

NHRC begins its online short term internship



National Human Rights Commission of India launched its March 2026 Online Short Term Internship Programme, inaugurated by Chairperson V Ramasubramanian. 80 students from 17 states and UTs were selected from 1,147 applicants for the two-week programme concluding on March 20.

NHRC names 7 winners of 11th annual film contest



NHRC, India, announced the 7 winners of its 'Eleventh Annual Competition for Short Films on Human Rights' for the year 2025.

The Full Commission Jury chose 'Rani' by Sarika Jain from Uttar Pradesh, for the first prize, which also carries a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh.

6 COPS SUSPENDED, AUTOPSY SHOWS 'INJURIES ALL OVER BODY', CONFLICTING POLICE CLAIMS

TN police on backfoot, 26-year-old details custodial 'torture' in dying declaration

Arun Janardhanan
Chennai, March 14

WITH AUTOPSY indicating inconsistencies with the police version and a dying declaration detailing "torture", six police personnel across police stations in Tamil Nadu have been suspended in connection with the custodial death of a 26-year-old Dalit man from Sivaganga district. The Crime Branch-CID has been handed over the investigation into the case.

R Akash Delison was arrested in connection with an assault case on March 6, and died two days later, with police claiming that he had fallen off a bridge while trying to escape. Political leaders have taken up the case, including Thol Thirumavalavan, the president of the VCK, whose main support base is Dalit, and Sivaganga Congress MP Karthi Chidambaram.

The police personnel suspended include Thiruppuvanam police station Inspector Dileepan; Manamadurai Sub-Inspector Gagan; Sivaganga town police station Head Constable Deivendran; SIPCOT police station Head Constable Sarathkumar; Manamadurai Grade-I Constable Kalishwaran; and Thiruppuvanam

Grade-I Constable Manoharan. Deputy IGP, Ramanathapuram Range, N Manivannan ordered their suspension.

A resident of Krishnarajapuram in Manamadurai, Delison was apprehended after he and another person were accused of attacking two individuals with sharp weapons. Police claimed he suffered a severe fracture in a leg after jumping from a bridge while attempting to escape custody.

He died on March 8 while undergoing treatment at Government Rajaji Hospital in Madurai. However, Delison's father A Rajeshkannan accused police of deliberately crushing his son's leg in custody, leading to severe injuries that proved fatal.

In a dying declaration recorded by him at hospital a day before his death, in the presence of Judicial Magistrate Afzal Fathima, Delison said he was blindfolded and assaulted by police officers. Delison says in the declaration, which is part of the writ petition in court: "They tied my eyes with a white cloth... They placed two stones, one under my ankle and another under my knee. They placed a wet sack over my leg. Then, they struck my right leg once with



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great force using an iron rod... immediately upon being hit, the bone broke and protruded out, and there was bleeding."

The Tamil Nadu police has previously been accused by activists of using similar methods of "torture", with a wet sack ensuring that there are no visible external wounds, and any injuries attributed to accidents. On March 11, Rajeshkannan moved the Madras High Court, seeking registration of murder charges against the police personnel responsible as well as charges under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Family members and supporters held protests, blocking a highway.

In hearings before the Madurai Bench of the High Court,

the state denied that Delison had been tortured.

Additional Advocate General M Ajmal Khan said that after Delison suffered injuries in a bid to escape, he was taken to Manamadurai Government Hospital, later shifted to Sivaganga Government Medical College Hospital, and subsequently moved to Government Rajaji Hospital in Madurai after he experienced breathing difficulties. The government also informed the court it had included charges of murder and under the SC/ST Act, and that compensation of Rs 6 lakh had been provided to Delison's family.

The court directed that a postmortem be conducted in the presence of a judicial magistrate, in accordance with guidelines. According to sources, the postmortem report has shown inconsistencies with the initial medico-legal case registered by police.

While Delison's cause of death was noted as fat embolism, the autopsy report has reportedly recorded only clotted blood in the heart chambers, without mentioning fat globules. "The postmortem report showed more than two dozen injuries across Akash's (Delison's)

body, including severe fractures of the tibia and fibula in the right leg, extensive muscle and nerve damage, wounds on the elbows and knees, and multiple abrasions," said a top police officer.

A large internal contusion was recorded in the injured leg area, the officer said, adding that these injuries were inconsistent with a fall, which typically produce fragmented fractures and external abrasions.

The postmortem report has reportedly also raised concerns that mandatory protocols under National Human Rights Commission guidelines for custodial deaths may not have been followed.

Claiming Delison died of "brutal police assault" and lack of timely medical treatment, Thirumavalavan has said that the 26-year-old had opposed drug peddling and the sale of spurious liquor in his locality, and that this angle should be investigated as well.

Karthi Chidambaram, whose Congress is a part of the DMK-led government in the state, has called for wider police reforms, saying custodial deaths were a recurring issue across governments in Tamil Nadu.

NHRC seeks report from Odisha over missing minors

Also flags concern over trafficking cases

RAJEEV RATNAM ■ Bhubaneswar

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognisance of reports of a surge in missing persons cases across the country with Odisha emerging as one of the States with the highest number of trafficking cases involving minor boys according to data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

Concerned over the trend, the NHRC has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police of Odisha seeking a detailed report within two weeks on steps taken or planned to curb the rise in missing minors and trafficking cases.

The rights body has also sought similar reports from authorities in Bihar, Telangana, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, which have also reported a high number of trafficking incidents.

According to NCRB data, Odisha recorded the highest num-

ber of trafficking cases involving minor boys while Rajasthan reported the most cases related to minor girls. Telangana and Maharashtra also figure prominently in trafficking cases involving both boys and girls.

The NHRC expressed concern that despite various initiatives undertaken by State Governments to trace missing persons, recovery rates remain relatively low, raising serious human rights concerns and pointing to systemic gaps in enforcement and rehabilitation mechanisms.

A report published on March 9 indicated that many missing children are allegedly being forced into begging, child labour, prostitution and other criminal activities by trafficking networks.

Taking note of the seriousness of the issue, the NHRC has asked the concerned States to submit updated data from the NCRB and provide details on measures being implemented to prevent trafficking, improve tracing mechanisms and strengthen protection for vulnerable children.

सखी

राज्य सरकार से मांगा जवाब - परिजनों को क्यों न दिया जाए 10 लाख का मुआवजा

सेप्टिक टैंक में गिरने से दो मासूमों की मौत पर एनएचआरसी ने दिया नोटिस

संवाद न्यूज एजेंसी

सोनभद्र। विंढमगंज थाना क्षेत्र के केवाल गांव में दिसंबर 2024 में अचानक सेप्टिक टैंक का ढक्कन टूटने से उसमें गिरकर हुई पांच वर्षीय दो मासूमों की मौत के मामले को राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने संज्ञान लिया है।

जिला प्रशासन की तरफ से चार-चार लाख मुआवजे की उपलब्ध कराई गई रिपोर्ट अपर्याप्त मानते हुए नोटिस जारी किया गया है। राज्य सरकार से जवाब मांगा गया है कि इस मामले में मृतक बच्चों के परिजनों के लिए 10-10 लाख मुआवजे की

विंढमगंज थाना क्षेत्र के केवाल में 2024 में ढक्कन टूटने से हुई थी घटना

10 सितंबर को सुनवाई के बाद डीएम को दिए जांच करने के निर्देश

अनुसंसा क्यों न कर दी जाए। चार सप्ताह में जवाब देना होगा। चंदौली में चकिया क्षेत्र के रहने वाले योगेंद्र कुमार सिंह ने 10 जनवरी 2025 को इस मामले में मानवाधिकार आयोग को पत्र भेजकर हस्तक्षेप की गुहार लगाई है। प्रकरण में 10 सितंबर को सुनवाई करते हुए आयोग ने डीएम को निर्देश दिया कि वह

इस मामले की जांच करें और की गई कार्रवाई की रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करें।

आयोग के निर्देशों के अनुपालन में एसडीएम ने 30 अक्टूबर के पत्र के माध्यम से अनुपालन रिपोर्ट दाखिल की। इसके जरिये अवगत कराया गया कि 17 दिसंबर 2024 को हुई दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण घटना में लगभग पांच वर्ष की आयु के दो नाबालिग एक सेप्टिक टैंक के अंदर गिर कर डूब गए।

उनके कानूनी वारिसों को चार-चार लाख की वित्तीय सहायता प्राकृतिक आपदा रकत कोष के जरिए उपलब्ध कराई जा चुकी है।

