

NHRC seeks ATR on boy's death after fall into hot ash

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, July 12: The tragic death of a minor boy after falling into a hot ash pile of a rice mill in Mahule village under Bheden police limits of Bargarh district has drawn the attention of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

The deceased, Pratyush Bhaena of Baipura village, reportedly slipped and fell into a hot pile of ash near the Kaleswar Rice Mill while he was on his way to a nearby stream to bathe February 26 morning. The smouldering ash heap caused severe burn injuries leading to the boy's death.

Following the incident, social activist Dillip Kumar Dash from Nandol under Bhawanipatna brought the matter to the notice of the NHRC. Acting on his complaint, the commission



registered a case and initiated a probe.

As part of the investigation process, the NHRC has issued notices to the Chief Secretary of the state government, the Director General of Police and the Bargarh Collector, seeking detailed reports on the actions taken regarding the incident within seven days. The commission has also scheduled a hearing in Bhubaneswar July 21, directing the concerned authorities or their representatives to appear in person.

After undergoing treatment at VIMSAR, Burla for 40 days,

Response sought over police excess

Keonjhar: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the Odisha Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police to take action and submit a report within a week regarding an alleged incident of police misconduct in Keonjhar district. The directive follows a complaint filed January 20 by Narayan Rath, a human rights activist from Jajpur district, on behalf of local women who were heading to a public hearing organised by a company January 18 at Mahadeijoda Panchayat, under the jurisdiction of Sadar police station. According to the complaint, the women were allegedly blocked from attending the meeting by police officers, who reportedly beat them with lathis, confiscated and broke their mobile phones, and used excessive force. Following Rath's petition, the NHRC registered a case and issued a notice July 10 informing Rath of the development. Rath has demanded strict action against the responsible officials and compensation of ₹10 lakh for each of the victims.

the minor, still critical, was moved to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack April 8. He was admitted there April 9 and succumbed to his injuries at 7:30pm the following day.

After post-mortem, while the body was being brought back to the village, local resi-

dents staged a protest in front of the rice mill by placing the body there, demanding justice. Following the uproar, police arrested the owner of the rice mill. Subsequently, the district administration also constituted an independent team to investigate the incident.

Hindustan Times

Odisha college student attempts suicide over sexual harassment by professor

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/others/odisha-college-student-attempts-suicide-over-sexual-harassment-by-professor-101752329704611.html>

By Debabrata Mohanty | Published on: Jul 12, 2025 07:45 PM IST

The girl student attempted to die by suicide inside the college campus, protesting official inaction on her complaint of sexual harassment

Bhubaneswar: An assistant professor of an autonomous college in Balasore district of Odisha was arrested and its principal suspended on Saturday, hours after an undergraduate girl student attempted to die by suicide, protesting the inaction over her sexual harassment complaint against him.

Police arrested assistant professor Samir Kumar Sahu, who heads the education department in Fakir Mohan autonomous college, hours after the girl student attempted to die by suicide inside the college campus, protesting official inaction on her complaint of sexual harassment. The girl, who had lodged a complaint with the internal complaints committee of the college on July 1, is battling for her life in AIIMS Bhubaneswar with 90 % burns. Two of her male friends, who tried to save her, are also being treated with burn injuries.

The girl in her grievance to the internal complaints committee had alleged that Sahu had been asking her for “favours” and had also threatened her to destroy her academic career if she did not oblige. Though she was assured that action would be taken in seven days, nothing happened. She also lodged a complaint with local police in the issue.

On Saturday, the student and her classmates began a protest outside the college gate demanding action. However, she suddenly got up, ran to an area close to the principal’s office, and attempted to die by suicide. A CCTV grab showed her on fire, running into a corridor of the college. A man tried to help her, but retreated after his T-shirt caught fire. The student walked out of the corridor and other people could be seen trying to extinguish the fire.

The college principal, Dilip Ghosh was also suspended by the higher education department over his failure in taking action in the case. An acquaintance of the girl student said though the college had constituted an internal committee to investigate the allegations, it failed to deliver any conclusive outcome. The girl had also approached Balasore member of Parliament (MP) Pratap Sarangi over the issue, but no action was taken. The principal, however, stated that no evidence of sexual exploitation was found by the internal committee.

“She had told us that the HOD threatened her repeatedly and said her career would be ruined if she didn’t comply,” said one of her friends. “He had repeatedly asked her for undue favours, and this put her in extreme mental agony. The hearing of the internal

committee was a sham. It wasn't a fair investigation. They didn't allow students to speak. It was designed to protect the teacher and bury the truth," another classmate alleged. Two teachers have been named by students, including Sahoo, as being responsible for persistent harassment.

One of her friends said they had gathered in the college when she came out from behind, covered in flames. "We did not know where she was during that period, but we know she had met HOD Sahoo today," the student alleged.

Odisha higher education minister Suryabanshi Suraj said considering the sensitivity of the case, a high-level inquiry committee has been constituted. "Further action will be taken based on the committee's report," he said.

In February this year, a 20-year-old Nepalese girl student in Bhubaneswar's KIIT University had died by suicide over sexual harassment by a fellow student. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), which probed the incident, said KIIT university did not form an internal complaint committee as per POSH Act to investigate the incident and instead tried to bury the issue.

