



HUMAN RIGHTS

Newsletter

A monthly publication of the National Human Rights Commission, India



Statutory Full Commission meeting

HUMAN RIGHTS

Newsletter

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National Human Rights Commission

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► Statutory Full Commission meeting

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Monthly Recap

From the desk of the Secretary General & Chief Executive

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India continues to engage with various institutions and other stakeholders, both nationally and internationally, promoting dialogue and partnerships to protect the human rights of all human beings, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalised sections of society. In June, 2025, the Commission received 17,514 complaints and disposed of 2,769 cases, with 30,753 complaints currently under consideration. In 20 cases, it recommended monetary relief of more than Rs. 111 lakhs to the victims or their next of kin. In several cases, the Commission also received compliance reports from the concerned state governments. The Commission also took *suo motu* cognizance in several cases of human rights violations.

Human rights journey is neither recent nor borrowed – It is as old and organic as civilisation itself. India's enduring human rights ethos is firmly rooted in civilisational values, constitutional guarantees, and global responsibilities. In today's complex world, where rights discourse sometimes may lean towards confrontation or abstraction, India offers a deeply holistic, values-driven and collaborative approach.

From the earliest concepts of dharma and ahimsa, the Indian tradition has always linked individual's rights and dignity with collective responsibility. Figures like Lord Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi didn't merely speak of compassion – they embodied it, demonstrating that true liberty is inseparable from service and harmony. Indian thought does not pit rights against duties; rather, it marries them. Our ancient teachings taught respect for elders, care for the vulnerable, and harmony with nature – lessons as vital and relevant today as they were more than 5,000 years ago.

This ethical foundation finds expression in India's Constitution. Fundamental rights – liberty, equality, fraternity and justice – are not mere promises; they are actionable through Article 32, empowering citizens to seek justice from the Supreme Court. The Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) push for inclusive development, while institutions like the NHRC, SHRCs, seven other National Commissions and their state counterparts for addressing the sectoral rights issues, and civil society safeguard these rights with vigilance and intent. Mechanisms such as Public Interest Litigations (PILs) have allowed the most marginalised voices to challenge systemic injustices.

To enhance the synergy and cooperation among the Commissions to promote and protect human rights, the NHRC, India organised a Statutory Full Commission meeting of all 7 deemed member Commissions and Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in New Delhi in June. This ensures collaboration, cross-learning and collective efforts to achieve common goal of protection and promo-

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From the earliest concepts of dharma and ahimsa, the Indian tradition has always linked individual's rights and dignity with collective responsibility.

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tion of human rights and dignity of every individual. This edition of the Newsletter carries a report on this significant meeting.

The concept of human rights is always evolving; they evolve as societies change, and new challenges emerge. India's progress in banning triple talaq, Article 370's abrogation, ensuring equal rights enjoyed by all Indians in Jammu & Kashmir, advancing women, transgender and mental health rights, marks significant milestones. But challenges – climate change, public health, urban waste, water scarcity, and rising heatwaves – test our resilience and require continued attention and action. It is a worldwide realisation now that the right to a clean environment is a human right. Clean air, clean water and a healthy ecosystem are not luxuries – they are a necessity.

India, despite its population pressures, has not traded environment for economic growth. Initiatives like the Swachh Bharat Mission, Jal Jeevan Mission, and Green India Mission prove that development and conservation can go hand in hand. Drawing from Gujarat's post-earthquake recovery and the Ganga rejuvenation model, the message is clear – sustainability is not optional for survival.

However, the road ahead demands deeper civic engagement. Students and youth must explore the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), understand India's constitutional and environmental frameworks, and see themselves as both rights holders and duty bearers. Whether through supporting the Aravalli Green Wall initiative, promoting climate literacy, promoting India's conservation ethos or adopting technology and innovative solutions for pollution control — citizenship today must mean stewardship.

India's rights journey is not linear. It is a spiral – reaching back to ancient wisdom and spiralling forward through modern law, civic action, and global engagement. It asks not only for vigilance but for vision. A just, inclusive, and humane society is not merely built by governments – It is co-created by every citizen. And as we navigate the 21st century, India's moral compass – shaped by millennia of thought and a dynamic democracy—remains firmly aligned with justice, dignity and the shared good.