रिपोर्ट को दृष्टिगत रखते हुए गत नौ मार्च को इस मामले की सुनवाई की गई। आयोग ने पाया कि यह घोर लापरवाही है। इसके लिए सरकारी तंत्र परोक्ष रूप से उत्तरदायी है क्योंकि इसमें दोनों मृतकों के मानवाधिकारों का उल्लंघन हुआ है।

मुख्य सचिव को नोटिस जारी करते हुए पूछा गया है कि मृतक के परिजनों (कानूनी वारिसों) को भुगतान की जाने वाली 4 लाख की मुआवजा राशि को बढ़ाकर 10 लाख रुपये करने की अनुसंसा क्यों न कर दी जाए। इसके संबंध में चार सप्ताह के भीतर जवाब प्रस्तुत करने का निर्देश दिया गया है।



Source: <https://kalingatv.com/odisha/nhrc-secretary-general-bharat-lal-visits-kiit-and-kiss/>

NHRC Secretary General Bharat Lal visits KIIT and KISS

In his speech he emphasised that empathy and compassion form the core of the entire framework of human rights

By Himanshu Last updated Mar 14, 2026

Bhubaneswar: March 14: Education is the most powerful tool for transforming lives and building a just and inclusive society, said Bharat Lal, Secretary General of the National Human Rights Commission, during his visit to KIIT and KISS on Saturday.

Addressing students at KISS, Lal said that education played a decisive role in shaping his own life and career. "If I have reached this position today, it is because of education. Without education, one cannot achieve much," he said, urging students to make the best use of their time to gain knowledge and wisdom.

"I came here to learn something for KIIT and KISS. I compliment the Founder of these institutes Dr Achyuta Samanta for this beautiful work. Education shapes the mind, culture, behaviour and thinking and KISS is life transforming with its education", he said.

Lal encouraged students to develop strong character and a spirit of helping others. According to him, human rights fundamentally revolve around removing social stigma and ensuring dignity and equality for every individual.

Later, while delivering a lecture under the KIIT Knowledge Tree series, Lal reiterated that education shapes a person's culture, behaviour, and thinking.

"Empathy and compassion form the core of the entire framework of human rights. Protection of human rights is in our DNA," he said.

Advertisement

He called upon the younger generation to become custodians of human rights and to uphold the values of equality and dignity for all.

Highlighting contemporary challenges, he pointed out that human rights and labour conditions are increasingly becoming central to global economic growth. "If businesses want to create wealth in the future, they must promote workers' welfare and protect the environment," he said, adding that improving living and working conditions is essential to avoid potential trade barriers in the global economy.

Lal also spoke about the importance of institutional mechanisms for safeguarding human rights in India. He noted that the Indian Constitution guarantees access to justice under Article 32 of the Constitution of India, enabling citizens to seek remedies when their rights are violated. "Any person can approach the Human Rights Commission. In 2023-24 alone, the commission received more than 300 complaints every day," he said.

Stressing the role of governance in protecting human rights, he said that good public service delivery and transparency are critical. Corruption and nepotism, he warned, undermine justice and weaken institutions.

The interaction was attended by Dr Samanta and other senior functionaries of KIIT including the Vice Chancellor Prof Saranjit Singh, pro Vice Chancellor Prof Raju K D students, faculty members and others.



Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mysuru/nhrc-chief-to-students-be-cautious-about-free-downloads/articleshow/129578992.cms>

NHRC chief to students: Be cautious about free downloads

Mar 15, 2026, 12.01 AM IST

Mysuru: Advising law students to be cautious while downloading free products or services online, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) chairman Justice V Ramasubramanian on Saturday said privacy protection does not begin with the law or the state alone, but with individual responsibility. "If one does not care about their own data, no legal system can fully protect them," he said while delivering a lecture on "Privacy, Technology, and Surveillance: The Future of Human Rights in the Digital Age" at JSS Law College.

Justice Ramasubramanian noted that "piracy" and "privacy" sound similar, adding that the connection is not accidental. "If we are not bothered about committing piracy, others may not be bothered about infringing our privacy. That is the first moral lesson in the digital world," he remarked.

He said that people increasingly prefer free articles, music, downloads, and services over paid versions. Recalling a conversation with an information technologist, he said, "If somebody is giving a product or service free of cost, then the real product is you." The moment users click a free download, cookies get activated, permissions are granted, and personal data begins to move without their full awareness, he explained.

Calling this the "first level of privacy infringement," Justice Ramasubramanian said people later complain that companies are stealing data or that the govt is watching them, while many risks begin with the user's own carelessness.

Citing cybercrime cases, he said stolen data, hacked devices, and leaked images often lead to blackmail, humiliation, and financial loss.

He added that people wrongly assume that free apps come with no cost. "Downloading a free app is like leaving your door open for thieves," he cautioned, explaining that cybercriminals can easily steal personal data through such apps.

JSS Law College Principal N Vanishree was present.



Source: <https://tmv.in/article/nhrc-seeks-report-from-delhi-police-over-alleged-assault-on-manipuri-woman-date=2026-03-15>

NHRC seeks report from Delhi Police over alleged assault on Manipuri woman

Bavana Guntha

March 15, 2026

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a notice to the Commissioner of Delhi Police over reports that a woman from Manipur was allegedly assaulted in South Delhi after she objected to lewd and racial remarks made by a group of boys.

Taking suo motu cognisance of media reports, the Commission has sought a detailed report from the police within two weeks . The report is expected to include the current health condition of the victim and the status of the investigation .

According to reports, the incident took place on March 8 , observed globally as International Women's Day. The woman was reportedly taking photographs with a friend at a park in the Malviya Nagar area of South Delhi when a group of boys allegedly began passing lewd comments and racial slurs .

When the woman objected to their behaviour, the situation reportedly escalated and she was physically assaulted . The incident came to light through a media report published on March 10, following which the NHRC took note of the matter.

The Commission has asked the police to clarify the action taken so far and the progress of the investigation , and will review the report once it is submitted.



Source: <https://www.counterview.net/2026/03/rights-group-moves-nhrc-over-alleged.html>

Rights group moves NHRC over alleged BSF firing on civilians in South Salmara–Mankachar

Sunday, March 15, 2026

By A Representative

A complaint has been submitted to the National Human Rights Commission alleging that personnel of the Border Security Force opened fire on two civilian brothers in Assam's South Salmara–Mankachar District, leaving both critically injured.

According to the complaint filed by Kirity Roy, Secretary of Banglar Manabadhikar Suraksha Mancha and National Convenor of Programme Against Custodial Torture and Impunity, the incident occurred during the intervening night of 8–9 March at around 2:30 a.m. in Village Kanaimara 1st Part. Rashidul Islam and his younger brother Rejabul Sk., residents of the village, had reportedly gone to catch fish in a nearby river when BSF personnel posted at OP No. 3 under BOP Dipchar allegedly opened fire on them.

The complaint states that the river where the brothers were fishing is located well within Indian territory, about one and a half kilometres from the international border with Bangladesh. Both victims sustained severe gunshot injuries. Rashidul Islam reportedly suffered a bullet injury to the abdomen, while Rejabul Sk. sustained a critical head injury. They are currently undergoing treatment at a private medical facility in Guwahati and are said to be in critical condition.

The victims' family has alleged that the firing took place without warning and that the BSF personnel left the spot after the incident. Local villagers and family members reportedly rushed to the scene after hearing gunshots and transported the injured men to a nearby hospital. The complaint further claims that no illegal items were recovered from the victims and that no assistance was provided by the personnel involved.

The wife of one of the injured men, identified as Rejina, reportedly attempted to file a complaint with the police. According to the submission, she approached the police station in Mankachar on 10 March seeking registration of an FIR but was directed to the police station in South Salmara. When she submitted the complaint there, it was received but no receipt or diary number was provided and the complaint was not registered as an FIR, the petition states.

The representation to the commission also alleges that the failure of the police to register the complaint constitutes neglect of statutory duty in relation to a cognisable offence. After being unable to secure action locally, the complainant said that Rejina sent the complaint electronically to the Superintendent of Police of South Salmara–Mankachar.

The complaint urges the National Human Rights Commission to order an independent investigation into the incident, direct the registration of an FIR against the personnel involved, ensure proper medical treatment for the injured victims at government expense, and provide compensation to the victims and their families.

The petition also contends that the incident amounts to violations of constitutional protections under Articles 14, 19 and 21, as well as obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which India is a party.



Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/buddhism-constitutes-a-great-indian-heritage-say-experts/articleshow/129579996.cms>

Buddhism constitutes a great Indian heritage, say experts

TNN | Mar 15, 2026, 12.13 AM IST

Patna: Eminent national and state experts at the inaugural plenary session of a two-day conclave that began at Bihar Museum in Patna on Saturday deliberated on the theme 'Buddhist heritage, culture and sustainability'.

Speakers said Buddhism was "not a rigid doctrine" and constituted a great Indian heritage that has given international recognition not only to India but also to Bihar, the seat of its origin, growth and global spread.

Leading the discussion, former India foreign secretary and president of India International Centre (IIC) Shyam Sharan described Buddhism as a major Indian heritage, saying that "it was remarkable of it that it was not a rigid doctrine" and therefore spread to China, Tibet, Japan, countries of South East Asia, Nepal and Bhutan.

"Buddhism did not impose any rigid doctrine, but provided sparks that led to the emergence of multi-cultural heritage," Sharan said, adding that each country produced "its own kind of Buddhist textual heritage", which later spread globally and was preserved in the form of scriptures and manuscripts. He said manuscripts from ancient centres of Buddhist learning such as Nalanda and other places were later taken to their countries by colonial powers and preserved in various universities. He added that the IIC has already collected and digitised 4,000 such manuscripts.

The conclave was organised by the civil society group Deshkal Society as part of the eighth edition of its Bodh Gaya Global Dialogues, with Bihar Museum and the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) as supporting partners. Besides Sharan, speakers included former diplomat and National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) member D M Mulay, Bihar Museum director general Anjani Kumar Singh, senior columnist Harish Khare, author Arvind Mohan, former minister and senior JD(U) functionary Neeraj Kumar, and ICWA representative Subodh Chandra Bharti.

Singh said while he was abroad conceptualising the format of Bihar Museum according to global standards, he realised that people in the West were aware of Nalanda and Bodh Gaya but not about Patna and Bihar with which the two are associated. "Therefore, the Buddhist heritage of Bihar and Patna is an important aspect that gives global identity not only to them, but also to India," he said.

Mulay presented a short text imagining Buddha narrating his thoughts in the context of present-day global conflicts. When asked by his disciple about the path to be chosen today, Buddha replied, "Be your own path, so that others follow you... Technology, politics and economics should be aligned with wisdom and justice."

JD(U) functionary Neeraj Kumar highlighted the works carried out by chief minister Nitish Kumar to strengthen Bihar's Buddhist heritage and promote spiritual tourism, which has been attracting visitors in large numbers. Deshkal Society founder Sanjay Kumar welcomed the guests while Dr Shruti from Haryana conducted the proceedings.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/chennai/tamil-nadu-police-on-backfoot-26-year-old-details-custodial-torture-in-dying-declaration-10582321/lite/>

Tamil Nadu police on backfoot, 26-year-old details custodial 'torture' in dying declaration

Six policemen suspended, autopsy shows "injuries all over body", has inconsistencies with police claims

Written by: Arun Janardhanan

5 min read Chennai Updated: Mar 15, 2026 08:10 AM IST

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R Akash Delison was arrested in connection with an assault case on March 6, and died two days later, with police claiming that he had fallen off a bridge while trying to escape.

Political leaders have taken up the case, including Thol Thirumavalavan, the president of the VCK, whose main support base is Dalit, and Sivaganga Congress MP Karthi Chidambaram.

The police personnel suspended include Thiruppuvanam Police Station Inspector Dileepan; Manamadurai Sub-Inspector Gagan; Sivaganga Town Police Station Head Constable Deivendran; SIPCOT Police Station Head Constable Sarathkumar; Manamadurai Grade-I Constable Kalishwaran; and Thiruppuvanam Grade-I Constable Manoharan. Deputy Inspector General of Police, Ramanathapuram Range, N Manivannan ordered their suspension.

A resident of Krishnarajapuram in Manamadurai, Delison was apprehended after he and another person were accused of attacking two individuals with sharp weapons. Police claimed the 26-year-old suffered a severe fracture in a leg after jumping from a bridge while attempting to escape custody. He died on March 8 while undergoing treatment at Government Rajaji Hospital in Madurai.

However, Delison's father A Rajeshkannan accused police of deliberately crushing his son's leg in custody, leading to severe injuries that proved fatal. In a dying declaration recorded by him at hospital a day before his death, in the presence of Judicial Magistrate Afzal Fathima, Delison said he was blindfolded and assaulted by police officers. Delison says in the declaration, which is part of the writ petition in court: "They tied my eyes with a white cloth... They placed two stones, one under my ankle and another under my knee. They placed a wet sack over my leg. Then, they struck my right leg once with great force using an iron rod... Immediately upon being hit, the bone broke and protruded out, and there was bleeding."

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As per sources, the postmortem report has shown inconsistencies with the initial medico-legal case registered by police. While Delison's cause of death was noted as fat embolism, the autopsy report has reportedly recorded only clotted blood in the heart chambers, without mentioning fat globules.

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Karthi Chidambaram, whose Congress is a part of the DMK-led government in the state, has called for wider police reforms, saying custodial deaths were a recurring issue across governments in Tamil Nadu.



Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/manipur/attack-on-manipur-woman-nhrc-issues-notice-to-delhi-police/article70740010.ece>

Attack on Manipur woman: NHRC issues notice to Delhi Police

Police apprehended four minors for the attack, in which she suffered injuries to her face, and for hurling racial and sexual slurs at her

Updated - March 14, 2026 10:46 am IST - New Delhi

The Hindu Bureau

A lawyer who migrated from Manipur to Delhi after ethnic violence hit her homeland, and was attacked in Delhi last week talks to her lawyer, in New Delhi on March 12, 2026. | Photo Credit: Shashi Shekhar Kashyap

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Friday (March 13, 2025) took suo motu cognisance of an incident of physical assault on a woman from Manipur in south Delhi on March 8.

A day later, the police apprehended four minors for the attack, in which she suffered injuries to her face, and for hurling racial and sexual slurs at her. Observing that the incident raised a serious issue of the violation of the victim's rights, the NHRC has issued a notice to Delhi Police Commissioner Satish Golchha, seeking a detailed report on the matter within two weeks.

Woman from Manipur assaulted in Saket for objecting to harassment

The police have also been directed to include the status of the victim's health and details of the investigation in the report.



Source: <https://nenow.in/north-east-news/manipur/nhrc-issues-notice-to-delhi-police-over-manipur-woman-assault.html>

NHRC issues notice to Delhi Police over Manipur woman assault

by NE NOW NEWS March 14, 2026 8: 59 am

Guwahati: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Friday issued a notice to the Delhi Police Commissioner following reports that a woman from Manipur was allegedly attacked in south Delhi after confronting a group of boys over offensive and racially abusive remarks.

The NHRC stated that it took suo motu cognisance of media coverage regarding the alleged incident, which reportedly occurred on March 8 in the Malviya Nagar area.

Reports say the woman was taking photographs with a friend at a local park when a group of boys allegedly made lewd and racially insensitive comments. Upon objecting, she was reportedly physically assaulted.

The Commission has directed the police to provide a detailed update within two weeks, including the victim's health status and the progress of the investigation. March 8 also marks International Women's Day globally.

In another case, the NHRC took suo motu notice of a construction site accident near Bilaspur on March 9, in which seven workers reportedly died and three others were injured after a wall collapsed.

Around ten additional workers were feared trapped under the debris.

Notices have been sent to the Haryana Chief Secretary and the Gurugram Police Commissioner, requesting a report within two weeks.

The report should cover the condition of the injured workers, steps taken in the investigation, and details of any compensation provided to the families of the deceased and the injured.



Source: <https://www.indiatodayne.in/manipur/story/nhrc-seeks-report-from-delhi-police-over-assault-on-manipur-woman-1359422-2026-03-14>

NHRC seeks report from Delhi Police over assault on Manipur woman

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on March 13 issued a notice to the Delhi Police commissioner over reports that a woman from Manipur was allegedly assaulted after she objected to “lewd and racial abuse” by a group of boys in south Delhi.

India TodayNE | Mar 14, 2026,

Updated Mar 14, 2026, 8:24 AM IST

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on March 13 issued a notice to the Delhi Police commissioner over reports that a woman from Manipur was allegedly assaulted after she objected to “lewd and racial abuse” by a group of boys in south Delhi.

