Remedies for unnatural jail death

Why in news?

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Recently, SC directed the Chief Justices of all HC to register petitions suo motu to identify the kin of prisoners who died unnatural deaths and order the states to provide them compensation.

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What is the need for this Judgement?

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- Normally, the National and States Human Rights Commissions decide and award compensations in cases of custodial torture, deaths.
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- However, compliance by State governments is low as these commissions do not exercise any power of contempt.
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- This judgment is significant as the high court will now directly award compensation and ensure compliance by the States.
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- It also asked the Ministry of women and child development to formulate procedures for tabulating children who died unnatural deaths in custody or in child care institution by this year end.
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What is the significance?

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- Human rights in a welfare state are not dependent on the status of the person whether he is a criminal or a victim.
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- There is no reason at all to exclude their kin from receiving compensation only because the victim is a criminal.
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- It is also important to look into the unnatural deaths of children in child care institutions for providing the children of our country with a better future.
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Source: The Hindu

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