



- NHRC, India organised a hybrid Open House Discussion in New Delhi on curbing spurious medicines, chaired by Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, with participation from regulators, law enforcement and industry experts.



Source: <https://businessnewsthisweek.com/education/nhrc-delegation-reviews-gender-equality-inclusivity-measures-at-iit-roorkee/>

NHRC Delegation Reviews Gender Equality, Inclusivity Measures at IIT Roorkee

March 2, 2026 Neel Achary education

Roorkee, Mar 02: Special Monitor, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Prof. Kanhaiya Tripathi visited IIT Roorkee on February 28, 2026 and did an inspection on following activities of Human Rights and Gender Equality at the campus.

NHRC Delegation Reviews Gender Equality, Inclusivity Measures at IIT Roorkee

The Director, IIT Roorkee, welcomed Prof. Tripathi with a bouquet, and expressed his sincere gratitude for sparing his valuable time to visit the Institute. The meeting was arranged with staffs, students and faculty members to get a deeper insight into the objectives, mandate, and functioning of the NHRC.

The Director emphasized that following diversity, inclusivity, and equity, is need of the hour and also understanding human rights is essential component from both national and international perspectives. IIT Roorkee is aggressively working on it and implementing it across the institute. He further stated that the Institute would explore ways in which its students and faculty could support and collaborate with the NHRC in advancing shared objectives. Institute will be happy to contribute by assisting in drafting policy frameworks, guidelines, and research-based inputs. At IIT Roorkee several schemes are ongoing for increasing women participation in STEM and several courses have started on human science and happiness including human rights.

The suggestion made by Prof. Tripathi to introduce a structured academic program or course on Human Rights through the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences was agreed to in principle.

In his response, Prof. Tripathi expressed his sincere appreciation to the Institute for organizing a successful and meaningful interaction. He appreciated the contributions of the students, faculty, and the Institute's leadership. He also acknowledged the significant efforts being undertaken by IIT Roorkee and also expressed that these initiatives should be highlighted at national and international platforms.

He also mentioned that NHRC will work on the possibility of offering internship opportunities to IIT Roorkee students to strengthen institutional collaboration in the areas of Apps design, patents on Human Rights etc. The Deputy Director, Dean Academic affairs, Dean Administration, Associate Dean Students activities, Chairperson Diversity & Inclusivity, Presiding Officer ICC, Prof. Sonal Atreya, Prof. Shabina Khanam, Registrar and other official & Students were present in the meeting.

Prof. Kanhaiya Tripathi before leaving for Dehradun also visited one of the hostels, and dined with the Students in the mess. He appreciated the hygiene and food quality that the institute also keep on the priority.



Source: <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/impressed-by-vibrancy-of-indian-civil-society-says-unhrc-commissioner20260302183406/?amp=1>

'Impressed by vibrancy of Indian civil society,' says UNHRC Commissioner

ANI | Updated: Mar 02, 2026 18:34 IST

Geneva [Switzerland], March 2 (ANI): Volker Turk, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, said that he was impressed by the vibrancy of civil society in India during his recent visit.

Turk noted that civil society plays a key role in upholding India's democratic traditions and protecting the rights of minorities, and emphasised that civic space must be vigorously defended so they can work without hindrance.

"During my recent trip to India, I was impressed by the vibrancy of civil society. They play a key role in upholding India's democratic traditions and the rights of minorities. It is important for civic space to be vigorously defended and for civil society to be able to do their work without hindrance," he said.

Turk had visited India for the AI Summit, where he had met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

In a post on X, he said, "Wrapping up my 1st visit to India for AI Summit; grateful for exchanges with Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar on global, regional & domestic human rights; NHRC; & India's dynamic civil society, which has a key role in promoting the human rights of all."

"Good to be in India for the AI Impact Summit. To shape a digital future that serves people -- not power -- we need to anchor AI governance in human rights, & make these technologies accessible to all, not just a privileged few," he further noted.

