindness over material pursuits, fostering a society united by shared humanity. He highlighted the bonds formed among interns from diverse backgrounds as the programme's true wealth.

He emphasised that true success lies in touching lives by showing compassion. Wishing the interns a bright and meaningful future, he encouraged them to strive for evolving as a better person everyday to contribute more meaningfully in society through their skills and humanity.

Earlier, congratulating the interns, Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General, NHRC, India, in his keynote address, underscored the significance of maintaining good intentions and integrity in all endeavours. He advised the interns to carefully consider not only their actions but also what they should avoid, emphasising that ethical decisions, however small, have a profound impact on society. He further encouraged them to reflect and align with core values and principles when faced with uncertainty in life as a way forward.

Ms. Saidingpuii Chhakchhuak, Joint Secretary, NHRC, India presented the internship report, highlighting the Programme's achievements and announcing the winners of the book review, group research project presentation, and declamation competitions.

The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by Lt. Col. Virender Singh, Director, NHRC, India. Senior NHRC, India officers including Shri R.P. Meena, Director General (Investigation), Shri Joginder Singh, Registrar (Law), and Shri Samir Kumar, Joint Secretary were present on the occasion.

Throughout the Programme, interns engaged in sessions led by esteemed professionals, including the NHRC Chairperson, Members, current and former union Secretaries, officers of several Commissions, ministries, directors of civil society organizations, and other experts. These sessions provided invaluable insights into the Commission's work and the challenges surrounding human rights violations.

The Programme also featured field visits to key institutions such as Tihar Jail, SHEOWS NGO, National Commission for Women, and National Green Tribunal. These visits offered interns a first-hand understanding of ground realities and the practical aspects of human rights advocacy.

NSK

(Release ID: 2144155)

Times of India

NHRC seeks report from state on Lingaraj Temple accident

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/nhrc-seeks-report-from-state-on-lingaraj-temple-accident/articleshow/122393720.cms>

Jul 12, 2025, 04.34 AM IST

Bhubaneswar: National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has requested an action taken report from the Odisha govt within a week regarding an accident at Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar on Feb 26 in which a 'sevayat' (servitor) suffered critical injuries.

Jogendra Samartha of Samartha Nijog fell around 20ft while carrying the 'Mahadeepa' (holy lamp) atop the temple around 10.30pm during Maha Shivratri celebrations, sustaining leg fracture and severe facial injuries. Two other priests and a police officer also suffered minor injuries due to hot oil spill. All victims were shifted to Capital Hospital for treatment.

Following a formal complaint by human rights activist and lawyer Akhand, the NHRC issued notices on Thursday to special secretary of the home department, Radha Kishan Sharma, and the Khurda district magistrate. The matter has been listed for hearing during the NHRC's camp sitting/open hearing in Bhubaneswar scheduled for July 21.

The commission has also directed that all officials concerned, the complainant and the victim or their representatives be present at the hearing. Sharma has been appointed as the nodal officer to coordinate the participation of all parties.

Akhand said the incident highlighted serious safety concerns at state-managed temples, including the Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar and Jagannath Temple in Puri, where sevayats regularly perform high-risk rituals without proper safety equipment. This negligence potentially violates their fundamental right to life and safety under Article 21 of the Constitution, he added.

The petitioner has urged NHRC to investigate the accident's circumstances, administrative failures and occupational hazards faced by sevayats. The commission will evaluate the compensation and medical care provided to the injured servitor and may recommend safety reforms in temple administration.

Akhand has also called for mandatory safety protocols, an independent inquiry into the incident, adequate compensation for the injured, and preventive measures to protect temple servitors' rights and lives across Odisha.

"NHRC's intervention represents a crucial step toward enhancing safety standards for traditional temple workers throughout the state and is expected to catalyse significant reforms in temple administration," said Akhand.

United News of India

NHRC issues notice to Odisha Govt regarding mishap in Lingaraj temple

<https://www.uniindia.com/news/east/rights-odissa-nhrc-notice/3512631.html>

Posted at: Jul 11 2025 2:27PM

Bhubaneswar July 11 (UNI) The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a notice to Odisha Government in relation to a mishap that occurred at the 11th century Lingaraj temple.

The Lingaraj temple is a famous ASI-protected Shavite shrine in this city.