In a statement, the NHRC said it had taken suo motu cognisance of a media report about the incident that allegedly took place on March 8 in the Malviya Nagar area.

According to the report, the woman was clicking pictures with a friend at a park when the group of boys allegedly made lewd and racially abusive remarks. When she objected, she was reportedly physically assaulted.

The Commission has asked the police to submit a detailed report within two weeks. The report is expected to include the status of the victim’s health and the progress of the investigation.

March 8 is observed globally as International Women's Day.

In a separate development, the NHRC also took suo motu cognisance of the reported death of seven workers and injuries to three others after a wall collapsed at a construction site near the Bilaspur area on March 9.

The incident reportedly occurred at a site where a sewage treatment plant for an upcoming residential project was under construction. Around ten more workers were feared trapped under the debris.

The Commission has issued notices to the chief secretary of Haryana and the police commissioner of Gurugram, seeking a report within two weeks.

The report is expected to include details on the health status of the injured workers, progress of the investigation and information on compensation, if any, provided to the families of the deceased and the injured.



Source: <https://kalingatv.com/odisha/human-trafficking-odisha-tops-cases-for-minor-boys-nhrc-issues-notice-to-5-states/>

Human Trafficking: Odisha Tops Cases for Minor Boys; NHRC Issues Notice to 5 States

NHRC Issues Notices to Odisha, Bihar, Telangana, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan Over Trafficking Concerns

By Vinay Kakkad On Mar 14, 2026

After disturbing reports about human trafficking and rising number of missing people, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) sent out official notices to the Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of five states—Odisha, Bihar, Telangana, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan.

The Commission took suo motu cognizance of the issue following media reports and National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data observing Odisha tops the list for human trafficking, especially when it comes to trafficking minor boys, with Bihar running close behind. When it comes to minor girls, Rajasthan stands out for the highest number of cases.



Source: https://inshorts.com/en/amp_news/case-of-rising-number-of-missing-people-taken-up-by-human-rights-body--5-states-get-notice-1773482064835

Case of rising number of missing people taken up by human rights body; 5 states get notice

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India has taken suo motu cognizance of reports of increasing number of missing people in the country and the poor record in tracing them. As reports stated that maximum cases of human trafficking were registered in Odisha, Bihar, Telangana, Rajasthan and Maharashtra, NHRC issued notices to the states, seeking detailed reports within two weeks.

The NHRC expressed grave concern over the suspected fate of these victims, noting that missing children are often coerced into illegal activities such as forced begging, child labor, and prostitution. Even with steps taken by the states, the number of missing people keeps climbing, and finding them is still a struggle. It's a clear violation of human rights.

Odisha has consistently struggled with high trafficking rates, The state recorded 1,475 victims in 2021 and 1,120 in 2022, reporting 1,305 victims in 2023. This NCRB data show persistence in this genre of crime.

The governments of the five states have been directed to submit a detailed report within two weeks. This report must outline the current status of missing persons and the specific steps being taken or proposed to curb trafficking and improve recovery rates. NHRC also asked the NCRB for updated stats on missing persons from these states to aid their investigation.



Source: <https://www.orissapost.com/nhrc-seeks-report-from-govt-on-missing-persons/>

NHRC seeks report from govt on missing persons

Post News Network

Updated: March 14th, 2026, 10:03 IST in Metro

Bhubaneswar: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognizance of reports highlighting the rising number of missing persons and poor recovery rates in several states, including Odisha, and has sought a detailed report from the state government within two weeks.

According to reports cited by the commission, data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) indicates that Odisha records one of the highest numbers of human trafficking cases in the country. The state reportedly tops the list for trafficking of minor boys, followed by Bihar. In cases involving trafficking of minor girls, Rajasthan has reported the highest number.

Taking serious note of the issue, the NHRC has issued notices to the chief secretaries and directors general of police of five states—Odisha, Bihar, Telangana, Maharashtra and Rajasthan—seeking detailed information on the situation. The commission has asked the Odisha government to submit a comprehensive report outlining the steps taken or proposed to tackle the increasing number of missing persons, particularly children. The report is also expected to explain measures being implemented to prevent trafficking and improve the tracing and rescue of missing individuals. The NHRC observed that if the reports are accurate, the situation raises serious concerns about human rights violations. Many missing children are suspected to have been forced into begging, child labour, prostitution and other illegal activities by trafficking networks.

The commission has also directed NCRB to provide the latest statistical data on missing persons and trafficking cases in the five states within the same two-week timeframe. Human rights activists have long expressed concern over trafficking routes operating through eastern India, with Odisha often cited as a vulnerable region due to migration, poverty and cross-state trafficking networks. The latest action by the NHRC is expected to put renewed focus on the issue and prompt stronger coordination between law-enforcement agencies and child protection authorities.



Source: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2026/Mar/14/bhopal-diary-mowgli-home-loses-its-langdi-baghin>

Bhopal Diary | Mowgli's home loses its Langdi Baghin

Throughout her life, Langdi also gave birth to 10 cubs, contributing significantly to the growth of the tiger population in the reserve.

Anuraag Singh

Updated on: 14 Mar 2026, 9:46 am

2 min read

An 18-year-old tigress, who got the name Langdi Baghin due to her congenital deformity-caused distinctive limp, died following age-related health issues at the Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) recently. The PTR is also famous as The Jungle Book's Mowgli's home. Born in 2008, Langdi was the half-sister (born from the same biological mother, but in a different litter) of the legendary tigress and supermom Collarwali, who gave birth to 29 cubs before passing away in January 2022 at PTR. Throughout her life, Langdi also gave birth to 10 cubs, contributing significantly to the growth of the tiger population in the reserve.

Probe into cannon use from historic fort

A probe has been ordered by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), and notice has been issued to multiple central and state government officials over a complaint pertaining to "unsafe and unauthorised" use of cannon on the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)-protected historic Raisen Fort in central MP's Raisen district. In the complaint it has been alleged that unauthorised and unsafe use of the cannon was taking place daily at the historic fort and vibrations and noise from firing the cannon were damaging the ancient structure. The complainant alleged that videos on social media showed individuals making provocative statements.

State BJP president's daughter passes away

State BJP president and second-time MLA from Betul district Hemant Khandelwal's 34-year-old special child daughter passed away recently due to cardiac arrest following prolonged illness. Surabhi Khandelwal died on Wednesday due to sudden deterioration of health after a routine physiotherapy session. Her last rites were performed in native town Betul. She was battling serious health issues for a long time, and the family was taking her special care through regular treatment. The BJP leader had served as an MP from 2008 to 09 in the 14th Lok Sabha and as an MLA in 2013 from his current legislative Assembly seat.



Source:

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2026/Mar/14/hindalco-hosts-national-human-rights-conference-in-bhubaneswar>

Hindalco hosts National Human Rights Conference in Bhubaneswar

The conference featured three thematic panel discussions addressing key human rights issues.

Express News Service

Updated on: 14 Mar 2026, 10:25 am

1 min read

BHUBANESWAR: Hindalco Industries Limited on Friday organised a national-level Human Rights Sensitization Conference in Bhubaneswar, bringing together policymakers, jurists, corporate leaders and civil society representatives from across the country for deliberations on rights-based development and ethical governance. The conference, held at the Mayfair Convention in collaboration with Human Rights Front, aimed to bring together diverse stakeholders to build a common and deeper understanding of human rights standards across industries.

The inaugural session featured member of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Dr Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, former chairperson of the Odisha Human Rights Commission Justice Bimala Prasad Das, former member of OHRC Asim Amitabh Das, vice-chancellor of Maa Manikeswari University, Kalahandi Nibedita Nath, chief human resources officer of Hindalco Industries Limited Samik Basu, senior vice-president VR Shankar and president HR TM Prakash.

Delivering the keynote address, Basu said, "At Hindalco, respect for human rights is fundamental to how we operate. Anchored in our values of Integrity, Commitment and Seamlessness, we remain dedicated to building safe, inclusive and responsible workplaces. Safety and well-being lie at the core of our people philosophy, and this conference reinforces our belief that sustainable growth is only possible when dignity and care for every individual guide every decision," he said.

The conference featured three thematic panel discussions addressing key human rights issues. The first panel discussion focused on 'Rights-Based Development: Advancing Equity, Inclusion and Institutional Accountability'. The second examined 'Corporate Responsibility and ESG', focusing on ethical business practices and compliance with national and global human rights standards.