The New Indian Express

NHRC asks Bargarh DM to submit ATR on rice mill 'negligence' death in Odisha

The victim sustained critical burns after accidentally falling into smoldering paddy husk waste allegedly dumped negligently at the roadside by Kaleshwar rice mill.

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2025/Jul/12/nhrc-asks-bargarh-dm-to-submit-atr-on-rice-mill-negligence-death-in-odisha>

Express News Service | Updated on: 12 Jul 2025, 9:26 am

2 min read

BARGARH : Taking cognisance of the tragic death of a 12-year-old boy who fell into a heap of burning rice mill ash in February this year, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has asked the district administration to submit an action-taken report (ATR) within a week.

The incident took place on February 26 in Boipura village within Bheden police limits. Pratyush Bhaina sustained critical burns after accidentally falling into smoldering paddy husk waste allegedly dumped negligently at the roadside by Kaleshwar rice mill. Despite over a month of treatment at VIMSAR, Burla and SCB Medical College and Hospital at Cuttack, the child succumbed to injuries on April 11.

Following the incident, rights activist Dillip Das of Kalahandi submitted a petition to the NHRC on April 13, highlighting the alleged negligence of the rice mill owner and lack of any compensation or assistance to the bereaved family.

In his petition, Das said, "The painful and heart-wrenching incident happened due to the carelessness of Kaleswar rice mill which dumped the hot ash at the roadside without pouring water on it. It is a result of complete disregard for human life and environmental safety by the rice mill. The family deserves justice and adequate compensation for its irreparable loss."

The activist further said the NHRC should direct the state government to arrest the rice mill owner and ensure compensation of `20 lakh to the bereaved family. Acting on the complaint, the NHRC registered a case and on Thursday, directed the district magistrate (DM) of Bargarh and the special secretary of Odisha to submit an ATR by July 17. The case is scheduled to be heard during the commission's camp sitting/open hearing in Bhubaneswar on July 21.

In its official communication, the NHRC said, "Transmit a copy of the present complaint to the authority concerned calling for an action-taken report in the matter within a week."

The rights panel also forwarded the case details to the chief secretary of Odisha and the director general of police for necessary follow-up.

Villagers of Boipura alleged that the rice mill was dumping hot ash at the roadside for years despite protests from the local community, raising serious questions about enforcement of environmental regulations and public safety measures.

News Laundry

236 encounter cases, 0 prosecution: The NHRC handbook on looking away from UP's 'encounter raj'

<https://www.newslaundry.com/2025/07/12/236-encounter-cases-0-prosecution-the-nhrc-handbook-on-looking-away-from-ups-encounter-raj>

Zeeshan Haider's phone rang at midnight at his home in Uttar Pradesh's Deoband on September 5, 2021. The 50-year-old farmer told his wife he had to step out. The police had allegedly called him for an inquiry. Half an hour later, his phone was dead. By morning, so was he.

The official story ran like this: there had been a night operation in Thithki village forests, a confrontation with "cow smugglers", a bullet to the thigh, and death from excessive bleeding.

To his family, the police version didn't add up.

The two policemen who had first informed Zeeshan's relatives about the police operation had allegedly said he was admitted to the Deoband government hospital with a bullet injury. But when relatives rushed to the hospital, hospital staff redirected them to Saharanpur district hospital, where they found him dead. Zeeshan had two licensed rifles but no criminal record. But on the day he died, he was booked in four FIRs along with five others, with charges such as murder, attempt to murder, rioting, and sections of the Arms Act.

Zeeshan's wife Afroz placed her faith in the National Human Rights Commission, a statutory body empowered to probe human rights violations that is guided by the Supreme Court's [2014 PUCL ruling](#), which mandates rigorous scrutiny in cases of police killings.

But instead of a thorough and time-bound probe, Afroz encountered a maze of procedural delays. The matter remained before the NHRC for nearly 14 months before it was dismissed with the panel accepting the police version. Though a court later termed the police version as "laughable".

The case is not an outlier.

An analysis of NHRC's handling of encounter-related cases in Uttar Pradesh reveals a troubling pattern: the commission largely relies on the police version of events and magisterial enquiry reports prepared by executive magistrates, often without conducting independent investigations of its own. This, in a state infamously known for an ["encounter raj"](#).

Between 2017 and 2024, the NHRC reviewed a total of at least 236 encounter-related matters, in two separate categories.

At least 161 of these were reports about 157 police encounter killings in the state, according to data obtained through the Right to Information Act. These cases were mostly

reported by the state police to the commission, as required under NHRC and Supreme Court guidelines. In none of these cases did the NHRC conclude that foul play was involved. Only 10 cases saw spot inquiries by NHRC's investigation teams, and even in these, the commission found no fault in the police's narrative. In at least 34 of these 161 cases, the NHRC refused to intervene saying that the Uttar Pradesh State Human Rights Commission had already taken cognisance.

In its RTI response, the NHRC also provided a separate list of 75 complaints about 69 victims of "alleged fake encounters". But even in these 75 cases, compensation has been recommended in only two, and action against police personnel in none.

Asked about the basis on which it divides the two categories, a source in the commission told Newslaundry that the classification is merely for "internal" purposes.