The mishap occurred on February 26, 2025 night during Maha Shivratri celebrations, where sevayat Jogendra Samartha of the Samartha Nijog sustained critical injuries after falling from a height of nearly 20 feet.

Samartha fell while carrying the sacred 'Mahadeepa' (holy lamp) to the peak of the Temple.

Acting on a complaint filed by Akhand, a human rights lawyer, the top rights panel asked the District Magistrate, Khurda, and the Special Secretary, Home Department to furnish an Action Taken Report (ATR) within one week.

The matter has been listed for hearing during the NHRC's Camp Sitting/Open Hearing scheduled for July 21, 2025 in Bhubaneswar. The Commission has also directed that all concerned officials, the complainant, and the victim or their representatives be present at the hearing.

Radha Kishan Sharma, Special Secretary, Home Department, has been appointed as the Nodal Officer for coordinating the participation of the parties involved and ensuring necessary assistance for their presence at the hearing.

The incident exposed the absence of safety measures for Sevayats (priests) who routinely undertake high-risk climbs in temples such as Shree Lingaraj Temple and the Jagannath Temple in Puri to perform traditional rituals. Despite being state-managed temples, there is a glaring lack of safety equipment like harnesses, helmets, or other protective gear for servitors, thereby endangering their lives. Such neglect amounts to a violation of their fundamental right to life and safety under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, the petitioner Akhand maintained.

The petition also urged the NHRC to ensure the introduction of mandatory safety gear and protective protocols for Sevayats across Odisha, conduct an independent inquiry into the Lingaraj Temple incident, ensure adequate compensation to the injured Sevayat, and issue preventive directions to safeguard the rights and lives of all temple servitors.

Odisha Bytes

NHRC Seeks Action Taken Report From Odisha Govt Over Lingaraj Temple Mishap On Maha Shivratri

<https://odishabytes.com/nhrc-seeks-action-taken-report-from-odisha-govt-over-lingaraj-temple-mishap-on-maha-shivratri/>

by OB Bureau | July 11, 2025 in Bhubaneswar, City

Reading Time: 1 min read

Bhubaneswar: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought a report from the Odisha government on the mishap that took place at Bhubaneswar's Lingaraj Temple on Maha Shivaratri.

The Commission took suo motu cognisance of the incident in which a servitor sustained critical injuries after falling from a height while carrying the sacred 'Mahadeepa' as part of Maha Shivratri rituals on February 26.

The NHRC has issued notices to the District Magistrate of Khurda, and the Special Secretary of the state Home Department, seeking an Action Taken Report (ATR) within one week.

Sources said a hearing has been scheduled for July 21, during the Commission's Camp Sitting scheduled in Bhubaneswar, where all officials concerned, the complainant, and the victim servitor Jogendra Samartha or their representatives are expected to be present.

The Commission voiced concern over the mishap after a formal complaint was filed by advocate and human rights activist Akhand, highlighting the need for ensuring safety standards and protective protocols.

It may be recalled that the servitor of Samartha Nijog sustained critical injuries after falling from a height of around 20 feet while carrying the 'Mahadeepa' (holy lamp) to the peak of the shrine in Bhubaneswar. The incident had also caused minor injuries to two other priests and a police official due to hot oil spillage.

OdishaTV

NHRC seeks action taken report on mishap at Lingaraj Temple during Maha Shivratri

<https://odishatv.in/news/odisha/nhrc-seeks-action-taken-report-on-mishap-at-lingaraj-temple-during-maha-shivratri-267440>

BY : Rashmi Ranjan | PUBLISHED: 11 Jul 2025, 12:19 PM IST

LAST UPDATE: 11 Jul 2025, 12:32 PM IST

NHRC intervenes after servitor Jogendra Samartha suffers injuries at Lingaraj Temple during Maha Shivratri, highlighting lack of safety for temple servitors.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognizance of a grave incident at Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar, where a servitor named Jogendra Samartha of the Samartha Nijog suffered critical injuries while performing rituals during the Maha Shivratri festival on February 26, 2025.

The sevayat reportedly fell from a height of nearly 20 feet while ascending the temple's peak to place the sacred Mahadeepa, resulting in severe facial injuries, excessive bleeding, and a fractured leg. The mishap, which occurred around 10:30 PM, also led to minor burn injuries to two other sevayats and a police officer due to hot oil spillage.