The final panel addressed 'Labour Codes and Human Rights: Balancing Ease of Doing Business with Worker Protection'.



Source: <https://starofmysore.com/use-social-media-with-utmost-caution/>

'Use social media with utmost caution'

March 14, 2026

Mysore/Mysuru: "Social media must be used very cautiously and with alertness," opined National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairman Justice V. Ramasubramanian, also a former Supreme Court Judge.

He was delivering a talk on the subject 'Privacy, Technology and Surveillance: The Future of Human Rights in the Digital Era' at a programme organised by JSSLC Alumni Association & Neeti Forum at Silver Jubilee Hall in JSS Law College (JSSLC) premises in Kuvempunagar here this morning.

Underlining the dangers of downloading everything from social media and the internet just because they are accessible freely most of the times, Justice Ramasubramanian said, there are chances of data theft by unscrupulous elements, who may later use the stolen data for bad intention, malicious propaganda or other criminal purposes.

Highlighting the salient features of the law meant for protecting privacy, he said that social media users can use this law to protect themselves against malicious intent. "We should be careful and alert enough to save ourselves from becoming victims of online fraudulent ways and methods in this digital era. We should not open our doors for fraudsters to prey on us and then blame the law, the Police or other enforcement agencies for having become victims of our own negligence," he maintained.

Pointing out that the Right of Privacy has its origins in the USA dating back to 1680, he said this law is being regularly updated in keeping with the times and to take on the newer challenges in this era of digital world.

Expressing concern over rising Cyber crimes and frauds, he said that latest explorations in technology must be used for tackling such acts.

JSS Law College Principal Dr. N. Vanishree, Controller of Examinations Prof. P. Shivananda Bharathi and IQAC Co-ordinator Dr. A.T. Jagadish were present.



Source: <https://odishabarta.com/hindalco-hosts-national-human-rights-conference-in-bhubaneswar-experts-call-for-rights-based-development-and-ethical-governance/>

Hindalco hosts National Human Rights Conference in Bhubaneswar; Experts call for rights-based development and ethical governance

Odishabarta March 14, 2026

BHUBANESWAR, MARCH 13, 2026: Reinforcing its commitment to responsible corporate citizenship and inclusive development, Hindalco Industries Limited on Friday organized a National-level Human Rights Sensitization Conference in Bhubaneswar, bringing together policymakers, jurists, corporate leaders and civil society representatives from across the country for deliberations on rights-based development and ethical governance. The conference, held at the Mayfair Convention in collaboration with Human Rights Front, aimed to bring together diverse stakeholders to build a common and deeper understanding of human rights standards across industries. The initiative encouraged knowledge sharing on best practices for integrating these principles into business operations while strengthening corporate responsibility frameworks aligned with national and international expectations. By enabling cross-sector collaboration, the conference also sought to identify risks, bridge gaps and support the development of resilient, human rights-conscious organizations committed to responsible business conduct.

The inaugural session featured Dr. Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, Hon'ble Member of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC); Justice Bimala Prasad Das, former Chairperson of the Odisha Human Rights Commission; Shri Asim Amitabh Das, former Member of the OHRC; Dr. Nibedita Nath, Vice Chancellor of Maa Manikeswari University, Kalahandi; and Shri Samik Basu, Chief Human Resources Officer of Hindalco Industries Limited. Shri V.R. Shankar, Senior President and Chief Legal Officer, Hindalco; and Shri T. M. Prakash, President-HR, Hindalco and Conference Convener were also present on the occasion.

Delivering the keynote address, Shri Samik Basu emphasized the importance of embedding human rights values in corporate governance and development initiatives. "At Hindalco, respect for human rights is fundamental to how we operate. Anchored in our values of Integrity, Commitment and Seamlessness, we remain dedicated to building safe, inclusive and responsible workplaces. Safety and well-being lie at the core of our people philosophy, and this conference reinforces our belief that sustainable growth is only possible when dignity and care for every individual guide every decision," said Shri Basu emphasizing the company's values-driven approach.

Shri Basu further highlighted that respect for human rights is integral to the company's responsible business practices, strengthening trust, reducing risks and enhancing long-term resilience.

The company's leadership in global ESG indices — including its top ranking as the World's Most Sustainable Aluminium Company with an 87-point Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA) score — reflects its strong social, environmental and governance performance. A high ESG score of 89 in the S&P Global ESG assessment has further reinforced investor confidence and operational credibility while creating wider social impact through community development and ethical operations.

Hindalco ranked as the world's most sustainable aluminium company in the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) for six consecutive years, reinforcing the company's ability to compete in global markets where sustainability increasingly determines access.

The conference featured three thematic panel discussions addressing key human rights issues.

The first panel discussion focused on "Rights-Based Development: Advancing Equity, Inclusion and Institutional Accountability." Moderated by senior journalist and former Bureau Chief of BBC Shri Sandeep Sahu, the panel

included Prof. (Dr.) Kumarbar Das, former Vice-Chancellor of FM University; Shri V.R. Shankar, Senior President & Chief Legal Officer of Hindalco; Jagadananda, former State Information Commissioner; Dr. Kalpana Mallick, Member of the Odisha State Commission for Women; and Dr. Debasish Mahapatra, Associate Professor and Head of the Centre for Social Research & Innovation at KIIT University.

The second panel discussion examined “Corporate Responsibility and ESG,” focusing on ethical business practices and compliance with national and global human rights standards.

The session was moderated by Shri Nageswar Pattanaik, former Bureau Chief of The Economic Times, with panelists including Shri Pratul Narayan, Associate Director – ESG Advisory; Dr. Justice D. P. Choudhury, former Judge of the Orissa High Court; Dr. Rina Routray, Chairperson of Mahila Atmanirvar Abhiyan; and Dr. Ambika Prasad Nanda, Mentor at the Centre for Research & Community Action.

The final panel discussion addressed “Labour Codes and Human Rights: Balancing Ease of Doing Business with Worker Protection.” Moderated by Shri Ganga C. Sharma, MD & CEO of Cetizion Verifica Pvt Ltd, the panel featured Shri K. N. Gopinath, National Secretary of CITU; Shri Daniel Umi, South Asia Head of Aide et Action; Shri Girish Chandra Arya, All India Secretary of BMS; and Dr. Ashok Kumar Sahu, former Executive Director (H&A) of NALCO. The conference also recognized several Human Rights Defenders for their contributions to promoting social justice.

The valedictory session included Shri Sitansu Mohan Dwibedy, Chairman of the Odisha State Bar Council; Smt. Namrata Chadha, former Member of the Odisha State Commission for Women; Shri Basudeb Bhatta, President of Odisha Abhibhabak Mahasangha; Dr. Supriya Pattanayak, Vice Chancellor of Centurion University; and Shri T. M. Prakash, President–HR, Hindalco.

Notably, the initiative builds on Hindalco’s earlier effort to create a platform for dialogue on human rights. The journey began in 2024 when the company organized a similar conference in collaboration with the Odisha Human Rights Commission. With the present edition expanded to the national level, Hindalco aims to sustain and strengthen this platform as a forum for mutual learning, collaboration and a shared commitment to advancing human rights and responsible business practices across the country.



Source: <https://www.babushahi.com/view-news.php?id=218412>

Shanty, Chairman, Human Rights Commission, visits Ferozepur; reviews human rights protection measures

By : Harish Monga

First Published : Saturday, Mar 14, 2026 06:47 PM

Updated : Saturday, Mar 14, 2026 06:55 PM

Ferozepur, March 14, 2026: Member of the Punjab State and Union Territory Chandigarh Human Rights Commission, Padma Shri Dr Jatinder Singh Shanty, visited Ferozepur and held a special meeting with civil and police officials, representatives of NGOs, sarpanches and social workers at the District Administrative Complex. Addressing the gathering, Dr Shanty said that the Punjab Human Rights Commission remains committed and continuously active in safeguarding human rights. As part of its awareness campaign, the commission is interacting with NGOs, senior citizens, lawyers, doctors, students, traders and community leaders across districts to educate them about human rights and their protection.

He informed that new advisories have been issued to strengthen the protection of human rights. According to the advisory, no hospital can detain a patient or a deceased body due to unpaid medical bills. If such incidents occur, an FIR will be registered, and strict action will be taken. He also stressed that every hospital must have essential facilities such as a mortuary and ambulance services. Contractors employing sanitation workers must ensure safety equipment and insurance coverage for them. Free cremation facilities will also be ensured for destitute persons.