Therefore, building awareness about human rights and values, is always a work in progress for the Commission. The month also marked two such significant capacity building programmes. These included the four-week summer internship programme for university-level students and the other for the Phase-II of 2023 batch IPS Probationers in collaboration with the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad. For the coveted summer internship programme of the Commission, it was a tough call to shortlist on merit 80 out of 1,468 applicants from 42 institutions of 20 States/ UTs. It is heartening to note the keenness among the youth about human rights. It is not limited to students of law only as the interns are coming from diverse academic disciplines including Law, Social Sciences, Social Work, Psychology, Journalism, Gender Studies, Digital Humanities and International Relations.

Another aspect of the Commission's approach to building awareness about human rights is by way of organising multi-sectoral consultations with different stakeholders and sponsoring research studies on various aspects of human rights to research scholars supported by leading academic and research institutions in the country. The aim is to understand and appreciate the work done so far and build awareness on the need to address the remaining challenges. This edition of the Newsletter carries a brief outcome report on one such recently completed research study on Women's Falling Participation in the Labour Force in India, conducted by Prof. Rishi Kumar, BITS Pilani, Hyderabad Campus. The edition also carries a review of a book 'Police Powers', an analytical study by two senior IPS officers drawing on their experiences in policing and while working on deputation in the Investigation Division of the NHRC.

The edition also features dedicated articles on key issues of sectoral human rights, which, along with the other regular features, would hopefully provide an engaging reading.



[Bharat Lal]

Secretary General &
Chief Executive Officer

Statutory Full Commission Meeting

On 3rd June, 2025, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India organised a Statutory Full Commission meeting of all 7 deemed member Commissions and Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in New Delhi. The meeting aimed to enhance synergy and cooperation among the Commissions to promote and protect human rights. Chairing the meeting, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian, Chairperson, NHRC, India emphasised the importance of collaborative functioning among the Commissions. He suggested convening joint meetings of Statutory Full Commission members at

regular intervals and creating a mechanism to hyperlink the websites of all Commissions to avoid duplication of cases.

The meeting discussed various issues, including the protection of the rights of vulnerable and marginalised sections, sharing best practices, and minimising duplication of cases. The participants emphasised the need for joint fact-finding missions, awareness campaigns and outreach programmes.

Shri Kishor Makwana, Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Caste (NCSC), spoke about the proactive measures taken by the Commission for the rights and welfare of the Scheduled Caste communities.

Smt Vijaya Rahatkar, Chairperson, National Commission for Women (NCW), said that the NCW has been focusing on complaints, research, awareness and outreach training programmes for the welfare of women.

Smt Tripti Gurha, Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of



► NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V Ramasubramanian, flanked by Members, Justice (Dr) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani and Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal, addressing the Statutory Full Commission meeting



► Statutory Full Commission meeting in progress



► A section of participants in the meeting

Child Rights (NCPCR), emphasised on running awareness campaigns to stop child trafficking and to ensure faster legal remedies in POCSO cases.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Nirupam Chakma, Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, Chief Commissioner, Commission for Persons with Disabilities and Shri Daniel E. Richards, representing the National Commission for Minorities also shared their perspectives and made arguments in favour of having a joint mechanism between the sectoral Commissions for addressing human rights issues of the vulnerable communities.

Justice (Dr) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, Member, NHRC, India, emphasised the importance of ensuring that welfare schemes reach all sections of society,

including the marginalised. NHRC, India Member, Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani remarked that these Commissions are not isolated institutions but a co-traveller working towards promoting and protecting human rights.

Earlier, setting the agenda for the meeting, Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General, NHRC, India gave an overview of the unique institutional human rights protection framework of the country. He emphasised that such interactions among these institutions are useful in forming a common platform on key issues of human rights to collectively ensure quick relief to the victims.

Shri Samir Kumar, Joint Secretary, NHRC, India summarised the activities undertaken by the Commission over the last year. The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment to collaborative efforts among the Commissions to promote and protect human rights in India.



► NHRC, India Chairperson, Members and Sr. officers with the Chairpersons, Members and Sr. officers of the National Commission's and Commissioner, CCPD

A historical perspective of human rights

- Justice V. Ramasubramanian
Chairperson, NHRC, India

(Excerpts of NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice V Ramasubramanian's address about 'A historical perspective of human rights' in valedictory session of the Capacity Building programme for Phase - II IPS Probationers on 17th June, 2025 at SVPNPA, Hyderabad)



I feel fortunate to have had the privilege of knowing and releasing the memoir of Shri C. V. Narasimhan, a remarkable officer from the first batch of the Indian Police Service (IPS) in 1948. His life offers profound lessons for all of us. Allow me to share a story from his memoir that underscores the importance of integrity in public service. In the 1960s, as Superintendent of Police in a district, Shri Narasimhan accompanied the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu during a visit. As the Chief Minister departed, he offered Shri Narasimhan a piece of advice: "You must have seen all kinds of characters meeting me — good, bad, and ugly. If anyone claims to be close to me in my absence, give their words a 100% discount. I will never interfere with your work." This anecdote from a bygone era highlights a level of respect for institutional autonomy that is becoming rare today. Sixty years later, such assurances from political leaders are increasingly uncommon, placing greater responsibility on officers like you to uphold the rule of law.