On February 26, India delivered a sharp rebuttal to Pakistan at the 61st Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, which is being held from 23 February to 31 March, accusing Islamabad of spreading propaganda and asserting that Jammu and Kashmir's development trajectory stands in stark contrast to Pakistan's economic troubles.

Exercising India's Right to Reply during the high-level segment held on February 25, Anupama Singh, India's representative, rejected allegations made by Pakistan and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), saying the grouping had allowed itself to be used as an "echo chamber" for one member state.

"We categorically reject these allegations," Singh said, adding that Pakistan's "incessant propaganda now reeks of envy."

Singh reiterated India's long-standing position that Jammu and Kashmir "was, is, and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India." She said the accession of the region to India in 1947 was "completely legal and irrevocable," in accordance with the Indian Independence Act and international law. (ANI)



Source: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/amp/india/nhrc-flags-rise-in-spurious-medicines-calls-it-threat-to-right-to-life-prnt/cid/2149644>

NHRC raises alarm over spurious medicines posing threat to right to life in India

Rights body calls for special drug courts QR codes and real time testing to curb fake medicines and strengthen accountability in pharma regulation

Spurious medicines in India

Our Bureau

Published 03.03.26, 07:34 AM

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has expressed grave concern over the proliferation of "spurious" and "substandard drugs" that pose a serious threat to life.

At an open house discussion here on "Measures to curb spurious medicines in India", NHRC member Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi said in a country as vast and diverse as India, even isolated regulatory challenges could translate into large-scale human distress if not addressed decisively and systematically.

He said the growing threat posed by spurious, substandard and falsified medicines and its direct implications on the right to life and health, demanded coordinated, multi-sectoral action to address this grave issue of human rights violation.

Vijaya Bharathi Sayani, another NHRC member, reflected on the human cost of substandard treatment. She recalled how a member of her family suffered permanent loss of eyesight because of improper treatment and the use of poor-quality medicines. She said the issue needed to be urgently addressed by strengthening supervision and accountability mechanisms in the pharmaceutical ecosystem.

Former NHRC member Rajiv Jain said strengthening enforcement and deterrence would require the establishment of special drug courts for expeditious trial of the accused, real-time drug testing mechanisms, mandatory QR codes and track-and-trace systems.

NHRC secretary-general Shri Bharat Lal said people consumed medicines in good faith, trusting the State's obligation to safeguard life and dignity, and cautioned that any breach might result in the violation of human rights.



Source: <https://www.orissapost.com/un-human-rights-chief-highlights-indias-democracy-criticises-pakistan-china/>

UN Human Rights Chief highlights India's democracy, criticises Pakistan, China

IANS | Updated: March 2nd, 2026, 16:48 IST in International

Geneva: Volker Turk, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, has praised the vibrancy of civil society in India, highlighting that it continues to play a key role in upholding the country's democratic traditions and the rights of minorities.

At the same time, while presenting his global update to the ongoing 61st session of the UN Human Rights Council last week, Turk slammed Pakistan and China for the worrisome human rights situation that exists in the countries. The UN Human Rights chief was in New Delhi last month on his first visit to India during the AI Impact Summit. "During my recent trip to India, I was impressed by the vibrancy of civil society. They play a key role in upholding India's democratic traditions and the rights of minorities. It is important for civic space to be vigorously defended and for civil society to be able to do its work without hindrance," Turk mentioned while making a statement at the UN Human Rights Council.

Turk was, meanwhile, critical of Pakistan where two human rights lawyers have been sentenced to a combined total of 17 years imprisonment recently.

"In Pakistan, lawyers and human rights defenders have been jailed for critical social media posts," he said in his statement at the 61st session.

"In Georgia, I regret the restrictions on civic space. In Venezuela, I note the release of some people who were arbitrarily detained and urge the release of the remainder. The state of emergency should be reviewed to ensure it respects civic space and human rights. Civil society and victims' groups must be able to participate meaningfully in public affairs. I will provide an update 16 March," the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights mentioned.