Dr Shanty further announced that the commission will form a 15-member district-level core group in every district of Punjab to monitor human rights violations and assist the administration in resolving minor complaints locally. These groups will include human rights activists, lawyers and other experts, and will particularly help people who are unable to approach the commission in Chandigarh.

He also shared that complaints related to human rights violations can be lodged through the WhatsApp helpline number 98554-75547, which will remain active round the clock.

Speaking about health-related human rights, Dr Shanti clarified that hospitals cannot refuse to hand over the body of a deceased patient due to pending bills, as it is against the guidelines of the NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. Hospitals should instead obtain a declaration from the family before releasing the body. He also directed that hospitals must clearly display treatment charges.

Earlier, Dr Shanty visited the Civil Hospital Ferozepur to review healthcare facilities and directed authorities to ensure cleanliness, proper medical services and humane treatment for patients. He also inspected a police station and directed officials to ensure basic amenities, including the construction of separate toilets for women.

During the meeting, he interacted with NGOs and sarpanches and appreciated their role in social service and their efforts in helping people during floods and other natural disasters.

Among those present were ADC(D), Krishna Pal Rajput, SDM Ferozepur Abhishek Sharma, SDM Zira Arvinder Pal Singh, SDM Guru Har Sahai Beant Singh Sidhu, SP Manjit Singh, RTA Tushita Gulati, sarpanches from six blocks, NGO representatives and other prominent citizens.

Source: <https://www.inventiva.co.in/trends/not-a-leave-but-a-clean-toilet-that-is-all-she-needs-on-the-supreme-courts-menstrual-leave-ruling-and-the-sanitation-crisis-that-india-refuses-to-see/>

Not A Leave. But A Clean Toilet. That Is All She Needs- On The Supreme Court's Menstrual Leave Ruling, And The Sanitation Crisis That India Refuses To See!

Priyanka Chakraborty

There is a woman driving a freight train through rural Madhya Pradesh at 2 a.m. The locomotive has no toilet. She has not drunk water since her shift began eight hours ago. She is menstruating. She cannot stop the train. She cannot step off. She cannot ask her male co-driver to leave. She wears a sanitary pad and hopes for the best. There is another woman, younger, bent double in the sugarcane fields of Beed district in Maharashtra. She earns ₹500 a day. Her contractor has told her that if she misses a single day — one day — the deduction will begin. She has been bleeding heavily for two years. She has gone to a doctor. The doctor has told her that her uterus is “damaged” and may become cancerous if not removed. She is 24 years old. She consents to the surgery. She will never menstruate again. She will never conceive again. She goes back to the fields within weeks. And now, in a courtroom in New Delhi, a judge considers a PIL asking for paid menstrual leave for women across the country. The Chief Justice of India, Justice Surya Kant, turns it down. His reasoning: employers will stop hiring women if they are compelled to give them paid leave for periods. “The moment you say it is compulsory in law, nobody will give them jobs,” he says. The observation is made to protect women, not to dismiss them. He is not wrong. But he is answering the wrong question (perhaps).

What the Supreme Court Got Right

On March 13, 2026, the Supreme Court of India disposed of a public interest litigation filed by advocate Shailendra Mani Tripathi — the third such petition on the same issue — seeking a nationwide policy mandating paid menstrual leave for all women students and employees. This was not the first time the court had turned down this particular demand. Earlier benches in February 2023 and July 2024 had done the same, sending the petitioner to the government with directions to frame a policy through stakeholder consultation.

The bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi were blunt about why they found the petition troubling. A mandatory menstrual leave law, the CJI cautioned, would unintentionally reinforce the very stereotypes it sought to dismantle — the stereotype that women are biologically unreliable employees, that their bodies are a liability, that their careers must be structured around their cycles. “These pleas are made to create fear, to call women inferior,” CJI Kant observed. Voluntary implementation by willing employers, the bench suggested, was excellent. Judicial mandation was a different matter.

Former Union Minister Smriti Irani had made a similar argument years earlier, when she said that menstruation is not a handicap. Menstruation is not a disease. It is a normal biological function that approximately half the human race experiences for a significant portion of their lives. To codify it as a formal ground for paid leave, however well-intentioned, risks institutionalising the premise that women are different from men in ways that affect their working capacity. And as the court correctly observed, that institutionalisation has a cost. Employers who think in profit margins, not in principles, will simply choose not to hire the person who comes with a mandatory additional leave burden attached.

But here is the thing about the court's reasoning, and about every similar argument made over the past decade in this debate: it is addressing a demand that was born out of desperation.

Women are not asking for menstrual leave because they want time off. They are asking for it because they have no toilets. Because they have no place to change their sanitary pads. Because they are driving trains for twelve

hours, bending over fields for sixteen hours, standing at street food stalls for nine hours, and there is nowhere for them to go.

The demand for menstrual leave is a symptom. The disease is the absence of basic sanitation.

The Loco Pilots Who Chose Their Desks Over Their Dreams

India has approximately 2,000 women loco pilots serving in the Indian Railways — a number that represents hard-won progress against decades of gender exclusion from one of the country's most physically demanding professional roles. What those 2,000 women have found, however, is that cracking India's most male-dominated transport sector was only half the battle. The other half — the half nobody planned for — was finding somewhere to use the bathroom.

Of the more than 14,000 diesel-electric locomotives in the Indian Railways fleet, only a fraction have toilets fitted in the loco pilot's cabin. A 2022 PTI investigation reported that toilet facilities existed in only 97 electric locomotives built by the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, which had been directed to install water closets following a Railway Budget announcement in 2013.

More recent reporting suggests that waterless urinal facilities were provided in approximately 883 locomotives, but the railway's own loco pilots and their unions have consistently argued that these are inadequate and largely non-functional. As late as April 2025, the Railway Board rejected demands from the All-India Loco Running Staff Association (AILRSA) for meal and toilet breaks on the grounds that it was "operationally unfeasible."

What this means in practice is documented in testimonies that are painful to read. A woman loco pilot says that she holds her urine for hours during her shift. A senior assistant loco pilot described going inside the engine to change sanitary napkins in emergencies during her period. An assistant loco pilot, speaking anonymously, asked the most human of questions: "How can a girl from a conservative family ask a male colleague to vacate the engine for her to change the pad?"

A goods train driver, reportedly avoided drinking water for ten to fourteen hours during her duties after joining the railways in Lucknow in 2010. "I have no option but to relieve along the tracks and away from the view of the male co-driver during night shifts. Getting off in rural areas at night is very unsafe," she was quoted as saying. These are not edge cases. A document accessed by Scroll from a collective of women loco pilots summarised the medical conditions of 33 such pilots across the country. The conditions documented included urinary tract infections, uterine fibroids, high blood pressure, kidney abscesses, and miscarriages — all linked directly to the absence of sanitation facilities and the impossibility of taking toilet breaks during shifts. One loco pilot developed a kidney abscess in 2021 from a urinary tract infection — a pocket of pus that, left untreated, could have damaged her organs. It had been caused, her doctor explained, by repeatedly holding urine during long shifts.

The response of the women to these conditions is the most telling data point of all. Many stopped taking loco pilot field duties altogether and shifted to desk positions. Others applied for "cadre changes" — requesting to be reassigned from driving roles to administrative ones. As many as 1,500 of the approximately 2,000 women loco pilots signed a collective letter to the railways seeking such a change. They were not asking for menstrual leave. They were not asking for special treatment. They were asking for a toilet. When they did not get it, they asked to stop doing the job they had fought to do — because the alternative was destroying their health.

Alok Verma, former president of the Indian Railway Loco Running Men's Organisation (IRLRO), had approached the National Human Rights Commission on this issue years earlier. The NHRC issued directions to the railways to install toilets in all locomotives. The order, Verma subsequently told journalists, was not implemented. "A loco pilot spends a minimum of 10-12 hours driving and has no chance of being relieved if a journey is underway. They don't eat or go to the washroom. It is inhuman," he said.

If you asked these women whether they wanted menstrual leave or a functional toilet in their engine, the answer would be instant and unanimous. It would not be the leave.

Beed: Where Women Traded Their Wombs for a Day's Wage

If the story of the loco pilots represents the suffering of women who managed to enter the formal workforce, the story of Beed district in Maharashtra represents something far darker — what happens to women who were never allowed inside the formal economy at all, and who therefore had no framework of labour law, no NHRC to appeal to, and no collective bargaining to fall back on.