The NHRC's intervention follows a formal complaint filed by Orissa High Court advocate and human rights activist Akhand, who raised concerns over the absence of safety mechanisms for temple servitors.

In response, the NHRC has issued notices to the District Magistrate, Khordha, and the Special Secretary, Home Department, Government of Odisha, seeking an Action Taken Report (ATR) within one week.

The matter has been listed for a hearing during the NHRC's scheduled Camp Sitting/Open Hearing in Bhubaneswar on July 21, 2025. The venue will be announced soon. All concerned parties, including government officials, the complainant, and the victim or their representatives, have been directed to be present.

Radha Kishan Sharma, IPS, Special Secretary to the Government of Odisha (Home Department), has been appointed as the Nodal Officer for coordinating official participation and ensuring necessary support.

The incident has sparked a wider debate about the lack of occupational safety measures for sevayats performing high-risk religious duties in major temples such as Lingaraj Temple and the Jagannath Temple in Puri. Despite these temples being under state management, there is reportedly no provision for safety gear such as harnesses or helmets, posing a grave risk to the lives of those engaged in these sacred rituals.

Ommcomm News

Lingaraj Temple Mishap: NHRC Seeks Action Taken Report From Odisha Govt

<https://ommcomnews.com/odisha-news/lingaraj-temple-mishap-nhrc-seeks-action-taken-report-from-odisha-govt/>

by OMMCOM NEWS | July 11, 2025 in Odisha

Bhubaneswar: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognisance of the Maha Shivaratri incident at Shree Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar, where a servitor sustained critical injuries after falling from a height while carrying the sacred 'Mahadeepa' as part of Maha Shivratri rituals on February 26, 2025.

The Commission has issued notices to the District Magistrate, Khurda, and the Special Secretary, Home Department, Government of Odisha, seeking an Action Taken Report (ATR) within one week.

A hearing has been scheduled for July 21, 2025 during the NHRC's Camp Sitting scheduled for July 21, 2025 in Bhubaneswar, where all concerned officials, the complainant, and the victim servitor Jogendra Samartha or their representatives are expected to be present.

The rights body expressed concern over the mishap after a formal complaint was filed by advocate and human rights activist Akhand, highlighting the need for ensuring safety standards and protective protocols for seniors across the state.

As per the case history, servitor Jogendra Samartha of the Samartha Nijog sustained critical injuries after falling from a height of nearly 20 feet while carrying the sacred 'Mahadeepa' (holy lamp) to the peak of the historic Shree Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar around 10:30 PM. The fall resulted in severe facial injuries, profuse bleeding, and a leg fracture. The incident also caused minor injuries to two other priests and a police official due to hot oil spillage, and all the injured were rushed to the Capital Hospital for medical treatment.

Statesman

NHRC issues notice to Odisha Govt on mishap at 11th century Lingaraj temple during high-risk climb ritual

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a notice to the Odisha Government on a mishap which left a priest seriously injured at the 11th-century Lingaraj temple, the famous ASI-protected Shavite shrine in Bhubaneswar.

<https://www.thestatesman.com/india/nhrc-issues-notice-to-odisha-govt-on-mishap-at-11th-century-lingaraj-temple-during-high-risk-climb-ritual-1503456423.html>

Statesman News Service | Bhubaneswar | July 11, 2025 1:46 pm

National Human Rights Commission (photo:Official Website)The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a notice to the Odisha Government on a mishap which left a priest seriously injured at the 11th-century Lingaraj temple, the famous ASI-protected Shavite shrine in Bhubaneswar.

The mishap occurred on 26 February night during Maha Shivratri, where Sevayat Jogendra Samartha of the Samartha Nijog sustained critical injuries after falling from a height of nearly 20 feet while carrying the sacred 'Mahadeepa' (holy lamp) to the peak of the medieval era Shree Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar.

Acting on a complaint filed by Mr Akhand, a human rights lawyer, the top rights panel asked the District Magistrate, Khurda, and the Special Secretary, Home Department, to furnish an Action Taken Report (ATR) within one week.

The matter has been listed for hearing during the NHRC's Camp Sitting/Open Hearing scheduled for 21 July 2025 in Bhubaneswar. The Commission has also directed that all officials concerned, the complainant, and the victim or their representatives be present at the hearing.