Let me draw your attention to a real-life incident from Hyderabad in 2019. On 27th November, a 26-year-old veterinary doctor was gang-raped and murdered. Her body was discovered the next day, and four suspects were arrested. On 6th December, 2019, these suspects were killed in a police encounter. Initially, the officers involved were hailed as heroes, celebrated with flower petals and firecrackers by thousands. However, in 2022, a commission of inquiry found these officers guilty, recommending departmental action and criminal prosecution. The same crowd that once cheered them had vanished. The moral of this story is clear: yielding to public pressure for quick-fix justice may bring fleeting acclaim, but it risks long-term consequences. Adhering to the rule of law, though challenging, ensures that your actions withstand scrutiny and protect you from ruin. As police officers, you are guardians

of justice; and the rule of law must be your guiding principle.

The discourse on human rights is often misunderstood as beginning with the Magna Carta in 1215 AD. Its roots trace back to 539 BC, when Cyrus the Great, the first king of Persia, conquered Babylon. Far from ruling as a tyrant, Cyrus freed slaves, granted the right to choose one's religion, and established racial equality. His Charter of Cyrus, inscribed on a clay cylinder, is considered the earliest known instrument of human rights, with its principles echoing in the first four articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The Magna Carta, while significant, was an agreement between King John of England and his barons, recognising five key rights:

- The right of the church to be free from governmental interference;
- The right of all citizens to own and inherit property and to be protected from excessive taxes;
- The right of a widow who owned property to choose not to remarry;
- The principles of due process and equality before the law; and
- The right to bail

Centuries later, the Petition of Rights (1628) curbed the monarchy's arbitrary powers, followed by the Habeas Corpus Act (1679), which protected against unlawful detention. The English Bill of Rights (1689) further defined civil liberties and parliamentary authority.

Across the Atlantic, the American Declaration of Independence (1776) proclaimed 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness' as inalienable rights. The U.S. Constitution (1789) and its Bill of Rights (1791) marked further milestones, though slavery persisted until the 13th Amendment in 1865. The French Revolution's Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen (1789) emphasised liberty, property, security

and resistance to oppression. The 20th century saw the establishment of the United Nations in 1945, with a mission to foster respect for human rights. In 1948, the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), a landmark document outlining 30 articles on civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. These are often categorised as first-generation (civil and political) and second-generation (economic, social, cultural) rights. Over the past 77 years, third-generation collective rights and fourth-generation rights- driven by advancements in science and technology- have emerged, raising complex questions about privacy, bodily autonomy and even the right to a 'future life' through innovations like cryonics.

Consider the case of a 14-year-old girl in England in 2016, diagnosed with terminal cancer. She wrote a poignant letter to the court, seeking to have her body cryonically preserved after death in the hope of being revived when a cure is found. "I am only 14 years old, and I don't want to die," she wrote. "I think being cryopreserved gives me a chance to be cured and woken up, even in hundreds of years' time. I want to live and live longer." Her parents, being divorced, could not agree and the court intervened, allowing her mother to decide. This case raises profound questions: Does a person have a right to determine their fate after death? Can such a right be enforced without impacting others?

As law enforcement officers, you will face competing pressures: societal demands for instant justice and the legal imperative to presume innocence until proven guilty. Unlike science, which pursues truth regardless of method, the law demands that truth be obtained through fair and lawful means. Evidence gathered unlawfully is inadmissible, underscoring the importance of procedural integrity. In conclusion, your role as officers is not just to enforce the law but to uphold the principles of human rights and the rule of law. These principles, forged over centuries, are your shield against transient public opinion and political pressures. By adhering to them, you honour the legacy of pioneers like Shri C. V. Narasimhan and contribute to building a just and equitable society for all.