Beed is one of Maharashtra's primary hubs for seasonal migrant sugarcane workers. Approximately 1.75 lakh workers leave Beed district annually — often in couples, sometimes with their children — to work in the sugarcane-producing regions of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh. The women among them sign informal contracts with labour contractors called mukadams for periods of six months to a year. A couple typically receives an advance payment of approximately ₹1.5 lakh, which they must repay through continuous labour. The daily wage is roughly ₹500 per person. Missing a day means a financial penalty. Missing

multiple days can mean termination of the contract, loss of the advance, and no income for the season. For a woman who menstruates, this contract is a trap. Sugarcane harvesting demands twelve to sixteen hours of strenuous physical labour — cutting, gathering, tying, and loading heavy bundles. During menstruation, this work can be excruciating. But the financial penalty structure makes it impossible to rest. And because the fields and makeshift labour camps have no toilets, no running water, no changing facilities, and no privacy, managing menstruation in the fields is a humiliation compounded by physical agony.

A government-commissioned report by Dr. Neelam Gorhe in 2019 — commissioned by the Maharashtra government after media attention began to grow — investigated the scale of what was happening. The findings were extraordinary in their horror. Among 80,000 female sugarcane workers surveyed in Beed, approximately one in five had undergone a hysterectomy.

A local government health department report subsequently found that 843 women's uteri had been surgically removed before the Diwali 2024 migration — meaning before they departed for the harvest season. More than 13,000 women in Beed district alone had undergone the procedure over the preceding decade, and many of them were below the age of 25 at the time of surgery. In Beed, the hysterectomy rate among sugarcane workers was 36% higher than the national average of 3%.

How does a district end up with hysterectomy rates 36% above the national average? The answer is a convergence of greed, desperation, and the complete absence of sanitation.

Women with menstrual complications — heavy bleeding, cramps, uterine fibroids — would present themselves to local private doctors or clinics. In a pattern documented across multiple investigations, these doctors would advise hysterectomy as a solution, sometimes falsely suggesting that the woman's condition could become cancerous if untreated.

The surgery costs between ₹25,000 and ₹30,000 at a private doctor — often more than a season's wages. The mukadam would offer the woman a loan to pay for it, which she would then repay through further labour, trapping her more deeply in the debt cycle. After the surgery, the woman would no longer menstruate, would no longer need rest during her cycle, would no longer risk pregnancy disrupting her work, and would therefore be, in the contractor's calculus, a more productive asset.

The women in the sugarcane fields of Maharashtra were not asking for menstrual leave either. What they needed was simple and cheap: a toilet. Running water. A private space. The Gorhe committee's 2019 recommendations included ensuring that sugarcane harvesting workers be provided with suitable toilets and clean running water for better menstrual hygiene. Activists say progress on implementing these recommendations has been "painfully slow."

As Gangabai Prakash Shingare, a sugar industry worker, described her experience across multiple harvests in Maharashtra and Karnataka: she had never once seen a toilet or bathroom for women. The only privacy available was the darkness of the fields before dawn. That darkness is what India offered these women. In return, thousands of them gave up their uteruses.

The Toilet That Is Never There

The Beed and loco pilot crises are extreme cases, but they are not exceptional ones. They are amplified versions of a sanitation failure that affects women across virtually every layer of Indian public life.

An ActionAid India survey of 229 public toilets in Delhi — covering facilities maintained by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, the New Delhi Municipal Council, and private agencies — found that 35% of the surveyed toilets had no separate section for women at all.

Of the 149 that did have some provision for women, the conditions documented were damning: over 71% were not cleaned regularly; 28% did not have doors; 45% did not have a mechanism to lock from the inside; over half had no lighting either inside the facility or in the surrounding area; 46% were unguarded; 53% had no running water; 66% had non-functional flush systems; and soap was absent in approximately 61%.

These are not statistics from the margins of urban India. These are statistics from the capital of the country; a city that has hosted G20 summits and global investment forums, a city that ranks itself among Asia's most significant metros. If this is Delhi, the imagination staggers at what Beed district's fields look like.

Research documented in Pune and Mumbai found a higher incidence of violence against women who used public toilets alone at night. An exploratory study across Bhopal and New Delhi documented women facing insulting remarks, brick throwing, and in extreme cases, stabbing and sexual assault, in or around public toilet facilities. A study in Bihar found that nearly half of reported rape cases in the state were "sanitation-related" — meaning they occurred because women had to access isolated spaces to use the toilet.

This is what "no toilet" means for a woman in India. It does not merely mean discomfort. It does not merely mean inconvenience during her period. It means the risk of violence every time she needs to answer nature's call in a

public space. It means UTIs from holding urine through a twelve-hour shift. It means kidney abscesses. It means fibroids. It means, in the extreme logic of Beed, it means the surgical removal of her reproductive organs. Anita Juneja, a 42-year-old street food vendor in Delhi's Lajpat Nagar area, described walking to a nearby shopping mall whenever she needed to use a toilet during her nine-hour workday — a trip that cuts into the already slender margin between her earnings and her costs. "Trips to the toilet and water delivery cut into my already meagre earnings so I try to avoid these as far as possible," she said. This is the life of a working woman in urban India: managing biology on the margins, trading health for productivity, one missed toilet break at a time.

The Conversation We Should Be Having

India's debate on menstrual leave has, for years, unfolded in a kind of rhetorical vacuum, disconnected from the material reality described in the preceding pages. The advocates of menstrual leave are moved by genuine compassion. Many women — particularly those suffering from dysmenorrhoea, endometriosis, uterine fibroids, or polycystic ovarian syndrome — experience periods that are genuinely debilitating, and a policy that allows for medical leave without stigma or disclosure would be a meaningful thing.

But the Supreme Court is right that a blanket mandatory law is the wrong instrument. Menstruation is not a disability. Women are not inherently less capable of working during their cycles than men are of doing so during any comparable physiological event. Most women, in fact, continue to work through their periods without difficulty — they simply need what any human being needs: access to a clean, safe, private bathroom.

The argument, then, is not about leave. It is about infrastructure. It is about the fact that India has built a ₹100-lakh-crore economy on the backs of a workforce that includes over 200 million working women, and has not built enough toilets for them to use.

The Supreme Court itself, in a separate bench judgment in January 2026, observed that menstrual hygiene forms an essential part of a girl child's rights to life, dignity, health, and education under the Constitution, and directed governments to ensure access to sanitary products, proper sanitation facilities, and greater awareness around menstrual health. This is the correct framing. Menstrual health is a constitutional right. A toilet is the infrastructure of that right.

The National Commission for Women, successive state governments, the Gorhe committee, the NHRC, and multiple civil society organisations have, over the past two decades, documented the same failures and made the same recommendations. More women's toilets. Cleaner women's toilets. Safer women's toilets. Locked doors. Running water. Lighting. Sanitary napkin vending machines. Privacy. Security.

These are not luxury demands. They are the minimum requirements of human dignity. They cost far less than the hysterectomies that are being performed in Beed to compensate for their absence.

What India Actually Owes Its Women

When a lady went without water for fourteen hours to drive a freight train in the dark, she was not asking for a law that would allow her to stay home. She was asking for a toilet in her engine cab.

When a woman from Madhya Pradesh developed a kidney abscess from a urinary tract infection, she was not asking for a menstrual leave policy. She was asking for a functional sanitation facility on the route she was assigned to drive. When a girl from Beed, who was running a fever, went to a doctor and came away permanently unable to conceive, the intervention she needed was not a leave policy. It was a toilet in the field where she worked.

The Supreme Court, in dismissing this PIL, performed a necessary act of clarity. Menstruation is not a handicap. Women do not need to be protected from their own biology through legislation that confirms, in law, the employer's worst prejudices about female employees. What women need is what the Indian state has failed to provide at every level — from the loco pilot's cab to the street vendor's market to the migrant worker's makeshift shelter in a sugarcane field: a clean, safe, private, functional toilet.

Give women that, and they will not need a single day of menstrual leave. Give them that, and they will not need to resign from jobs they fought for. Give them that, and they will not need to surrender their uteruses to keep working.

That is all they are asking for. And after seventy-five years of the republic, it remains, for millions of them, too much to ask.