Radha Kishan Sharma, Special Secretary, Home Department, has been appointed as the Nodal Officer for coordinating the participation of the parties involved and ensuring necessary assistance for their presence at the hearing.

The incident exposed the absence of safety measures for sevayats (priests) who routinely undertake high-risk climbs in temples such as Shree Lingaraj Temple and the Jagannath Temple in Puri to perform traditional rituals. Despite being state-managed temples, there is a glaring lack of safety equipment like harnesses, helmets, or other protective gear for servitors, thereby endangering their lives. Such neglect amounts to a violation of their fundamental right to life and safety under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, the petitioner Akhand maintained.

The petition also urged the NHRC to ensure the introduction of mandatory safety gear and protective protocols for sevayats across Odisha, conduct an independent inquiry into the Lingaraj Temple incident, ensure adequate compensation to the injured sevayat, and issue preventive directions to safeguard the rights and lives of all temple servitors.

Odisha Bhaskar

NHRC Responds to Lingaraj Temple Shivaratri Accident, Seeks Action Report

<https://odishabhaskar.in/news/nhrc-responds-to-lingaraj-temple-shivaratri-accident-seeks-action-report-123481/>

News Odisha | By Sib Kumar Das On Jul 11, 2025 at 11:11 AM

Bhubaneswar: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognisance of a tragic incident at Shree Lingaraj Temple on Maha Shivaratri, where servitor Jogendra Samartha of the Samartha Nijog fell nearly 20 feet while carrying the sacred 'Mahadeepa' during the temple's midnight rituals on February 26, 2025.

Jogendra sustained severe facial injuries, profuse bleeding, and a fractured leg. Two other priests and a police official were also injured due to hot oil spillage and were rushed to Capital Hospital along with Jogendra for treatment.

Following a formal complaint by human rights activist Akhand, the NHRC has sent notices to the District Magistrate of Khurda and the Special Secretary of Odisha's Home Department, demanding an Action Taken Report within a week.

Times of India

NHRC seeks report on `social boycott' of 10 Dalit families in Ganjam

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/nhrc-seeks-report-on-social-boycott-of-10-dalit-families-in-ganjam/articleshow/122393741.cms>

Jul 11, 2025, 11.49 PM IST

Berhampur: National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought an action taken report from the Odisha govt regarding the alleged social boycott of 10 Dalit families in a village in Ganjam district. The boycott stemmed from a dispute over the construction of a kalyan mandap (community hall).

NHRC scheduled a hearing on the matter during its camp sitting in Bhubaneswar on July 21. The commission has requested detailed reports to be submitted within a week after issuing the order on Thursday.

The development follows a petition filed by a Berhampur-based rights NGO. In response, NHRC has issued letters to the chief secretary, director general of police (DGP) and the Ganjam collector, urging them to address the issue.

The commission also instructed that the relevant authorities, victims and complainants or their representatives be present at the hearing. The special secretary (home), who also serves as nodal officer for the camp, has been tasked with coordinating the attendance of the complainants and victims, ensuring they receive necessary assistance to reach the venue.

The NGO's petition alleges that the Dalit families faced ostracism from other villagers due to their efforts to construct the kalyan mandap, that was reportedly obstructed. The petition claims the act violates Articles 14, 19, and 21 of the Constitution. The organisation has urged the NHRC to take cognisance and direct the state govt to conduct a high-level investigation to eradicate such social injustices.

Times of India

Sidharthan's death: Rs 7 lakh deposited in HC registry, govt tells court

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kochi/sidharthans-death-rs-7-lakh-deposited-in-hc-registry-govt-tells-court/articleshow/122391609.cms>

Jul 11, 2025, 08.49 PM IST

Kochi: The state govt has informed high court that the amount of Rs 7 lakh, awarded by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) as compensation to the parents of J S Sidharthan, has been deposited with the high court registry in compliance with HC's directive.

Sidharthan, a student at the Pookode campus of Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, was found hanging in the bathroom of his college hostel on Feb 18, 2024 following alleged brutal ragging.

The submission was made in connection with the state's petition challenging the NHRC's order dated Oct 1, 2024, issued on a complaint filed by BJP's Sandeep Vachaspati regarding Sidharthan's death.