Newsaundry had earlier [reported](#) on how the NHRC over the years has increasingly disposed of complaints without proper inquiry, often forwarding them to "appropriate authorities" instead. This trend has paralleled a sharp rise in non-compliance with its recommendations – pendency jumped from 36 percent in 2010–11 to 74 percent in 2019–20, peaking at 90 percent in 2015–16. In 2017, the Supreme Court slammed the NHRC for mechanically closing encounter cases in Manipur, calling it a "toothless tiger". Despite receiving nearly one lakh complaints annually, most are dismissed at the initial stage.

This report has case studies that are selected illustrations from a larger dataset of NHRC encounter-related matters in Uttar Pradesh. They are not exhaustive but reflect recurring patterns and highlight systemic issues in how the commission has handled such cases.

The commission received at least 161 reports about 157 police encounter killings in the state, according to data obtained through the Right to Information Act. These cases were mostly reported by the state police to the commission, as required under NHRC and Supreme Court guidelines. Yet in none of these cases did the NHRC conclude that foul play was involved. Of these cases, only 10 saw spot inquiries by NHRC's investigation teams. And even in these 10, the commission found no fault in the police's narrative.

A story of two complaints

In UP, inquiries into alleged extrajudicial killings have often been marked by delays and an over-reliance on police accounts.

For example, the Zeeshan case, in which proceedings began in November 2021, when the NHRC issued its first notice. In January 2022, the Saharanpur SSP submitted a report listing multiple criminal cases against Zeeshan, with the commission directing further information from the DIG, Lucknow, and warning of coercive action under Section 13 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, if delayed. It wasn't until April that reports finally arrived from both the DIG Saharanpur and the state police headquarters. The NHRC then sought a fresh report from the DGP of Uttar Pradesh and instructed that these documents be shared with Afroz for her comments. But by August 2022, no fresh report had come in and Afroz had not submitted any comments, prompting yet another reminder.

In November 2022, three separate reports were submitted, by the SSP Saharanpur, DIG UP, and DIG Saharanpur, but the commission once again noted the absence of any comments from Afroz – the family told NewsLaundry she had never been contacted. Around this time, the NHRC also noted that proceedings were underway in another complaint filed by Afroz a month before the current complaint. It closed the current file, opting to pursue the earlier one.

That case, too, followed a familiar pattern of inaction. The first hearing had taken place in November 2021, with no response from the police until July 2022. A final reminder in October led the NHRC to invoke section 13(a) of the Human Rights Act and summon the SSP to appear in person in December. A report eventually arrived on January 20, 2023, stating that four FIRs had been registered against Zeeshan, with chargesheets filed in two.

Accepting this version wholesale, the NHRC closed the matter, around two months after it had closed the other complaint, stating that “appropriate action has been taken by the concerned police authority”. But according to Zeeshan’s family, the NHRC never contacted them during the entire process, shutting them out of a case ostensibly pursued on their behalf.

Just two days after the NHRC closed the case, the Chief Judicial Magistrate’s court in Saharanpur, on January 22, 2023, ordered that 12 police personnel involved in Zeeshan’s death be booked. In a further blow to the police narrative, the same court in March 2025 rejected the closure report submitted by the police and directed a reinvestigation into the case.

The court pointed out various anomalies in the police version. “It is quite astonishing that, despite being apprehended by the police, an illegal firearm allegedly remained in the possession of the accused for a long time, and that it was from this very weapon that a sudden firing occurred, resulting in injury. The claim that the co-accused were together while the police party was positioned in another direction, and that the accused ended up shooting each other with their own weapons, appears laughable and implausible,” the court observed.

The court also noted that all the FIRs against the accused were registered on the day of his death, which lends prima facie support to the petitioner’s argument that these FIRs were filed posthumously to justify the police’s actions by portraying the deceased – a person who had been issued firearm licenses by the District Magistrate and had no criminal record – as a criminal after his killing.

“They killed him and then declared him a criminal,” alleged Ishan Raza, Zeeshan’s relative.

NewsLaundry reached out to the Saharanpur SSP who maintained information about the present status of the investigation can only be obtained from court.

The crime branch in Saharanpur district is currently investigating the case against the policemen involved.

But what about the 10 cases that saw spot inquiries by the NHRC between 2017 and 2024?

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Glaring gaps

On December 30, 2017, 30-year-old Noor Mohammad told his wife Shahana that police had detained his sister and he needed to leave his home to go to a police station in Meerut, according to the family. He dropped his family at his in-laws' house and rode his Karizma motorcycle into what would become his final journey.

The next morning, Shahana learned of his death in a police encounter. Noor, according to the police, was a history-sheeter and was among bike-borne miscreants who opened fire at the police.

It took one year before the case was closed by the NHRC terming it as a "genuine encounter", based on a "careful examination of the magisterial enquiry report, postmortem report, FSL report, report of the spot enquiry conducted by the team of investigation division of this commission, and other material on record".

However, a report by a human rights group in 2021 accused the NHRC of ignoring glaring gaps in the police version in Noor's case, along with 16 other killings.

The report – titled "Extinguishing Law and Life: Police Killings and Cover-Up in the State of Uttar Pradesh" – published by the Youth for Human Rights Documentation, also accused the NHRC of ignoring repeated appeals from complainants.