In his statement, Turk also urged the Chinese authorities to stop using "vague criminal, administrative and national security provisions" to suppress the peaceful exercise of fundamental rights in the country.

"I urge them to release all those arbitrarily detained. I regret the lack of follow-up by the authorities on previous recommendations and on accountability, to protect the rights of Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities in Xinjiang, and of Tibetans in their regions. This includes labour issues and religious and cultural freedoms. I am also concerned by the intensified repression of Protestant communities," he said.

During his India visit, Turk met External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on the sidelines of the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi February 20. EAM Jaishankar stated after the meeting that he discussed with the UN Human Rights chief the "need for consistency on human rights" and also highlighted the challenge of terrorism, the greatest violation of human rights.

EAM Jaishankar had also shared India's perspectives on the global human rights situation and how challenges are best addressed.

"Wrapping up my 1st visit to India for AI Summit; grateful for exchanges with Minister of External Affairs Dr S Jaishankar on global, regional and domestic human rights; NHRC India (National Human Rights Commission, India); and India's dynamic civil society, which have a key role in promoting the human rights of all," he posted on X after meeting EAM Jaishankar.

Source: <https://www.etvbharat.com/en/state/karnataka-hc-orders-judicial-probe-into-hubballi-encounter-killing-of-rape-murder-accused-enn26030205740>

Karnataka HC Orders Judicial Probe Into Hubballi Encounter Killing Of Rape-Murder Accused

The court observed that in case of any lapses in the magistrate's inquiry report, the matter could be handed over to the central investigating agency.

By ETV Bharat English Team

Published : March 2, 2026 at 7:47 PM IST

2 Min Read

Hubballi: The Karnataka High Court on Monday ordered a judicial inquiry into the police encounter in Hubballi in which a man accused of raping and murdering a five-year-old girl was shot dead, and directed that its report should be submitted by the end of June.

It orally observed that in case of any lapses in the magistrate's inquiry report, the matter could be handed over to a central investigating agency. The order was passed by a division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha while hearing a public interest litigation filed by the People's Union for Civil Liberties, Karnataka.

Call for an Independent Probe

The petition sought an independent investigation into the encounter, urging the court to direct the registration of a separate FIR against all police personnel involved in the shooting and to ensure their arrest and interrogation as part of the probe.

The petitioner's counsel argued that the Supreme Court's guidelines governing encounter deaths had not been followed in the present case. The lawyer submitted that a separate criminal case must be registered against the officers who carried out the encounter and that the investigation must strictly adhere to the procedure laid down by the apex court.

Earlier, Advocate General Shashikiran Shetty had informed the bench that the case was already under investigation by the CID in accordance with the Supreme Court's directions in the PUCL case and the guidelines issued by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). He added that the probe had been entrusted to the CID to ensure independence, and if the High Court so directed, the state would not object to a judicial inquiry.

Court Raises Questions

During the hearing, the bench observed that the death occurred while the accused was effectively in police custody, making it an unnatural custodial death that warranted scrutiny. The judges questioned whether the investigation should ascertain who fired the shots and who collected the deceased's fingerprint evidence. The court also remarked that public sentiment surrounding the crime could not override the need for a lawful and transparent investigation.

Case Background

The incident dates back to April 2025, when the five-year-old girl was allegedly abducted in the Ashok Nagar police station limits of Hubballi. Police said the accused, who hailed from Bihar, attempted to sexually assault the child and later murdered her.

Police officials maintained that when they went to apprehend the accused, he allegedly attempted to attack them. Despite being warned, he continued with the assault, prompting the police to open fire. He was shot in the back, sustained serious injuries, and later died.

Following the encounter, the PUCL moved the High Court seeking a judicial inquiry into the shooting. With the

court now ordering a probe, the focus shifts to the findings of the judicial investigation, which is expected to clarify whether due process was followed in the controversial encounter.