The NHRC, India has been organising customised sensitisation programmes on human rights for officers from various All India Services recognising the pivotal role civil servants have in upholding human rights in the country. The Commission had similar training programmes for Indian Foreign Service probationers and Foreign Diplomats undergoing training at the Sushma Swaraj National Institute of Foreign Service, New Delhi to sensitise them about various dimensions of human rights. By fostering a rights-based approach early in their careers, the Commission ensures that these officers carry a strong sense of accountability, fairness and dignity into their future roles in public service.

Suo motu cognizance

The media reports have been a very useful instrument for the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India, to know about the incidents of human rights violations. Over the years, it has taken *suo motu* cognizance of many such issues and brought succour to the victims of human rights violations. During June, 2025, the Commission took *suo motu* cognizance of 11 cases of alleged human rights violations reported by the media and issued notices to the concerned authorities for reports. Summaries of these cases are as follows:

Death of a man due to physical torture

(Case No. 611/36/2/2025-AD)

On 14th May, 2025, the media reported that a 35-year-old auto-rickshaw driver died on 13th May, 2025, allegedly after being subjected to physical torture by the police at Rajendranagar Police Station in Hyderabad, Telangana.

The Commission has issued a notice to the Director General of Police,

Telangana, calling for a detailed report on the matter. The victim was having some issues with his wife, who had taken him to the Police Station to resolve the issue. After counselling the couple, the man was taken to a room where he was severely beaten up by policemen with rubber belts. After an hour, when he came out of the Police Station, he started vomiting and collapsed. He was taken to the hospital, where he was declared dead by the doctors.

Protest by people over the proposed construction of a dam

(Case No.18/2/2/2025)

On 23rd May, 2025, the media reported that the residents were opposing the proposed construction of a dam, apprehending that it may result in the displacement of several people and adversely impact livelihood and ecology in the Siang district,

Arunachal Pradesh. Reportedly, to deal with the situation, the government has deployed central armed forces in various areas of the Siang district in the State. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Arunachal Pradesh, calling for a detailed report on the case.

Assault on two journalists

(Case No. 1231/12/7/2025)

On 25th May, 2025, the media reported that a press release issued by the Press Club of India, New Delhi, alleged that two journalists were brutally manhandled by the police in Bhind district, Madhya Pradesh, allegedly, under the supervision of the District Superintendent of Police. Reportedly, the incident happened on 1st May, 2025.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the press release, if true, raise a serious violation of the human rights of the victim journalists. Therefore, the Commission has issued a notice to the Director General of Police, Madhya Pradesh, calling for a detailed report on the case. Reportedly, both journalists were further forced to record a video statement stating that all matters between them were resolved.

Delayed treatment causing death of a minor victim of rape and brutal assault

(Case No. 1439/4/26/2025)

On 1st June, 2025, the media reported that a nine-year-old girl victim of rape and brutal physical assault died at the Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH), Bihar, amid allegations that she was left waiting in an ambulance for several hours before getting a bed to start her treatment. She was victimised in Muzaffarpur district of the state on 26th May, 2025 and was brought to the

hospital in a critical condition on 30th May, 2025. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Bihar, calling for a detailed report on the case. Reportedly, the same perpetrator had earlier committed the same offence with another 12-year-old girl and had attempted to kill her.

Death of two workers and injuries to another after inhaling poisonous gas

(Case No. 1099/1/28/2025)

The media reported that two employees died and another was hospitalised after inhaling poisonous gas when they were working during the night shift at an effluent waste treatment plant of a pharmaceutical company in the Anakapalli district of Andhra Pradesh, on 11th June, 2025. Reportedly, the victim workers collapsed after inhaling the poisonous gas, suspected to have been released during the waste treatment process. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Superintendent of Police, Anakapalli, calling for a detailed report. The report is expected to include the status of the health of the injured, who was reportedly undergoing treatment at a hospital and compensation, if any, provided to him and the next of kin of the deceased.

Death of three prisoners in two days in the jails of Varanasi

(Case No. 12838/24/72/2025-JCD)

The media reported that three prisoners died, one after the other, in custody of the state in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh on 15th and 16th June, 2025. Reportedly, a male doctor and a female prisoner lodged in the District Jail died due to illness, whereas another, lodged in the Central Jail of Varanasi, died due to

heart attack. The Commission has observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise serious issues of violation of human rights. Therefore, it has issued notices to the Director General, Prisons and the Commissioner of Police, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, calling for a detailed report on the matter.