The NHRC's proceedings had ruled out the possibility of shots being fired from a close-range or in custody. This, despite noting that the postmortem report confirmed tattooing on wounds of the deceased, a clear sign of close-range shots, the human rights group's report claimed. Additionally, in the case of Noor and six others, forensic records obtained through RTI by the group suggested that the fingerprints of the deceased were not found on the weapons recovered by the police from the scene of crime.

The report also claimed the magisterial probe had missed scientific evidence such as forensic or ballistic analysis. The magisterial probe did not even refer to the firearm log books, the forensic analysis of the guns or the ballistic reports, which are considered crucial in determining whether the bullets recovered from the bodies matched the weapons used by the police, the report claimed.

The magisterial probe examined nine public servants, including six police officers and three doctors, but no public witnesses.

Mangla Verma, a human rights lawyer, told NewsLaundry that the NHRC has itself been criticising the poor quality of the inquiries by executive magistrates since 1997 when it issued its first guidelines on encounters. "This issue has been there for a long time. But the PUCL judgement failed to give any clarity on this. This is why this confusion continues till date."

Human rights activists and lawyers alleged that non-participation of the victim's family in the NHRC proceedings was often due to fear. Akram Akhtar Choudhury, a Delhi-based lawyer, claimed the NHRC's process of visiting encounter spots and meeting family members involves the local administration and police. "For example, if they have to visit a family, they would first inform the local administration and police. This makes the situation vulnerable for the victim's family who are already in fear."

Akram claimed he also faced harassment for his work as a human rights defender. However, NHRC also did not do much on his complaint. "I filed a complaint to NHRC and it just directed the Circle Officer to inquire about it. Subsequently, one havildar asked me about what all happened. But nothing happened after that," he alleged.

But what about the cases where the NHRC confirms an extrajudicial killing?

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Conflict of interest?

In one case, even after the NHRC acknowledged the death was a fake encounter, it failed to hold the investigating officers accountable for serious procedural lapses. This involved the case of Sumit Gujjar.

On October 3, 2017, Gujjar was reportedly killed in a police encounter in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. Over a 2.5-year-long investigation, NHRC proceedings revealed multiple inconsistencies in the police version – contradictory press notes, absence of call detail records, blackening on the wound suggesting close-range firing, and the lack of any independent witness. Despite terming it a "fake encounter," the commission limited its response to recommending Rs 5 lakh in compensation to Gujjar's family. No punitive action was advised against any police officer involved.

A similar pattern emerged in the case of Apple employee Vivek Tiwari who was killed in Lucknow on September 28, 2018. Tiwari was shot after he allegedly refused to stop his

car when asked by the police to do so. The next day, two constables were arrested in a case of murder. A chargesheet was filed on December 19.

NHRC received a complaint on October 3, 2018. It first heard the matter on October 10, 2018, and next in April 2019. In its fourth hearing in July 2020, the NHRC recommended Rs 5 lakh in compensation. The case was closed in January after the police agreed to pay the compensation amount. The commission, at any stage, did not consider action against the policemen involved in the case.

“Awarding compensation means the NHRC acknowledges a human rights violation occurred. But the commission never recommends prosecution, even though it has the legal authority to do so,” said Verma, who has closely tracked Gujjar’s case.

She noted that although Gujjar’s case was later handed to the CBI, the agency filed a closure report stating no wrongdoing by police. “The NHRC simply recorded this as a fact in its final order, noted that compensation had been paid, and closed the case, without intervening,” she said. “Even in cases where FIRs are registered, they’re typically filed against those killed in the encounter or unknown persons, not the police personnel directly involved.”

She also highlighted routine violations of PUCL guidelines during evidence collection. “Instead of being handled by an independent agency, evidence was often gathered by officers from the same police station implicated in the encounter. In some cases, the matter was transferred to a different station only to create a façade of impartiality,” she said.

This conflict of interest went unaddressed in 11 of the 17 encounter cases closed by the NHRC as mentioned in the Youth for Human Rights Documentation report in 2021.

The structural issue runs deeper: the NHRC’s own investigative division was headed by an officer from the Indian Police Service. Notably, the IPS officer who served as SSP of Meerut between July 2017 and April 2018 – when several controversial encounters took place, including the killing of Noor – was later appointed as SSP at the NHRC, and eventually promoted to DIG within the commission.

NewsLaundry asked the NHRC and MHA about norms that ensure there is no conflict of interest in the panel’s investigations. This report will be updated if a response is received.

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In oblivion land

An analysis of NHRC proceedings in 163 cases reveals a troubling pattern: the commission routinely overlooked key forensic red flags such as missing call detail records

(CDRs) and the absence of gunshot residue (GSR) on victims' hands – critical elements in assessing the authenticity of police encounters.

Take the case of Mohammad Tauqeer, killed in an alleged encounter in Uttar Pradesh's Pratapgarh on June 6, 2019. According to NHRC records, Tauqeer was labelled a history-sheeter, and the police claimed they had launched an operation to arrest him after receiving a tip-off. During this operation, an encounter allegedly took place in which Tauqeer was shot dead. The post-mortem report noted that he died of "shock and haemorrhage from ante mortem firearm injuries," with two entry and two exit wounds – one showing blackening around the wound, a sign of close-range firing.

