



NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, TRIPURA

The Kautilya Society Podcast Online Discussion: Tripura's Construction Workers - A Fight for Health

Organized By

KAUTILYA SOCIETY

Platform: Zoom (Online)

Date: Monday, 28th October 2025

Time: 4:30 PM IST

The Kautilya Society, National Law University (NLU) Tripura, is organising a crucial online discussion on the pressing issues faced by the state's construction workforce. Titled "Tripura's Construction Workers: A Fight for Health," the event aims to shed light on the intersection of labour law, occupational health, and the challenges specific to construction workers in Tripura. Construction work is the second-largest industry in India, employing more than 74 million workers, yet it remains one of the most hazardous occupation and unorganised sector. Studies reveal that of approximately 48,000 work-related deaths in India each year, nearly a quarter occur in the construction industry. Construction workers face numerous occupational hazards including musculoskeletal disorders, respiratory diseases from dust and chemical exposure, heat exhaustion, hearing loss, skin conditions, and even cancers linked to exposure to carcinogens such as asbestos. Despite the existence of comprehensive legal frameworks such as the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, and the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996, implementation remains inadequate, particularly in ensuring occupational health and safety standards.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

National Law University, Tripura (NLUT) was established by the Government of Tripura under the Tripura Act No. 3 of 2022. As one of India's youngest national law university, NLU, Tripura represents a crucial step toward advancing legal education, academic research, and public policy engagement in the northeastern region of India. The university is committed to nurturing a

generation of legal professionals who are not only well-versed in substantive and procedural law but are also mindful of the socio-political realities of their communities and the country at large. With a growing emphasis on interdisciplinary learning, experiential education, and student-led academic initiatives, NLUT is rapidly evolving into a hub of intellectual growth and legal innovation.

ABOUT THE KAUTILYA SOCIETY

The Kautilya Society is a unique initiative developed under the aegis of the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, one of India's foremost legal think tanks. These societies are set up within leading law universities across the country to encourage student-led research, policy exploration, and democratic engagement. Functioning as a bridge between academic theory and practical governance, Kautilya Societies aim to shape future leaders in law and public policy through activities such as legal research projects, policy analysis, workshops, and stakeholder engagement. At NLUT, the Kautilya Society is driven by a team of passionate law students and faculty advisors who envision a society that not only critiques the law but actively contributes to reforming it.

ABOUT THE PODCAST

This podcast offers listeners an opportunity to deepen their understanding of the complex legal and policy landscape governing construction workers' rights, particularly in the context of Tripura. The state has launched several welfare schemes under the Tripura Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (TBOCWBB), including maternity benefits, financial assistance for education of workers' children, and the recent Nirman Shramik Welfare Scheme 2.0, which aims to encourage skilled workforce development and provide direct benefit transfers to registered workers.

Through a direct conversation with Shri Biswajit Paul, TCS SSG, Labour Commissioner of Tripura, the podcast will explore the ground realities of construction workers' health challenges, the state government's welfare initiatives, the effectiveness of the welfare cess collection mechanism, and the barriers to registration and access to benefits. Listeners will gain insights into how labour law is operationalised at the state level, the role of welfare boards and enforcement agencies in safeguarding workers' interests, and the urgent need for improved occupational health infrastructure and awareness.

Beyond sharpening awareness of labour rights and public health concerns, the podcast provides recognition and visibility to critical yet underreported social issues within academic and professional circles. Participants and listeners also gain exposure to rigorous legal analysis and policy critique, promoting ethical scholarship and advocacy. By opening its platform to students, legal practitioners, policymakers, and civil society members, the podcast ensures inclusivity and broad participation, creating a vibrant milieu for knowledge exchange and networking.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Shri Biswajit Paul currently serves as the Labour Commissioner of Tripura under the Directorate of Labour, Government of Tripura. With extensive experience in labour administration, enforcement of labour laws, and implementation of welfare schemes for workers, he plays a pivotal role in overseeing the functioning of the Tripura Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board and ensuring compliance with statutory provisions under the Building and Other Construction Workers Act, 1996, and other central and state labour legislations. His leadership has been instrumental in advancing welfare initiatives such as the Nirman Shramik Welfare Scheme 2.0 and ensuring direct benefit transfers to registered construction workers.

PLATFORM

The platform for the meeting will be Zoom given below are the necessary details for the same.

Link - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81504097439?pwd=TQsgwqWcapbAs1POz3SnXwyt5CDm49.1>

Meeting ID: 815 0409 7439

Passcode: 162965

CONTACT INFORMATION

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The Kautilya Society at NLUT looks forward to welcoming participants to this engaging and intellectually stimulating discussion.