Source: <https://coachbuildersindia.com/goa-mandates-ais119-bussafety-compliance/>

Goa Makes AIS-119 Safety Compliance Mandatory for Sleeper Buses by March 31

By Abhishek Naik | March 2, 2026 Updated on March 2, 2026

In a significant move aimed at strengthening passenger safety in intercity and sleeper coach operations, the Goa Transport Department has mandated full compliance with AIS-119 bus safety standards for all applicable buses operating in the state by March 31, 2026.

The directive, issued through a public notice in Panaji, follows recommendations from the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), which instructed authorities to implement critical safety measures formulated by the Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT).

The order applies primarily to Type IV sleeper coaches, a segment that has increasingly come under regulatory scrutiny due to fire safety and structural risks observed in long-distance bus operations across India.

Mandatory Safety Requirements

AIS-119 specifies construction and safety standards for Type IV sleeper coaches, covering fire protection, emergency evacuation, and structural safety.

Under the order, operators must ensure:

Removal of driver partition doors

Emergency exits in buses up to 12 metres in length

Functional fire detection and fire suppression systems in sleeper coaches

Structural compliance of sleeper berths

No berth sliders or unauthorised chassis extensions

CM Rekha Gupta Flags Off Delhi's First Electric Double-Decker Bus

Non-Compliant Buses to Be Withdrawn

Transport authorities stated that non-compliant vehicles must be withdrawn from service immediately.

Failure to meet the requirements will invite penalties under applicable transport regulations.

The directive applies to all operators in Goa, including private bus owners and the state-run Kadamba Transport Corporation.

Enforcement Effective Immediately

Officials confirmed that the order has come into force with immediate effect, with inspections expected ahead of the March deadline to ensure compliance across sleeper coach fleets operating within the state.



Source: <https://www.mypunepulse.com/vishnupuri-dam-100-full-yet-nanded-reels-under-water-shortage-human-rights-panel-steps-in/>

Vishnupuri dam 100% full, yet Nanded reels under water shortage; Human Rights panel steps in

Punepulse March 2, 2026

Nanded, March 2, 2026: Even as the Vishnupuri irrigation project stands 100% full, residents of Nanded continue to face water supply cuts every four days, triggering sharp questions over distribution and planning. Taking serious note of the situation, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the district administration to examine the issue and ensure time-bound corrective measures.

The Commission's intervention follows a complaint highlighting that despite sufficient storage in the Vishnupuri dam — the city's primary water source — citizens are not receiving daily water supply. In its order dated February 25, the NHRC instructed the district collector to hold discussions with the concerned departments and resolve the issue within four weeks.

Currently, more than 75% live storage is available in the Vishnupuri dam. However, residents allege that irregular supply and poor planning by the civic administration have resulted in recurring shortages. Social activist Jaymala Dankikar had approached the Human Rights Commission in August, questioning why the city faces scarcity when adequate water is available in the reservoir.

In her complaint, Danekar also sought an inquiry into alleged mismanagement by the local water distribution system and demanded accountability. Acting on the plea, the Commission has asked authorities to prioritise citizens' needs and ensure equitable distribution.

Officials indicated that the probe would examine whether lapses in water distribution, infrastructure bottlenecks or administrative inefficiencies are responsible for the crisis. The Commission has emphasised that when water is available in abundance, citizens should not be subjected to avoidable hardship.

The issue has once again brought into focus the need for scientific planning of water resources. Every monsoon, a significant quantity of water from the Vishnupuri project reportedly flows downstream into the Godavari river basin and eventually into the sea. Activists argue that if the government undertakes appropriate storage and utilisation measures, not only Nanded city but thousands of hectares of agricultural land could benefit.

They have called for long-term planning to conserve excess monsoon discharge, strengthen distribution networks and prevent wastage. According to Danekar, storing and managing the water that currently flows away could ensure abundant supply to residents and support irrigation in surrounding areas.

With the NHRC's directive, pressure has mounted on the municipal administration to address distribution gaps and provide regular water supply. The district administration is expected to submit a compliance report within the stipulated four-week period outlining the steps taken to resolve the issue.