"The police has justifiably exercised its right to self-defence in the instant case. Accordingly, closure of the case has been recommended," it wrote in its final order dated May 26, 2021.

In another case from Saharanpur, a man named Adnan was similarly killed in a police encounter on September 16, 2019. The NHRC proceedings recorded that the police claimed Adnan and his associates were "firing indiscriminately" at officers, prompting them to retaliate. But the ballistic report stated: "No GSR was detected in the handwash swab of the deceased." Despite this contradiction, the NHRC found no wrongdoing.

"GSR tests are crucial because the police routinely justify encounter killings by claiming they acted in self-defence," said Verma, who is privy to details of both the cases. "If no GSR is found, it undermines the entire narrative. Yet NHRC consistently fails to interrogate these gaps."

The NHRC's own records noted that a ballistic report found no GSR on Tauqeer's handwash samples or clothing. GSR refers to the tiny particles expelled when a firearm is discharged, and its presence is typically used to confirm whether a person had fired a gun. The combination of blackening around wounds and lack of GSR should have raised serious questions. Yet, the NHRC concluded there was no foul play.

Failing human rights regime

The NHRC's failures have not gone unnoticed internationally. The institution has been downgraded by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions for failing to comply with the Paris Principles – the international standards for human rights institutions.

Last year, the GANHRI deferred its accreditation to the NHRC for the second time in decades, citing political interference in appointments, involvement of the police in probes into human rights violations, and poor cooperation with civil society.

"We are talking about an institution which has been downgraded now by its own global alliance of human rights institutions for not complying with the Paris principle. Which means it's not independent, not diverse, not transparent and it's not effective," said prominent human rights activist Henry Tiphagne.

The statistics are devastating, according to Henry. “The most recent figure on torture is that there are more than 20,000 cases registered with NHRC. Out of these, only 998 cases ended up with compensation. Out of 998, only 28 cases were recommended for disciplinary action. Unfortunately, we don’t need to talk about this institution unless the head of the institution shows he wants the institution to be completely overhauled.”

In an RTI, NewsLaundry separately asked the NHRC the number of police encounters cases it has received since 2019, how many investigations it conducted, how many ground reports carried out, the families met, and how many matters referred to the SHRC. In response, NHRC said there had been 114 encounter deaths with two cases having been transferred to SHRC during this period.

However, it refused to share details about investigations saying it is “not feasible” to provide details of each and every case and “compile such voluminous” information, which can “disproportionately” divert resources to the extent to “disrupt” the commission’s routine functioning. Though it maintained that the “details of each case may be seen/checked at hrcnet.nic.in, by entering case number”.

Odisha Diary

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

<https://orissadiary.com/nhrc-indias-coveted-four-week-summer-internship-programme-concludes/>

By:Odisha Diary Bureau | Date: July 12, 2025

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.

Observer Voice

NHRC Concludes Four-Week Summer Internship Programme

<https://observervoice.com/nhrc-concludes-four-week-summer-internship-programme-131553/>

Shalini Singh | July 12, 2025 Last Updated: July 12, 2025

2 minutes read

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India celebrated the conclusion of its four-week Summer Internship Programme in New Delhi, which saw the participation of 80 students from various universities across the nation. The programme aimed to immerse interns in the intricacies of human rights advocacy and the NHRC's efforts in promoting and safeguarding these rights. During the valedictory session, NHRC Chairperson Justice V. Ramasubramanian emphasized the importance of compassion and human connection, urging interns to prioritize these values in their future endeavors.

Valedictory Session Highlights

At the valedictory session, Justice V. Ramasubramanian addressed the interns, encouraging them to focus on building meaningful connections rather than pursuing material success. He described the relationships formed among the diverse group of interns as the true essence of the programme. Justice Ramasubramanian stressed that genuine success is measured by the positive impact one has on others through acts of kindness. He expressed his hopes for the interns to evolve into better individuals, contributing positively to society through their skills and compassion.

Keynote Address by Secretary General

Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General of NHRC, delivered a keynote address that underscored the importance of integrity and good intentions in all pursuits. He urged the interns to reflect on their actions and consider the ethical implications of their decisions. Shri Lal highlighted that even small ethical choices can significantly influence society. He encouraged the interns to align their actions with core values and principles, especially during challenging times, to navigate their paths forward effectively.

Programme Achievements and Competitions

Ms. Saidingpuii Chhakchhuak, Joint Secretary of NHRC, presented the internship report, which detailed the programme's accomplishments. She announced the winners of various competitions, including book reviews, group research projects, and declamation contests. Throughout the internship, participants engaged in sessions led by distinguished professionals, including NHRC members and experts from various fields. These interactions provided valuable insights into the NHRC's work and the broader challenges related to human rights violations.

Field Visits and Practical Learning

The internship programme included field visits to significant institutions such as Tihar Jail, SHEOWS NGO, the National Commission for Women, and the National Green Tribunal. These excursions allowed interns to gain firsthand experience of the realities of human rights advocacy. The visits complemented the theoretical knowledge gained during the sessions, offering a comprehensive understanding of the practical aspects of human rights work. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks from Lt. Col. Virender Singh, Director of NHRC, and was attended by senior NHRC officials, marking a successful culmination of the internship experience.