Death of an inmate due to injuries inflicted at a juvenile home

(Case No. 2934/30/0/2025)

The media reported that a 17-year-old boy, lodged in a government-run juvenile home in the Majnu ka Tila area of Delhi, died due to injuries inflicted by two of his fellow inmates. Reportedly, the physical assault happened on 17th June, 2025. The injured victim was rushed to the hospital, where the doctors declared him dead. The Commission has issued notices to the Delhi Chief Secretary and the Commissioner of Police calling for a detailed report on the matter. The report is expected to include the inquest and post-mortem examination reports, along with the final cause of death, as well as the magisterial enquiry report.

Gangrape of a college student

(Case No. 911/18/5/2025-WC)

On 16th June, 2025, the media reported that a 20-year-old female college student was allegedly subjected to gang rape by around 10 men on the Gopalpur sea beach of Ganjam District in Odisha on 15th June, 2025. Reportedly, the victim had gone to the beach along with a male friend to celebrate a festival. The perpetrators, after overpowering her friend, sexually assaulted her. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police, Odisha, calling for a detailed report on the matter. The report is expected to

include the status of the investigation in the case, the victim's health and compensation/ counselling, if any, provided to her by the state authorities.

Moneylender assaults a woman on husband's failure to repay loan

(Case No. 851/1/3/2025)

On 17th June, 2025, the media reported that on 16th June, 2025, a woman was tied to a tree and beaten up in public view by a moneylender when her husband failed to repay his loan at Narayanapuram village of Kuppam mandal in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh. She was reportedly freed by the villagers. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Andhra Pradesh, calling for a detailed report on the matter.

Reportedly, the husband of the victim had taken a loan of Rs. 80,000/- from a local moneylender about three years

back but failed to repay the same. He had taken loans from the other villagers as well. As he was unable to repay the loans, he left the village and since then, his wife had been taking care of herself and her three children by working as a daily wage worker. She was also repaying the loans to the people in instalments.

Social boycott of a Scheduled Tribe woman's family

(Case No. 1072/18/32/2025)

On 21st June, 2025, the media reported that the family of a woman from a Scheduled Tribe community was subjected to a social boycott by the villagers after her marriage to a man belonging to a Scheduled Caste in Rayagada district of Odisha. Reportedly, the villagers demanded a purification ritual, if the family of the woman wanted to be accepted back into the community. They were threatened with an indefinite boycott in case they refused to comply with the ritual. The Commission has issued a

notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha, calling for a detailed report on the matter.

Atrocity on two persons belonging to the Scheduled Caste

(Case No. 1081/18/5/2025)

The media reported that two persons belonging to the Scheduled Caste were beaten up, forced to eat grass and drink drain water, on suspicion of illegally smuggling cattle by some people belonging to another community, in Ganjam district of Odisha on 22nd June, 2025. Reportedly, their mobile phones were snatched, and their heads were also forcibly tonsured. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Odisha, calling for a detailed report on the matter. The report is expected to include the action taken against the perpetrators and compensation, if any, provided to the victims.

Recommendations for relief

One of the primary responsibilities of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India is to address cases of human rights violations, listen to the grievances of victims, and recommend appropriate relief in such instances. It regularly takes up various such cases and gives directions and recommenda-

tions to the concerned authorities for relief to the victims. In June, 2025, besides the number of cases taken up daily by the Member Benches, 20 cases were heard by the Full Commission and 20 cases each by Bench-I and Bench-II. Monetary relief of more than Rs 111 lakh was recommended for the victims or their next of kin (NoK) in the

20 cases, wherein it was found that public servants had either violated human rights or been negligent in protecting them. The specific details of these cases can be downloaded from the NHRC website by logging the case number given in the table below:

S. No.	Case Number	Nature of complaint	Amount (Rs in lakh)	Authority
1.	315/4/16/2019-JCD	Death in judicial custody	3.00	Bihar
2.	557/4/26/2024-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Bihar
3.	2538/30/9/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Delhi