At the previous hearing, the bench of Chief Justice Nitin Jamdar and Justice Basant Balaji had observed that the petition was filed eight months after the NHRC's order, without explaining the delay. The court also noted that the petition appeared to have been prompted by the NHRC's direction summoning the chief secretary over non-compliance with its earlier order. Accordingly, the court had directed the state to deposit the amount and amend the petition to include the reasons for the delay.

On Friday, the govt pleader informed HC that the amount of Rs 7 lakh had been deposited with the registry on July 4 and that the state's petition had been amended as directed. The division bench then ordered notice to be issued to Sandeep Vachaspati and sought instructions from NHRC. HC also directed that Sidharthan's parents be impleaded in the case and adjourned the matter to Aug 8.

Bar and Bench

Supreme Court Justice Surya Kant defends India's human rights record

At a legal forum in Sweden, Justice Kant also defended the role of institutions like the National Human Rights Commission and State Commissions.

<https://www.barandbench.com/news/litigation/supreme-court-justice-surya-kant-defends-indias-human-rights-record>

Published on: 11 Jul 2025, 11:32 am

2 min read

Supreme Court Justice Surya Kant lauded India's human rights records at a legal forum in Stockholm.

In a speech titled “Human Rights, the Indian Constitution and India as a Resilient Power”, Justice Kant said it was important to view each nation’s rights framework in the context of its legal traditions and historical experiences.

Thus, he called for global conversations to be shaped by mutual understanding rather than one-sided scrutiny.

Without taking any names, he criticised what he described as the paradox of some Western nations positioning themselves as guardians of human rights while pursuing rigid immigration policies and frequently resorting to excessive force in domestic policing.

The address, which spanned India’s legal heritage from the Vedic period to the modern Constitution, explained the country’s human rights approach as one shaped by both ancient philosophy and modern constitutional morality.

Justice Kant also defended the role of institutions like the National Human Rights Commission and State Commissions. Referring to the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, he said these bodies are not symbolic but carry real powers to investigate, summon and initiate action.

Justice Kant began by referring to India’s ancient legal traditions. He cited verses from the Rig Veda that affirmed the inherent equality of all human beings and spoke of how the idea of Dharma laid a moral foundation that upheld dignity, justice and mutual responsibility.

The judge traced the shift from indigenous justice systems to colonial rule, calling the British era one of systematic denial of rights. Referring to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, the Champaran oppression and the Bengal famine, he said the colonial legal regime was not designed to protect rights but to entrench power.

Justice Kant highlighted the judiciary’s role in giving life to constitutional promises.

He traced the evolution of right to life and personal liberty under Article 21, starting with its narrow interpretation in the 1950s to a broad, rights-enabling clause that now encompasses privacy, education, legal aid, clean environment and even the right to die with dignity.

He also cautioned against the idea of imposing a uniform model of human rights enforcement on all nations.

Likening it to different coffee cultures around the world, he said just as each society savours coffee in its own way, human rights frameworks too must reflect local realities and traditions.

Hindu

Ragging death case: govt. deposits ₹7 lakh before Kerala HC

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/ragging-death-case-govt-deposits-7-lakh-before-kerala-hc/article69800556.ece>

Published - July 11, 2025 07:31 pm IST - KOCHI

The Hindu Bureau

The State government informed the Kerala High Court on Friday that it had deposited before its Registry ₹7 lakh — the sum the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) had directed the government to pay to the family of Sidharthan J.S., a 20-year-old student found dead at the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences in Wayanad in February last year allegedly following ragging.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Nitin Jamdar and Justice Basanth Balaji had on July 2 directed the State government to deposit the sum before its Registry within 10 days.

This was after the State government challenged before the High Court, the NHRC order issued in October 2024.