Orissa Post

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

<https://www.orissapost.com/nhrc-seeks-report-from-state-govt-on-lingaraj-servitors-fall/>

PNN & Agencies | Updated: July 12th, 2025, 09:44 IST in Metro

Bhubaneswar: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought an action taken report (ATR) from the district magistrate (DM) of Khurda and the 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 Samartha, 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 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.

The Sentinel

Charter of Patients' Rights

The cabinet decision has put the spotlight on the Charter of Patient Rights recommended by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

<https://www.sentinelassam.com/more-news/editorial/charter-of-patients-rights>

Sentinel Digital Desk | Published on: 12 Jul 2025, 12:41 pm

The Assam Cabinet's approval of regulatory measures aimed at curbing the alleged practice of a section of private nursing homes/hospitals withholding bodies over pending bills is an admirable policy move. The cabinet decision has put the spotlight on the Charter of Patient Rights recommended by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). The draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and Regulatory Guidelines to prevent coercive practices by private nursing homes and hospitals in the state approved by the State Cabinet mandate that hospitals must hand over bodies within two hours post death certification. The SOP warns that delays beyond this timeframe may attract penal action, and such incidents are to be mandatorily reported to the police authority and the district administration concerned within four hours. It allows family members of the deceased to call the helpline number 104 to report coercion of any form and mandates the designated authority to visit the hospital to release the body, if wrongfully held, and initiate legal proceedings. Punitive measures against violations, including suspension of license for a period that may range from three months to six months, a penalty up to Rs 25 lakh, and blacklisting or permanent deregistration on repeat offences, are expected to have a deterrent effect. Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, while announcing the cabinet decision, spelt out his government's logically coherent stance on the issue thus: "We can't hold a body as hostage. It's against human dignity." While all private business is driven by profit maximisation, a clear line of distinction must be drawn between healthcare business and other business, as healthcare must be subjected to ethical practices and quality standards, as it involves patients's well-being, safety, and dignity. With health being a state subject, the onus to protect the patients from exploitation by nursing homes/hospitals primarily lies with the state government. The Central government shared the Charter of Patients recommended by NHRC with the States and Union Territories for adoption and implementation so that the grievances and concerns of patients are addressed while delivering healthcare. Lack of transparency in treatment cost and procedure in nursing homes/private hospitals often leads to pendency of medical bills, often landing patients and his or her family members in trouble. They are unable to anticipate the final bill amount due to the opaque billing process and the hospital not providing them prior and detailed information about the treatment cost. Lack of an efficient grievance redressal mechanism exacerbates the situation and compels the patients and family members to somehow manage to clear the pending bills and take the patients discharged to home and sometimes face the traumatic situation of not being handed over the body of the deceased when they are unable to manage the required amount to clear

the pending bills. The NHRC Charter insists that every patient has a right to adequate relevant information about the nature and cause of illness, provisional/confirmed diagnosis, proposed investigations and management, and possible complications to be explained at their level of understanding in language known to them. The treating physician has a duty to ensure that this information is provided in simple and intelligible language to the patient to be communicated either personally by the physician or by means of his/her qualified assistants to the patient or line of treatment in writing. On completion of treatment, the patient has the right to receive an itemised bill, to receive an explanation for the bill(s) regardless of the source of payment or the mode of payment, and to receive payment receipt(s) for any payment made. Patients and their caretakers also have a right to know the identity and professional status of various care providers who are providing service to him/her and to know which doctor/consultant is primarily responsible for his/her care. The hospital management has a duty to provide this information routinely to all patients and their caregivers in writing with an acknowledgement; it states the patient's right to information. The NHRC also recommended that a patient has the right to take discharge and cannot be detained in a hospital on procedural grounds such as a dispute in the payment of hospital charges. Similarly, caretakers have the right to the body of a patient who had been treated in a hospital, and the body cannot be detained on procedural grounds, including non-payment/dispute regarding payment of hospital charges against the wishes of the caretakers. The Assam Cabinet's decision on curbing the practice of withholding bodies by hospitals has provided an opportunity for raising awareness on the rights of patients and extending cooperation to the State Government for the adoption and implementation of a comprehensive charter of patients' rights in sync with NHRC recommendations so that healthcare services in nursing homes and private hospitals become transparent. Private hospitals play a critical role in bridging the gap in healthcare services, which must not be allowed to be overshadowed by opaqueness.

Times of India

NHRC lens on tribal couple's public humiliation in Rayagada

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/nhrc-lens-on-tribal-couples-public-humiliation-in-rayagada/articleshowprint/122410488.cms?val=3728>

TNN | Jul 13, 2025, 01.05 AM IST

CUTTACK: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has registered a petition after a shocking incident in Rayagada district's Kanjamajodi village, where a tribal couple was allegedly tied to a yoke and forced to till a field in full public view as punishment for being in a relationship within the same clan

The couple, Kodia Saraka (32) and Laka Saraka (28), were subjected to the humiliation by villagers after their relationship was deemed a violation of tribal customs, as Laka is said to be Kodia's paternal aunt. The incident came to light after videos of the couple being forced to till the land went viral on social media.

Sources said a local kangaroo court had ordered the so-called 'purification' ritual, claiming their union was sinful and could bring misfortune to the community.