S. No.	Case Number	Nature of complaint	Amount (Rs in lakh)	Authority
4.	3111/25/5/2023-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	West Bengal
5.	1240/4/36/2022-PCD	Death in police custody	5.00	Bihar
6.	10/8/11/2023-PCD	Death in police custody	5.00	Himachal Pradesh
7.	35186/24/25/2017-PCD	Death in police custody	10.00	Uttar Pradesh
8.	4933/25/16/2022-PCD	Death in police custody	5.00	West Bengal
9.	898/25/22/2020-PCD	Death in police custody	5.00	West Bengal
10.	969/1/24/2022-AD	Death in police custody	5.00	Andhra Pradesh
11.	706/7/7/2021-AD	Death in police custody	5.00	Haryana
12.	990/7/11/2020-AD	Death in police custody	5.00	Haryana
13.	2943/18/12/2020-AD	Death in police custody	2.50	Odisha
14.	4426/4/26/2023	Manual Scavenging	15.00	Bihar
15.	2032/7/19/2023	Trouble by Anti-social elements	1.00	Haryana
16.	2023/13/28/2024	Trouble by Anti-social elements	8.00	Maharashtra
17.	106/18/3/2024	Deaths/ Injury in urogranised sector	5.00	Odisha
18.	2057/20/1/2024	Inaction By the State/ Central Govt. officials	5.00	Rajasthan
19.	13217/24/48/2020	Failure in taking lawful action	7.00	Uttar Pradesh
20.	17852/24/55/2024	Death due to electrocution	5.00	Uttar Pradesh

Payment of relief to the victims

During June, 2025, the Commission closed 24 cases, either on receipt of the compliance reports and proof of payment from the public

authorities or by giving other observations/ directions. An amount of more than Rs. 118 lakh was paid to the victims or their next of kin (NoK) on the recommenda-

tions of the Commission. The specific details of these cases can be downloaded from the NHRC website by logging the case number given in the table below:

S. No.	Case Number	Nature of complaint	Amount (Rs in lakh)	Authority
1.	4414/4/20/2023-JCD	Death in judicial custody	1.00	Bihar
2.	281/33/6/2023-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Chhattisgarh
3.	458/33/16/2022-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Chhattisgarh
4.	5542/30/5/2020-JCD	Death in judicial custody	4.00	Delhi
5.	3679/18/12/2022-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Odisha
6.	2835/22/5/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	7.50	Tamil Nadu

S. No.	Case Number	Nature of complaint	Amount (Rs in lakh)	Authority
7.	19885/24/61/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Uttar Pradesh
8.	2195/24/4/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Uttar Pradesh
9.	3118/24/60/2024-JCD	Death in judicial custody	3.00	Uttar Pradesh
10.	1671/25/5/2023-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	West Bengal
11.	4428/25/11/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	7.50	West Bengal
12.	315/4/16/2019-JCD	Death in judicial custody	3.00	Bihar
13.	1244/19/15/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	7.00	Punjab
14.	405/35/1/2023-JCD	Death in judicial custody	3.00	Uttarakhand
15.	4933/25/16/2022-PCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	West Bengal
16.	898/25/22/2020-PCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	West Bengal
17.	35186/24/25/2017-PCD	Death in judicial custody	10.00	Uttar Pradesh
18.	1240/4/36/2022-PCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Bihar
19.	969/1/24/2022-AD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Andhra Pradesh
20.	1707/4/9/2020-AD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Bihar
21.	1051/12/7/2020-AD	Death in judicial custody	7.50	Madhya Pradesh
22.	1617/36/2/2020-AD	Death in judicial custody	4.25	Telangana
23.	706/7/7/2021-AD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Haryana
24.	142/24/54/2021-WC	Police inaction on a complaint of sexual assault	1.00	Uttar Pradesh

Case studies

In many cases, the Commission, contrary to the claims of the concerned State authorities, found that the human rights of the victims were violated due to their unlawful action, inaction or omission. Therefore, the Commission, under the Protection of Human Rights Act, issued show cause notices as to why monetary relief should not be recommended to be paid to the victims of human rights violation or their next of kin and action against the erring/ negligent officials on a case-to-case basis. The merits of the states' approach to responding to its show cause notices prompted the Commission to recommend monetary relief to the victims of human rights violations or their next of kin. The Commission also received reports of compliance with its recommendations by the respective state authorities. Summaries of some of such cases are as under:

Death in judicial custody

(Case No. 1707/4/9/2020-AD)

The matter pertained to the death of an under-trial prisoner in the Central Jail, Bettiah, West Champaran, Bihar under suspicious circumstances on 11th June,

2020. Based on the material on record, received in response to its notices to the concerned authorities, the Commission found that the prisoner committed suicide when the jail officials left the ward unattended. Therefore, the incident clearly

indicated their negligence. Hence, the Commission, holding the state vicariously liable for negligence of its officials, issued a notice to the Government of Bihar, through its Chief Secretary, to show cause why it should

not recommend payment of Rs. 5 lakh as relief to the next of kin (NoK) of the deceased prisoner.