Source: <https://www.amarujala.com/uttar-pradesh/sonebhadra/nhrc-issues-notice-on-death-of-two-children-who-fell-into-a-septic-tank-sonbhadra-news-c-194-1-son1002-143248-2026-03-14>

Sonebhadra News: सेप्टिक टैंक में गिरकर दो मासूमों की मौत पर एनएचआरसी ने दिया नोटिस

वाराणसी ब्यूरो | Updated Sat, 14 Mar 2026 11:03 PM IST

सोनभद्र। विंढमगंज थाना क्षेत्र के केवाल गांव में दिसंबर 2024 में अचानक सेप्टिक टैंक का ढक्कन टूटने से उसमें गिरकर हुई पांच वर्षीय दो मासूमों की मौत के मामले को राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने संज्ञान लिया है। जिला प्रशासन की तरफ से चार-चार लाख मुआवजे की उपलब्ध कराई गई रिपोर्ट अपर्याप्त मानते हुए नोटिस जारी किया गया है। राज्य सरकार से जवाब मांगा गया है कि इस मामले में मृतक बच्चों के परिजनों के लिए 10-10 लाख मुआवजे की अनुशंसा क्यों न कर दी जाए। चार सप्ताह में जवाब देना होगा।

चंदौली में चकिया क्षेत्र के रहने वाले योगेंद्र कुमार सिंह ने 10 जनवरी 2025 को इस मामले में मानवाधिकार आयोग को पत्र भेजकर हस्तक्षेप की गुहार लगाई है। प्रकरण में 10 सितंबर को सुनवाई करते हुए आयोग ने डीएम को निर्देश दिया कि वह इस मामले की जांच करें और की गई कार्रवाई की रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करें। आयोग के निर्देशों के अनुपालन में एसडीएम ने 30 अक्टूबर के पत्र के माध्यम से अनुपालन रिपोर्ट दाखिल की। इसके जरिये अवगत कराया गया कि 17 दिसंबर 2024 को हुई दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण घटना में लगभग पांच वर्ष की आयु के दो नाबालिग एक सेप्टिक टैंक के अंदर गिर कर डूब गए। उनके कानूनी वारिसों को चार-चार लाख की वित्तीय सहायता प्राकृतिक आपदा राहत कोष के जरिए उपलब्ध कराई जा चुकी है। रिपोर्ट को दृष्टिगत रखते हुए गत नौ मार्च को इस मामले की सुनवाई की गई। आयोग ने पाया कि यह घोर लापरवाही है। इसके लिए सरकारी तंत्र परोक्ष रूप से उत्तरदायी है क्योंकि इसमें दोनों मृतकों के मानवाधिकारों का उल्लंघन हुआ है। मुख्य सचिव को नोटिस जारी करते हुए पूछा गया है कि मृतक के परिजनों (कानूनी वारिसों) को भुगतान की जाने वाली 4 लाख की मुआवजा राशि को बढ़ाकर 10 लाख रुपये करने की अनुशंसा क्यों न कर दी जाए। इसके संबंध में चार सप्ताह के भीतर जवाब प्रस्तुत करने का निर्देश दिया गया है।

Source: <https://www.jagran.com/delhi/new-delhi-city-nhrc-notice-to-delhi-police-on-manipuri-girl-assault-40171024.html>

दिल्ली के पुलिस कमिश्नर को मानवाधिकार आयोग का नोटिस, मणिपुरी युवती की पिटाई के मामले में तलब की रिपोर्ट

By Rais Rais Edited By: Kushagra Mishra

Updated: Sat, 14 Mar 2026 08:56 AM (IST)

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने मालवीय नगर के सतपुला पार्क में मणिपुरी युवती की पिटाई मामले का संज्ञान लिया है। आयोग ने इसे मानवाधिकारों का गंभीर उल्लंघन मानते हुए दिल्ली पुलिस कमिश्नर से दो सप्ताह में विस्तृत रिपोर्ट मांगी है, जिसमें पीड़िता की स्वास्थ्य स्थिति और जांच की प्रगति शामिल हो।

HighLights

मानवाधिकार आयोग ने मणिपुरी युवती की पिटाई का संज्ञान लिया

दिल्ली पुलिस कमिश्नर को दो सप्ताह में रिपोर्ट देने का निर्देश

पीड़िता के स्वास्थ्य और जांच प्रगति की जानकारी मांगी गई

जागरण संवाददाता, दक्षिणी दिल्ली। मालवीय नगर थाना क्षेत्र स्थित सतपुला पार्क में आठ मार्च को मणिपुर की युवती की कथित पिटाई के मामले का राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने संज्ञान लिया है।

मित्र के साथ शाम के समय टहल रही मणिपुर की रहने वाली युवती पर कुछ लड़कों ने टिप्पणी की थी, जिसका उसने विरोध किया। विरोध करने पर उसके साथ मारपीट की गई।

हालांकि पुलिस ने अगले ही दिन घटना में शामिल चारों नाबालिग आरोपितों को पकड़ लिया था। आयोग के मुताबिक घटना पीड़िता के मानवाधिकारों के उल्लंघन का एक गंभीर मामला है।

मानवाधिकार आयोग ने दिल्ली पुलिस कमिश्नर को एक नोटिस जारी कर दो सप्ताह के भीतर इस मामले पर विस्तृत रिपोर्ट मांगी है। इस रिपोर्ट में पीड़िता के स्वास्थ्य की स्थिति और जांच की प्रगति भी तलब की है।

Source: <https://jantaserishta.com/local/haryana/nhrc-takes-cognizance-of-gurugram-wall-collapse-7-workers-dead-seeks-report-4638147>

NHRC ने Gurugram दीवार गिरने पर संज्ञान लिया, 7 मज़दूरों की मौत, रिपोर्ट मांगी

Kiran14 Mar 2026 10:47 AM

गुरुग्राम Gurugram: राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (NHRC) ने हरियाणा के गुरुग्राम के बिलासपुर इलाके के पास एक निर्माणाधीन जगह पर दीवार गिरने की दुखद घटना की खुद से (suo motu) संज्ञान लिया है। इस घटना में 9 मार्च, 2026 को कम से कम सात मज़दूरों की जान चली गई और तीन अन्य घायल हो गए। मीडिया रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, यह घटना एक ऐसी निर्माण स्थल पर हुई जहाँ एक आने वाले आवासीय प्रोजेक्ट के लिए सीवेज ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट (STP) बनाया जा रहा था। जब दीवार अचानक गिर गई, तो कई मज़दूर उस जगह पर काम कर रहे थे, जिससे कई मज़दूर मलबे के नीचे दब गए।

अधिकारियों को आशंका थी कि घटना के तुरंत बाद लगभग 10 मज़दूर मलबे में फँस गए होंगे।

इस मामले को गंभीरता से लेते हुए, NHRC ने कहा कि यदि रिपोर्टें सही हैं, तो यह घटना पीड़ितों के मानवाधिकारों के उल्लंघन के संबंध में गंभीर चिंताएँ पैदा करती है, विशेष रूप से कार्यस्थल की सुरक्षा और मज़दूरों की सुरक्षा से संबंधित। आयोग ने हरियाणा के मुख्य सचिव और गुरुग्राम के पुलिस आयुक्त को नोटिस जारी किया है, और उन्हें दो सप्ताह के भीतर एक विस्तृत रिपोर्ट जमा करने का निर्देश दिया है। रिपोर्ट में घायल मज़दूरों की वर्तमान स्वास्थ्य स्थिति, चल रही जाँच का विवरण, और मृतकों के परिजनों तथा घायल मज़दूरों को दिए गए मुआवज़े या राहत के संबंध में जानकारी शामिल होनी चाहिए।

10 मार्च को प्रकाशित एक मीडिया रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि दीवार गिरने के बाद कई बचाव एजेंसियाँ खोज और बचाव कार्यों में लगी हुई थीं। पुलिस, नागरिक सुरक्षा, अग्निशमन विभाग और राज्य आपदा प्रतिक्रिया बल (SDRF) की टीमों ने मलबे के नीचे फँसे मज़दूरों का पता लगाने और उन्हें बचाने के लिए मिलकर काम किया। इस घटना ने गुरुग्राम में निर्माण स्थलों पर सुरक्षा मानकों के बारे में गंभीर चिंताएँ पैदा कर दी हैं; गुरुग्राम एक तेज़ी से बढ़ता हुआ शहरी केंद्र है जहाँ कई आवासीय और बुनियादी ढाँचे के प्रोजेक्ट चल रहे हैं। अब अधिकारियों से यह जाँच करने की उम्मीद है कि क्या उस जगह पर सुरक्षा प्रोटोकॉल और मज़दूरों की सुरक्षा के नियमों का पालन किया गया था।