Taking cognisance of the matter, human rights activist Anup Kumar Patro filed a complaint with the NHRC on Saturday, urging the commission to direct the state's chief secretary to investigate the incident and ensure justice for the victims. "This incident is a clear violation of human rights and dignity," said Patro.

A Berhampur-based NGO also petitioned the NHRC, seeking its urgent intervention and demanding strict action against those involved. The organisation argued that the incident is a blatant violation of Article 21 (right to life and dignity) and Article 19 (freedom of choice) of the Constitution, as well as the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.

The rights group has urged the commission to order an independent probe, ensure strong action against the perpetrators, provide adequate compensation and rehabilitation to the victims, and recommend measures to prevent such unlawful punishments in future.

(With inputs from Hrusikesh Mohanty in Berhampur)

Tirhut

रामपुर हरि थानाध्यक्ष पर फिर गंभीर आरोप, महिला आदेशपाल ने NHRC में दर्ज कराई शिकायत।

<https://tirhutnow.com/serious-allegations-again-against-rampur-hari-police-station-in-charge-female-orderly-lodged-complaint-in-nhrc/>

Posted by tirhutnow | July 12, 2025

मुजफ्फरपुर, 12 जुलाई 2025: जिले के रामपुर हरि थाने के थानाध्यक्ष सुजीत कुमार मिश्रा के खिलाफ मानवाधिकार आयोग में लगातार दूसरी शिकायत दर्ज की गई है। इस बार विशुनदेव नारायण सिंह इंटर महाविद्यालय, नरमा, मुजफ्फरपुर में आदेशपाल के पद पर कार्यरत कुमारी शबनम ने थानाध्यक्ष पर गंभीर आरोप लगाते हुए राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (NHRC) और बिहार मानवाधिकार आयोग (BHRC) में परिवाद दर्ज कराया है। शिकायत मानवाधिकार अधिवक्ता एस. के. झा के माध्यम से दायर की गई है, जिसमें थानाध्यक्ष पर मारपीट, अभद्र व्यवहार और गैरकानूनी हिरासत का आरोप लगाया गया है।

मामले का विवरण

कुमारी शबनम ने अपनी शिकायत में बताया कि थानाध्यक्ष सुजीत कुमार मिश्रा ने उन्हें कॉलेज से जबरन थाने ले जाकर एक कमरे में बंद कर दिया। वहां उनके साथ मारपीट की गई और चार घंटे तक अवैध रूप से हिरासत में रखा गया। यह मामला कॉलेज के लेखापाल विशाल कुमार से जुड़ा है, जिनके साथ बीते मंगलवार को 2,11,200 रुपये की लूट की घटना हुई थी। लूट की शिकायत दर्ज कराने थाने पहुंचे विशाल के साथ थानाध्यक्ष ने कथित तौर पर बेरहमी से मारपीट की, उनका मोबाइल छीन लिया और उन्हें हिरासत में रखकर गाली-गलौज किया। रात में विशाल को अधमरी हालत में थाने के बाहर फेंक दिया गया, जिसके बाद परिजनों ने उन्हें मुजफ्फरपुर के सदर अस्पताल में भर्ती कराया।

मामला मीडिया में उजागर होने पर थानाध्यक्ष ने माफी मांगी, जिसका वीडियो समाचार चैनलों पर प्रसारित हुआ। हालांकि, माफी न मिलने पर उन्होंने विशाल पर गबन का मुकदमा दर्ज कर दिया। इसके बाद, जांच के नाम पर थानाध्यक्ष ने कुमारी शबनम के मायके में तोड़फोड़ की और उनके भाई अनुज कुमार को रातभर थाने की हाजत में रखा। इतना ही नहीं, शबनम को कॉलेज से जबरन थाने ले जाकर उनके साथ मारपीट और अभद्र व्यवहार किया गया।

मानवाधिकार आयोग में शिकायत

कुमारी शबनम ने मानवाधिकार अधिवक्ता एस. के. झा के माध्यम से थानाध्यक्ष के खिलाफ NHRC और BHRC में शिकायत दर्ज की है। अधिवक्ता झा ने इस मामले में उच्च स्तरीय जांच की मांग की है। उन्होंने कहा, “थानाध्यक्ष का यह व्यवहार मानवाधिकारों का घोर उल्लंघन है। हम आयोग से इस मामले की निष्पक्ष जांच और दोषी के खिलाफ कड़ी कार्रवाई की मांग करते हैं।”

थानाध्यक्ष पर लगातार विवाद

यह पहला मौका नहीं है जब रामपुर हरि थानाध्यक्ष के खिलाफ शिकायत दर्ज की गई हो। इससे पहले भी उनके खिलाफ मानवाधिकार उल्लंघन का मामला आयोग में पहुंच चुका है। लगातार बढ़ते विवादों ने थानाध्यक्ष की कार्यशैली पर सवाल खड़े कर दिए हैं।

इस मामले ने स्थानीय समुदाय में आक्रोश पैदा कर दिया है, और लोग इसकी निष्पक्ष जांच की मांग कर रहे हैं। आयोग की ओर से इस मामले में जल्द कार्रवाई की उम्मीद की जा रही है।

ETV Bharat

बिहार में पीड़ित पर ही दारोगा ने बरसायी लाठी! लेखापाल का मामला पहुंचा मानवाधिकार आयोग