The government of Bihar, in response, contended that the prisoner died due to asphyxia as he hanged himself, and there had been no negligence or dereliction of duty on part of the prison officials and staff. The Commission did not accept the state government's contention and confirmed the amount of relief to be paid by the state to the NoK of the deceased, which was eventually paid.

Death in judicial custody

(Case No. 4428/25/11/2021-JCD)

The matter pertained to the death of an under-trial prisoner at the Malda District correctional home, Malda, West Bengal on 4th October, 2021. Based on the material on record, received in response to its notices to the concerned authorities, the Commission found that the prisoner died an unnatural death due to torture in the correctional home. The Commission, holding the state vicariously liable for the acts of its officials, issued a notice to the Government of West Bengal, through its Chief Secretary, to show cause why it should not recommend payment of Rs. 7.5 lakh as relief to the NoK of the deceased prisoner. However, having received no response to the show cause notice, the Commission confirmed its recommendation for the payment of relief to the victim's family, which the state government paid.

Death in police custody

(Case No. 1051/12/7/2020-AD)

The matter pertained to the death of a young man due to the alleged police torture at Malanpur Police Station, Bhind district, Madhya Pradesh on 15th May, 2020. Based on the material on record, received in response to its

notices to the concerned authorities, the Commission found that the Enquiry Magistrate, in his report, concluded that his death was unnatural in the ordinary course due to negligence. He further concluded that if the police personnel would have been more vigilant and cautious this incident could have been avoided.

Citing the negligence of the police officials, the Commission issued a notice to the government of Madhya Pradesh, through its Chief Secretary, to show cause, why it should not recommend payment of Rs.7.5 lakh as relief to the next of kin of the deceased. In response, the state government denied the fault of the police personnel. However, the Commission did not agree to their contention and recommended that it pay Rs.7.5 lakh to the NoK of the deceased, which was paid after subsequent follow-up with the authorities.

Police inaction

(Case No. 829/30/2/2022)

The complainant alleged that her photograph was used in a pornography video on social media and the police registered her FIR only after she approached the High Court and got directions. The Commission directed the state to investigate the matter and also conducted a spot inquiry into the allegations through its Investigation Division. The enquiry exposed various shortcomings in the handling of the matter by the police officials, showing a complete lack of sensitivity to an incident involving the honour and dignity of a woman. Therefore, the Commission issued a notice to the Delhi Chief Secretary and the Police Commissioner to show cause why Rs.10 lakh should not be recommended to be paid as relief to the victim of police apathy and negligence

in taking prompt action on her complaint, besides appropriate action against the erring officials.

Death while cleaning sewer

(Case No. 4426/4/26/2023)

The matter pertained to the death of a sanitation worker of the Municipal Corporation in Patna, Bihar due to suffocation while cleaning a septic tank of a private person. Based on the material on record, received in response to its notices to the concerned authorities, the Commission issued a notice to the government of Bihar, through its Chief Secretary, to show cause why it should not recommend payment of Rs. 15 lakh to the NoK of the deceased worker in the light of the 2023 judgement of the Supreme Court of India in WP(c) No. 324 of 2020, directing the union and the states to ensure that compensation for sewer deaths is increased from Rs.10.00 lakh, applicable since 1993.

Death due to the consumption of an adulterated cake

(Case No. 776/19/15/2024)

The matter pertained to the death of a minor girl after eating adulterated cake ordered online in Patiala, Punjab on 24th March, 2024. Based on the material on record, received in response to its notices to the concerned authorities, the Commission found that the sample of chocolate fantasy cake did not conform to the standards laid down in the food safety standards regulations indicating negligence of the concerned food safety authorities. Hence, it has issued a notice to the government of Punjab, through its Chief Secretary, to show cause why a monetary compensation should not be recommended to be paid to the NoK of the deceased.

Field visits

The Chairperson, Members and senior officers of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India visit various places in the country from time to time to assess the human rights situation and the status of the implementation of the Commission's advisories, guidelines and recommendations by the respective state governments and their concerned authorities. They also visit shelter homes, prisons, observation homes, etc. and sensitise the government functionaries to make necessary efforts towards ameliorating the cause of human rights. Submission of timely reports by the state authorities to help the Commission in the early disposal of cases of human rights violations is also emphasised.

Visits of the NHRC, India Member

On 17th June, 2025, NHRC, India Member, Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani visited an Anganwadi Centre and held an interactive session with Anganwadi teachers at the Rajkiya Sarvodaya Bal Vidhyalaya, West Vinod Nagar, in East Delhi to assess the human rights situation and various facilities. She was accompanied by Shri Joginder Singh, Registrar (Law) and other officers. She was informed about irregular salaries of Anganwadi teachers, besides their static career opportunities, inaccessibility to the benefits of any government welfare schemes, inadequate training in handling children, pregnant women, persons with disabilities or transgender and the safety concerns.