The Bharat Now

लूट की शिकायत करने गया युवक, पुलिस ने हाजत में बंद कर पीटा; मानवाधिकार आयोग में शिकायत

<https://thebharatnow.in/bihar/a-young-man-went-to-complain-about-robbery-police-locked-him-in-lockup-and-beat-him-complaint-lodged-with-human-rights-commission/>

बिहार | July 11, 2025, Updated: July 11, 2025

By Pradesh Live

जिले की पुलिस एक बार फिर सवालों के घेरे में है। ताजा मामला रामपुर हरि थाना से सामने आया है, जहां लूट की शिकायत करने गए एक पीड़ित युवक को ही पुलिस ने थाने में बंद कर बुरी तरह पीटा और गाली-गलौज की। पीड़ित ने मामले को लेकर अब राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (NHRC) और बिहार राज्य मानवाधिकार आयोग (BHRC) में शिकायत दर्ज कराई है। पीड़ित विशाल कुमार, जो विशुनदेव नारायण सिंह इंटर महाविद्यालय, नरमा, मुजफ्फरपुर में लेखापाल के पद पर कार्यरत हैं, ने बताया कि 8 जुलाई 2025 को वे 2,11,200 रुपये की राशि बैंक में जमा करने जा रहे थे। इसी दौरान कुछ अपराधियों ने उनके साथ लूटपाट की। पीड़ित जब इस घटना की शिकायत लेकर रामपुर हरि थाना पहुंचे, तो वहां थानाध्यक्ष सुजीत मिश्रा ने उनकी शिकायत दर्ज करने के बजाय उन्हें ही आरोपी बना दिया। थाना में उन्हें गालियां दी गईं, बेरहमी से पीटा गया और उनका मोबाइल भी छीन लिया गया।

Hindustan

कपड़ा उद्योगों में चीन और बंदलादेश की तरह भारत में मजदूरों का शोषण नहीं

<https://www.livehindustan.com/ncr/new-delhi/story-nhrc-report-no-sweatshop-culture-in-india-s-textile-industry-child-labor-concerns-persist-201752240929559.html>

Newsrap हिन्दुस्तान , नई दिल्ली Fri, 11 July 2025 07:05 PM

कपड़ा उद्योगों में चीन और बंदलादेश की तरह भारत में मजदूरों का शोषण नहीं

प्रभात कुमार नई दिल्ली। राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने कहा है कि चीन और बंगलादेश

प्रभात कुमार नई दिल्ली। राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने कहा है कि चीन और बंगलादेश जैसे देशों की तरह भारत के वस्त्र एवं परिधान उद्योगों में मजदूरों का शोषण की संस्कृति नहीं है। मानवाधिकार आयोग ने हाल ही में जारी अपनी रिपोर्ट में कहा है कि चीन और बंगलादेश जैसे देशों में वस्त्र एवं परिधान उद्योगों में बड़े पैमाने पर 'स्वेटशॉप' कार्य संस्कृति का कोई प्रचलन होता है, जबकि भारत के उद्योगों में इस तरह की संस्कृति नहीं है। स्वेटशॉप कार्य संस्कृति का मतलब जहां मजदूरों को विषम परिस्थितियों में कार्य करना पड़ता है, कम वेतन और बिना अवकाश के लंबे समय तक काम करना होता है।