Source: <https://www.daijiworld.com/index.php/news/newsDisplay?newsID=1307984>

Goa mandates AIS-119 safety compliance for buses by March-end

Mon, Mar 02 2026 03:42:10 PM

Daijiworld Media Network - Panaji

Panaji, Mar 2: In a decisive move to tighten passenger safety norms, the transport department in Panaji has issued a public notice directing all buses operating in Goa to comply with AIS-119 safety standards by March 31. The order follows instructions from the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), which called for the implementation of key safety recommendations made by the Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT). AIS-119 lays down mandatory construction and safety norms for sleeper coaches (Type IV buses) across India, with particular emphasis on fire resistance, emergency exits, structural stability, and berth configuration to ensure passenger protection.

The transport department has specified four compulsory measures that must be adopted without exception. These include the removal of driver partition doors, provision of emergency exits in all buses up to 12 metres in length, installation and full operational readiness of fire detection and suppression systems in sleeper coaches, and strict structural compliance. In sleeper coaches, berths must not have sliding mechanisms, nor should there be any unauthorised chassis extensions.

Authorities have made it clear that any vehicle failing to meet the prescribed standards must be immediately withdrawn from service. The notice warns that non-compliance will invite stringent action, including penalties under applicable laws.

The directive has come into force with immediate effect, and all operators — including private bus owners as well as the Kadamba Transport Corporation Limited — have been instructed to ensure full adherence within the stipulated deadline.

Source: <https://sabrangindia.in/66-deaths-in-13-months-uproar-in-chhattisgarh-assembly-by-opposition-over-prison-conditions-and-custodial-accountability/amp/>

66 Deaths in 13 Months: Uproar in Chhattisgarh Assembly by opposition over prison conditions and custodial accountability

Government confirms inmate deaths; Opposition alleges overcrowding, medical neglect, and governance failure — demands legislative probe into tribal leader's custodial death

Post author By irfan khan | Post date March 2, 2026

The Question Hour in the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly spiralled into high-voltage confrontation after the BJP-led state government officially tabled figures revealing that 66 inmates died in the state's central and district jails between January 2025 and January 31, 2026. The disclosure, reported by The Hindu, triggered uproar in the House, with the Opposition alleging systemic prison collapse, medical negligence, and deteriorating law and order.

Official figures spark political firestorm

During Question Hour, former Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition Bhupesh Baghel sought detailed information on custodial deaths over the preceding 13 months. He asked whether judicial inquiries — mandatory in custodial deaths and guided by National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) protocols — had been completed in all cases, as reported by The Hindu.

Responding on behalf of the government, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma, who also holds the Home portfolio, confirmed that 66 inmates, including convicted prisoners, had died in custody during the specified period. He stated that:

18 cases have completed magisterial inquiries, and
48 cases remain under investigation.

Sharma assured the House that investigations were being conducted as per procedure and that action would follow if negligence was established.

However, the confirmation of the figures did little to calm tensions.

Opposition alleges overcrowding and healthcare breakdown

Baghel launched a sharp critique of the state's prison administration, arguing that the figures pointed to a systemic crisis rather than isolated incidents.

According to him, prisons in Chhattisgarh are functioning at approximately 150% of their sanctioned capacity, severely undermining access to medical care and essential services. He questioned how such a high mortality figure could be divorced from structural conditions inside jails.

"How has law and order deteriorated to this extent?" Baghel asked in the House. "How many deaths have occurred in the last year, and what are the reasons?"

He further alleged that serious crimes — including murder, robbery, and extortion — had risen by nearly 35%, contending that rising crime rates coupled with prison overcrowding signal a deeper governance breakdown. Opposition members argued that overcrowding, stretched medical infrastructure, and inadequate monitoring mechanisms could be contributing to preventable custodial deaths. They demanded immediate structural reforms, urgent strengthening of prison healthcare systems, and independent oversight.

