

NHRC, India takes *suo motu* cognizance of the reported death of eight workers and injuries to six others in a blast at the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited in Andhra Pradesh

Workers' union alleges management ignored safety protocols

The Commission issues notice to the Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary, calling for a detailed report on the matter within two weeks

The report to include the status of injured workers' health and payment of ex-gratia amount to them and next of kin of the deceased

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The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India has taken *suo motu* cognizance of a media report that eight workers died and at least six others suffered severe burn injuries after an explosion at the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited in Andhra Pradesh on 8th June 2026. Reportedly, the workers' union has alleged that the management ignored safety protocols.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise issues of violation of human rights. Therefore, it has issued notices to the Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary, calling for a detailed report on the matter within two weeks. The report is expected to include the status of the injured workers' health and payment of ex-gratia amount to them and the next of kin of the deceased.

According to the media report, carried on 9th June 2026, the incident occurred in the 'Steel Melting Shop' of the plant when a ladle carrying around 150 tonnes of liquid steel at a temperature of about 1600°C suddenly exploded and the molten steel poured across the shop floor causing severe burn injuries to the workers.

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