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने इसका खुलासा वस्त्र एवं परिधान उद्योगों में बालिका श्रम की व्यापकता के मुद्दे पर हाल ही में जारी शोध रिपोर्ट में किया है। आयोग की निगरानी में इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ पब्लिक एंटरप्राइस (आईपीई) हैदराबाद में एसोसिएट्स प्रोफेसर डॉ. एम कार्तिक और उनकी टीम ने कर्नाटक और तमिलनाडु के वस्त्र एवं परिधान उद्योगों में अपनी टीम के साथ सर्वे किया है। इस रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि संगठित वस्त्र एवं परिधान उद्योगों में 14 साल से कम आयु का कोई बाल श्रमिक नहीं मिला। हालांकि, इस रिपोर्ट में स्पष्ट किया गया है कि किशोर उम्र के श्रमिकों का काफी बहुलता है। इसमें कहा गया है कि 14 साल से कम आयु के बच्चे उन कंपनियों में नहीं पाए गए जो पंजीकृत हैं और जिनके कारखाने परिसर में सीसीटीवी कैमरे लगे हैं। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि बड़ी कंपनियों और संगठित क्षेत्रों के कपड़ा उद्योगों सेवा मुहैया कराने वाले कुटीर उद्योगों में धड़ल्ले से बाल श्रम कराया जाता है। इसका पता लगाने के लिए शोध टीम ने तमिलनाडु और कर्नाटक के तिरुपुर, कोयम्बटूर, मैसूर और बेंगलुरु स्थिति फैक्ट्रियों का दौरा किया। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक शोध टीम ने दलाल की मदद लेकर शहरों से दूर ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में संचालित कुछ कुटीर उद्योगों दौरा किया जहां बाल श्रमिक काम करते हुए पाए गए। कोरोना महामारी के बाद देश में बढ़ा बाल श्रम राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग की ओर से जारी रिपोर्ट में कहा है कि कोरोना महामारी के बाद देश में बाल श्रम में कई काफी बढ़ोतरी हुई है। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में बाल श्रम का चलन 14 फीसदी और शहरी क्षेत्रों में 5 फीसदी की तुलना में लगभग तीन गुना अधिक बढ़ोतरी हुई। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि लॉकडाउन के दौरान, राजस्थान, गुजरात, पंजाब, हिमाचल प्रदेश, उत्तर प्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र, कर्नाटक, आंध्र प्रदेश, मध्य प्रदेश, ओडिशा और असम जैसे राज्यों ने कारखाना अधिनियम, 1948 में संशोधन करके कुछ ढील दी। इन ढील में कारखाना कर्मचारी की दैनिक काम के घंटे को 8 घंटे से बढ़ाकर 12 घंटे करना, सप्ताह में काम के छह दिन, आराम के लिए समय को कम करना और अधिकारियों द्वारा निरीक्षण और निगरानी में कमी, शिकायत निवारण तंत्र पर प्रतिबंध और श्रमिक संघों के माध्यम से सामूहिक सौदेबाजी को सीमित करना

शामिल था। मानवाधिकार आयोग ने कहा है कि इससे कारखानों में कार्यरत बच्चों के प्रति पहले से मौजूद उपेक्षा की स्थिति और भी बदतर हो गई। तमिलनाडु के कपड़ा मिलों में महिला श्रमिकों की उम्र कपड़ा उद्योगों में करीब 72 फीसदी महिला कामगारों की उम्र महज 14 से 18 साल। 16 से 18 वर्ष की 51.0 फीसदी। 14 से 16 साल तक की 20.7 फीसदी और 18 साल से अधिक उम्र के 28 फीसदी। - कर्नाटक में कपड़ा उद्योगों में करीब 11 फीसदी महिला कामगारों की उम्र 12 से 14 वर्ष - 29 फीसदी की उम्र 14 से 16 साल, 39.7 फीसदी की उम्र 16 से 18 साल और 20 फीसदी की उम्र 18 साल से अधिक। अवकाश 73 फीसदी मजदूरों को मिलता है साल में महज 30 दिन का अवकाश, जबकि महज 12 फीसदी को मिल पाता है 45 दिन का अवकाश। खुद के प्रयास से नौकरी पाने वाले 74 फीसदी फैक्ट्री परिसर में ही रहते हैं, जबकि किसी सिफारिश या माता-पिता के सहयोग से नौकरी पाने वाले 94 फीसदी खुद करते हैं रहने का प्रबंध। आंकड़े भारत, चीन के बाद दुनिया में कपड़ा और परिधान का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा उत्पादक और उपभोक्ता है। दुनिया के कपड़ा धागे और रेशे के उत्पादन का लगभग 14 फीसदी भारत से आता है। 2016 में भारत का कपड़ा बाजार लगभग 137 बिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर का था, जो 2023 तक 226 बिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर हो गया। कुल 45 मिलियन कार्यबल के साथ, यह भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था में एक महत्वपूर्ण स्थान रखता है। विदेशी मुद्रा राजस्व में एक महत्वपूर्ण योगदानकर्ता और कृषि के बाद दूसरा सबसे बड़ा रोजगार स्रोत है। भारत का घरेलू कपड़ा और वस्त्र क्षेत्र उद्योग उत्पादन का 7 फीसदी उत्पन्न करता है, देश के सकल घरेलू उत्पाद में 5 फीसदी और देश की निर्यात के कुल आय का 12 फीसदी योगदान देता है। भारत की 2049 बड़ी और मध्यम कपड़ा मिलों में से 893 मिलें अकेले तमिलनाडु में हैं। कताई क्षमता 14.75 मिलियन तक है, जिसमें लगभग 2.17 लाख श्रमिक हैं।