The death of tribal leader Jeevan Thakur

The debate intensified when Baghel raised the case of tribal leader Jeevan Thakur, who died on December 4, 2025, while in judicial custody — a case that has drawn protests across Bastar, as reported by The Hindu.

According to Deputy CM Sharma's statement in the House:

Thakur was initially lodged in a jail in Kanker district.

He was later shifted to a prison in Raipur following a court order.

After his health deteriorated, he was admitted first to the Raipur district hospital and subsequently to the state-run Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Memorial Hospital, where he died during treatment.

Sharma said the jail superintendent informed the District Judge as per procedure, following which a committee was constituted to conduct an inquiry.

However, Baghel alleged that Thakur — described as a tribal community leader — had been falsely implicated in a case. He further claimed that Thakur was diabetic and did not receive timely medication or proper medical care in custody. According to the Opposition, there were complaints that medical advice was ignored by prison authorities.

Baghel emphasised that tribal communities in Bastar had staged protests demanding accountability and insisted that a magisterial inquiry was insufficient. He demanded that the matter be investigated by a House committee of the Legislative Assembly.

Sharma declined to comment directly on the demand for a legislative panel but maintained that the ongoing judicial inquiry should be allowed to conclude before further action is considered.

Bedlam, slogans, and walkout

As the exchange grew sharper, Congress MLAs stood up, raised slogans against the government, and disrupted proceedings. The Speaker attempted to restore order, but the protest escalated into a walkout by Opposition members.

The confrontation underscored a broader and recurring national concern: the condition of prisons, compliance with NHRC guidelines in custodial deaths, and the adequacy of medical care for inmates — especially undertrial prisoners and members of vulnerable communities.

Larger questions raised

The controversy raises multiple structural questions:

Are judicial and magisterial inquiries sufficient safeguards in custodial death cases? Do these institutional checks and balances against state abuse which are available statutorily actually happen?

Judicial and magisterial inquiries into custodial deaths are not optional safeguards — they are statutorily mandated. Under Section 176(1A) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, a Judicial Magistrate or Metropolitan Magistrate must conduct an inquiry in cases of death, disappearance, or rape in custody, in addition to the regular police investigation. The provision was introduced to address the inherent conflict of interest in police investigating themselves. Its equivalent now exists under Section 196 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, thereby continuing the mandatory judicial oversight framework. On paper, this creates a layered accountability mechanism: FIR registration, police investigation, post-mortem examination, and independent magisterial inquiry — a structure intended to function as a check against state abuse.

However, the real question is not whether safeguards exist, but whether they operate meaningfully. Magisterial inquiries are often delayed, limited in scope, and heavily reliant on official records; their reports are rarely made public, and prosecutions do not automatically follow. Without transparency, time-bound completion, and clear consequences for negligence or abuse, these inquiries risk becoming procedural formalities rather than substantive accountability tools. The statutory framework under Section 176 CrPC and Section 196 BNSS is therefore institutionally sound in theory, but its effectiveness depends entirely on implementation, independence, and follow-through — without which the promise of checks and balances remains fragile.

Is overcrowding directly contributing to preventable fatalities?

Does the state's prison healthcare infrastructure meet constitutional standards under Article 21 jurisprudence?

Should legislative oversight mechanisms supplement judicial inquiries in sensitive cases?

While the government has assured procedural compliance and ongoing reforms, the Opposition has framed the 66 deaths not as statistical coincidence but as evidence of systemic strain.

As reported by The Hindu, the matter remains politically charged, with demands for accountability continuing both inside and outside the Assembly.

The numbers — 66 deaths in 13 months — now stand not merely as a legislative disclosure, but as the focal point of a deeper debate about custodial responsibility, institutional capacity, and the state's duty of care toward those in its custody.



Source: <https://indiacsr.in/nhrc-delegation-assesses-inclusivity-at-iit-roorkee/>

NHRC Delegation Assesses Inclusivity at IIT Roorkee

by India CSR | March 2, 2026 in News

Reading Time: 2 mins read

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(India CSR)