Newborn dies after family fails to find ventilator at three hospitals

DEEPENDER DESWAL
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HISAR, JULY 2

A newborn suffering from respiratory distress died after allegedly failing to receive ventilator support for nearly 24 hours, with the family claiming they were forced to shuttle between three hospitals in search of critical care.

The infant was born through a caesarean section at the Civil Hospital in Hisar on Wednesday and required immediate ventilator support, according to the family. While the baby's mother, Pooja, remained admitted at the Civil Hospital, doctors initially referred the newborn to the Medical College at Agroha.

However, after the Civil Hospital reportedly confirmed that no ventilator was available at Agroha, the baby was referred to the PGIMS in Rohtak.

Rakesh Kumar, 35, a daily-wage labourer from Uttar Pradesh residing in Mahavir Colony, Hisar, said they took the newborn to Rohtak on Wednesday evening but were unable to secure ventilator support there as well.

The family then returned to Hisar and took the infant to a private hospital around noon on Thursday, where doctors declared the baby dead.

Workers' union leader Manoj Soni said the incident exposed the alleged negligence of the Haryana Health Department. He added that the child's father had submitted complaints to the Civil Surgeon in Hisar seeking an inquiry and to the Anaj Mandi police post for appropriate action.

Family members of the newborn at the Civil Hospital in Hisar.

Principal Medical Officer Dr Reena Jain said the newborn was suffering from respiratory problems and also required echocardiography.

"They had only one ventilator in the NICU ward which was already occupied so they referred the child to the tertiary centre – Medical College Agroha. But when we inquired about the ventilator at Agroha and found that there was no ventilator available there, we referred the child to the PGIMS at Rohtak. But no ventilator was also available at the PGIMS Rohtak as well since all the ventilators were already occupied there too," she said.

She added that the family later brought the child back to Hisar for admission to a private hospital, where the infant died.

The PMO said statements of hospital staff and family members would be recorded before a detailed report is submitted to higher authorities in Chandigarh for further action. She further said the Civil Hospital had already sought an additional ventilator for its NICU, but the request was yet to be fulfilled.

Civil Surgeon Dr Sapna Ganhot said the complaint filed by the deceased child's father had been referred to the medical negligence board for inquiry.

State's 2002 remission policy overrides that of 2008: SC

Ruling won't affect applications already decided

SATYA PRAKASH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 2

The Supreme Court has ruled that a remission policy framed by a state government under the Governor's powers under Article 161 of the Constitution shall override a statutory policy framed under provisions of the CrPC.

A Bench led by Justice Sanjay Karol on Wednesday held that Haryana's 2002 remission policy based under the Governor's powers will hold the field, despite the state framing a new policy in 2008 using its statutory powers under Sections 432 and 433, CrPC.

"Since the 2002 policy stood framed under the Constitution, and such power is to be exercised by the Governor himself, the subsequent policy of 2008 cannot deter the effect of the former, and the observation that it supersedes the 2002 policy is untenable in law," said the Bench, including Justice N Kotiswar Singh.

The court said, "It need not be said that a statutory policy cannot override an exercise of power under Article 161, for that power is distinct and independent, uninfluenced by any other power, more so statutory in nature."

Petitioner who served 14 years in jail had sought release on basis of 2002 policy

It, however, clarified that its findings in this case shall apply prospectively and not operate to reopen any applications for remissions that had already been decided.

On a petition filed by one Parveen Kumar, alias Parveen Chauhan, the court examined if his application for grant of remission will be governed by Haryana's 'Policy Regarding Release of Life Convicts 20021' dated April 12, 2002, or the subsequent policy dated August 13, 2008, termed as 'Premature Release of Life Convicts 20082', as notified by the Jails and Judicial Department, Government of Haryana.

Allowing the appeal, the court directed the Haryana Government to take a decision regarding the remission application consistent with the judgment within four weeks.

Chauhan was convicted of killing a 12-year-old child on January 4, 2009. He was sentenced to life imprisonment under Section 302, IPC, five-year imprisonment under Section 365, IPC, and two years under Section 201, IPC.

The Punjab and Haryana High Court, in 2013, partly allowed his appeal and set aside the conviction under Section 365, IPC. The Supreme Court dismissed the appeal against the high court's judgment in 2015.

In 2022, Chauhan filed a representation seeking his release on the basis of the 2002 policy, having served 14 years of imprisonment. As he received no response, he filed a writ petition against his pending representation, which was disposed of on August 16, 2022.

The prison authorities rejected his representation, saying that his case would be governed by the 2008 policy.

All depts must disclose info u/s 4 of RTI Act: Commission

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JULY 2

The Haryana State Information Commission (SIC) has ruled that all departments of the state government are legally bound to fully implement the provisions of Section 4 of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, directing them to proactively disclose statutory information on their official websites and keep it updated for easy public access.

The order was passed by State Information Commissioner Dr Ajay Kumar Sura while deciding a complaint filed by RTI applicant Kshitij Dutta, who had sought details regarding the suo motu disclosures mandated under Section 4 from the office of the Excise and Taxation Commissioner (ETC) and Secretary, Excise and Taxation Department, Haryana.

Section 4 of the RTI Act obligates every public authority to maintain records in a properly catalogued and indexed manner to facilitate access to information. It also requires authorities to publish details of their organisational structure, functions and duties of officers, decision-making processes, salary structure, budget allocation, policy decisions and reasons behind quasi-judicial orders.

The provision further mandates that public authorities proactively disseminate information instead of waiting for citizens to seek it through RTI applications.

Sirsa kinnow earns GI tag

ANIL KAKKAR

SIRSA, JULY 2

The Geographical Indication (GI) tag awarded to 'Sirsa kinnow' has brought national recognition to Haryana's citrus industry while underscoring the contribution of scientific farming practices introduced through the Indo-Israel Centre of Excellence at Mangiana village.

The GI tag, granted on June 17, makes Sirsa kinnow the first fruit from Haryana to receive the prestigious recognition. The certification provides the fruit with a distinct identity, protects it against imitation and is expected to enhance its market value and export potential.

District Horticulture Officer Deen Mohammad said the application for the GI tag was initiated by the Horticulture Department through the Farmer Producer Organisation of Khari Sureran village. "He said Sirsa kinnow is sweeter, juicier and larger in size than fruit grown in many other regions, helping it earn the GI recognition."

IDFC scam: Pollution board ex-accounts officer held

BHARTESH SINGH THAKUR
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JULY 2

The CBI on Thursday arrested Parveen Kumar, the then Senior Accounts Officer of the Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB), in connection with the Rs 657 crore bank scam. He is the third HSPCB official to be arrested in the case involving the alleged misappropriation of Rs 169.36 crore from the Board's account maintained with the IDFC First Bank.

According to the CBI, Parveen Kumar played a key role in opening the HSPCB bank account that was later used for the alleged fraud. The agency claimed he opened the account in a "clandestine manner, without any record or approval in the department," and that it was subsequently operated to facilitate fraudulent transactions.

"The funds of the Board were misappropriated using cheques/debit notes, and the debited amounts were diverted to shell entities controlled and operated by the accused," the CBI said.

"Though the account was opened by Parveen Kumar, the number of another accused who was not working in the department was registered in the account so as to avoid detection of fraudulent transactions in the account," the CBI alleged.