



# भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन केन्द्र

## *CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS*

K. HEMALATA  
President

TAPAN SEN, Ex-M.P.  
General Secretary

### Press Release

30<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**Construction Workers Safety in work Matters!  
Conduct Thorough Probe into the Silkyara Tunnel Collapse!  
Take Stringent Action Against Those Responsible  
for ignoring basic preventive safety measures**

The working class and the entire trade union movement in the country expressed relief at the rescue of the 41 construction workers from the Silkyara tunnel in Uttarkashi in Uttarakhand and congratulated the rat miners for their great contribution in rescuing the workers.

The Uttarkashi tunnel collapse raises alarming questions about the negligence of the contractor and the authorities in taking measures for the safety of the workers following revelations that the tunnel lacked the provision/arrangement for a requisite escape route/tunnel, which is a basic requirement for preventive safety measure in tunnel construction work. It also exposed the laxity and violations of the existing legal provisions and norms besides exposing total indulgence to contractor for their cost-minimisation drive at human cost.

The Silkyaratunnel collapse is only one in a series of accidents, which occur due to the utter negligence of the authorities and the construction companies to ensure the basic standard preventive safety measures along with stringent pursuit of standard operating procedure(SOP) in the work-process. The tunnel collapse incident once again exposes the disastrous consequences of handing over public infrastructure management, both at state and Centre to private corporate contractors that too on liberal deregulated formats, from the state run public works departments.

The Hyderabad based NavayugaEngineeringCompany, which is executing the project is the same company which is constructing the Nagpur – Mumbai Samruddhi Expressway in Maharashtra's Thane district where barely three months ago 20 construction workers lost their lives when a gantry crane collapsed and fell on the workers and engineers present at the site. Though a FIR was registered against the Navayuga Engineering Company after Samriddhi Expressway accident, no action was taken as yet. The same company has been granted the RishikeshKarnaprayag rail link project.

Contd...2

B.T. Ranadive Bhawan, 13-A, Rouse Avenue, New Delhi-110 002

Tel# +91 11 2322 1288 / 2322 1306 Fax# +91 11 2322 1284

Website : [www.citucentre.org](http://www.citucentre.org) E-mail : [citubtr@gmail.com](mailto:citubtr@gmail.com)





# भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन केन्द्र

## *CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS*

K. HEMALATA  
President

TAPAN SEN, Ex-M.P.  
General Secretary

-2-

The Joint Platform of Central Trade Unions and Federations has already demanded upon the Govt for a thorough probe in to the said tunnel accident to fix accountability of the contractor/authority concerned for such inhuman negligence to human safety in work through a press release. Construction Workers Federation of India (CWFI) has written letters to Prime Minister of India and Chief Minister of Uttarakhand on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023 highlighting the gross safety violations in Silkyara tunnel collapse and demanded thorough judicial probe into the whole matter to fix accountability and stringent punishment for those who are responsible for this dreadful incident. It has also demanded that no construction work should be allowed without ensuring that all the necessary standard preventive safety measures are put in place.

It demanded that the government of India ratify ILO conventions related to health and safety, which have been brought under fundamental principles of rights at work by the ILO in its session in 2022.

CWFI has decided to take up an extensive campaign on the above demands across the country in the coming months of December - January.

All the affiliated unions of CWFI will also send letters to Prime Minister and CM, Uttarakhand on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2023 as a part of CWFI's nationwide campaign to expose the callousness of government.

Issued by:

(Tapan Sen)

General Secretary