जब थाने में पीड़ित के साथ ही मारपीट होने लगे तो इसे क्या कहेंगे? कुछ ऐसा ही मामला मुजफ्फरपुर से सामने आया है. पढ़ें खबर

<https://www.etvbharat.com/hi!/state/assault-with-lekhpal-in-muzaffarpur-case-in-human-rights-commission-bihar-news-brs25071202518>

By ETV Bharat Bihar Team | Published : July 12, 2025 at 2:36 PM IST

2 Min Read

मुजफ्फरपुर : बिहार के मुजफ्फरपुर में रामपुर हरि थाना की पुलिस पर गंभीर आरोप लगे हैं. आरोप है कि लूट की शिकायत दर्ज कराने पहुंचे युवक को ही पुलिस ने थाने में बंद कर बेरहमी से पीट दिया. मामला अब राष्ट्रीय और राज्य मानवाधिकार आयोग तक पहुंच चुका है. पीड़ित युवक ने मानवाधिकार अधिवक्ता एसके झा के माध्यम से दो अलग-अलग परिवाद दर्ज कराया है.

लेखापाल से हुई लूट : जानकारी के अनुसार, पीड़ित विशाल कुमार विशुनदेव नारायण सिंह इंटर महाविद्यालय, नरमा में लेखापाल के पद पर कार्यरत हैं. उन्होंने बताया कि 8 जुलाई 2025 को वह कॉलेज से 2 लाख 11 हजार दो सौ रुपये लेकर बैंक जा रहे थे. तभी रास्ते में अपराधियों ने उनसे लूटपाट की.

थाने में पीड़ित के साथ मारपीट का आरोप : विशाल कुमार जब इस संबंध में शिकायत दर्ज कराने रामपुर हरि थाना पहुंचे तो थानाध्यक्ष सुजीत मिश्रा ने न सिर्फ उनकी शिकायत दर्ज करने से इनकार किया, बल्कि उन्हें थाने में बंद कर गाली-गलौज व मारपीट की. पीड़ित के अनुसार, पुलिस ने उनका मोबाइल भी छीन लिया और जबरन यह स्वीकार करने का दबाव बनाया कि उन्होंने खुद पैसे गायब किए हैं.

अस्पताल में कराया गया भर्ती : विशाल ने आरोप लगाया कि जब उन्होंने झूठी बात मानने से इनकार किया, तो थाने में ही उनकी बेरहमी से पिटाई की गई और रात करीब 10:30 बजे थाने से भगा दिया गया. इसके बाद परिजनों ने उन्हें गंभीर हालत में सदर अस्पताल में भर्ती कराया, जहां उनका इलाज चल रहा है.

"मामले की जानकारी मिली है. जांच करवाई जा रही है. जांच के लिए एसडीपीओ को निर्देश दिए गए हैं. जांचोपरांत दोषी के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की जाएगी."- सुशील कुमार, एसएसपी, मुजफ्फरपुर

दो अलग-अलग परिवाद दायर : मामले को लेकर मानवाधिकार अधिवक्ता एसके झा ने राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (NHRC) और बिहार राज्य मानवाधिकार आयोग (BHRC) में अलग-अलग परिवाद दाखिल किया है. उन्होंने इसे मानवाधिकार उल्लंघन की गंभीर श्रेणी में रखते हुए उच्चस्तरीय जांच की मांग की है. उन्होंने कहा कि "मुजफ्फरपुर पुलिस रक्षक के बजाय भक्षक की भूमिका में नजर आ रही है. ऐसी घटनाएं मानवाधिकार के लिए खतरे का संकेत हैं."

Greater Kashmir

MM Shuja elected chairman of J&K Peoples Forum

Srinagar, Jul 12: Senior journalist and noted RTI activist M.M. Shuja has been unanimously elected as the Chairman of the J&K Peoples Forum, a prominent civil...

<https://www.greaterkashmir.com/kashmir/mm-shuja-elected-chairman-of-jk-peoples-forum/>

GK NEWS SERVICE | July 12, 2025 11:42 pm

Srinagar, Jul 12: Senior journalist and noted RTI activist M.M. Shuja has been unanimously elected as the Chairman of the J&K Peoples Forum, a prominent civil society organisation working for transparency, accountability, and the protection of democratic rights in the region.

Shuja, who has served as Secretary General of the Forum for the past fourteen years, succeeds the late Syed Nassarullah Shah, the Forum's founder Chairman. The position had remained vacant for two years following Shah's passing.

The J&K Peoples Forum has been at the forefront of legal and civic advocacy, having filed twenty-one Public Interest Litigations (PILs) before the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. It has also pursued multiple cases before the State Human Rights Commission and the National Human Rights Commission. One of its PILs is currently pending before the Supreme Court of India.

On the occasion of Shuja's appointment, the Forum's managing body paid rich tributes to late founder Syed Nassarullah Shah and other long-standing members, including Mohammad Ramzan Khan and Mohammed ShafiRanraze, acknowledging their lifelong commitment to civil rights and public welfare.

In a joint statement, the executive members congratulated Shuja on his election and expressed full confidence in his leadership. They reaffirmed the Forum's resolve to continue raising critical public issues through legal, media, and civic platforms.