► NHRC, India Member, Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani addressing the Anganwadi Teachers in Delhi

On 30th June 2025, she visited another Anganwadi Centre in the Geeta Colony, East Delhi to assess the on-ground status of early childhood care services. The visit revealed several critical concerns like the centre functions out of a single cramped room, housing two Anganwadi units, with 24 enrolled children but only 15 tables, leaving no space for indoor activities or games. Sanitation facilities are severely lacking, with the only available washroom in an unhygienic and unusable condition. The building is poorly ventilated, emitting a foul smell. The overall infrastructure is in a dilapidated state, devoid of basic amenities essential for the health, safety, and development of young children. Most alarmingly, the Anganwadi Supervisor had not received her salary for the past four months, despite this being her sole source of income causing immense financial stress. The Member emphasised that these conditions highlight an urgent need for infrastructural improvements and timely disbursement of wages to frontline childcare workers.

Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India has designated 15 Special Rapporteurs to monitor human rights conditions across various regions of the country. They conduct visits to shelter homes, prisons, observation homes and similar institutions, compiling reports for the Commission that detail their observations and suggestions for future action. Additionally, the Commission has appointed 21 Special Monitors tasked with overseeing specific thematic human rights issues and reporting their findings to the Commission. The visits of two Special Monitors were as follows:

Special Monitors

- From 11th to 13th June, 2025, Dr. Yogesh Dube, visited 'One Stop Centre' that provides immediate emergency / non-emergency support in Darbhanga district, Bihar. He also visited a Balika Griha there to check the facilities and welfare of the children.
- From 22nd to 27th June 2025, Dr. Sadhana Rout, visited Bhubaneswar, Berhampur and Keonjhar in Odisha to understand the issues faced by women.

Capacity Building

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India is mandated to protect and promote human rights and build awareness about the same. For this purpose, it has been conducting internship programmes, collaborative training and various other activities to expand its outreach and human rights sensitisation. Internships are conducted in person as well as online. The online internships are organised to ensure that students from remote areas can join without any expenses for their travel and stay in Delhi. In addition, the Commission also organises a tailored human rights training programme for the officers of various services as its mission to uphold and safeguard human rights across all institutions, ensuring that the rights and dignity of every individual are protected.

Summer Internship Programme (SIP)

The four-week Summer Internship Programme (SIP)-2025 of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India began at its premises in New Delhi on 16th June, 2025. The programme aims to foster human rights awareness among university-level students. 80 students out of 1,468 applicants from 42 institutions of 20 States/ UTs were shortlisted for this programme. They are

from diverse academic disciplines including Law, Social Sciences, Social Work, Psychology, Journalism, Gender Studies, Digital Humanities and International Relations.

Inaugurating the programme, NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian, highlighted the strength of India's unity in diversity, reflected in the interns' varied backgrounds. He stressed the transformative power of peer learning and said that a child is nurtured by a mother's care, a father's direction, siblings' insights, and the influence of peers. Encouraging their proactive engagement, he underscored the importance of gaining knowledge to serve a purpose in life. He also urged the interns to champion justice and



► NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian inaugurating the Summer Internship Programme (SIP)-2025



► The interns attending the inaugural session

empathy, contributing to a society where equal rights and opportunities are accessible to all human beings.

Earlier, in his keynote address on the occasion, the NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal, emphasised the critical role of youth in advancing human rights. He called for cultivating a deep sense of sensitivity, responsive-



► NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal addressing the interns

ness and compassion among youth to address societal challenges with a purpose and dedication. Drawing on India's civilisational values, he encouraged the interns to adopt a balance in their outlook towards rights with responsibilities and to foster a commitment to creating an inclusive and just society. He expressed the hope that the interns would make the best use of this opportunity in shaping their lives for a better cause.

Before this, giving an overview of the internship programme, the NHRC, India Joint Secretary, Shri Samir Kumar, highlighted the Commission's efforts in promoting and protecting human rights through such programmes. He highlighted that the programme's interactive sessions, group research projects, book reviews, and declamation contests and field visits to NGOs, Police Stations, Prisons, Shelter Homes, other National Commissions, etc. are designed to deepen interns' understanding of various facets of human rights issues and inspire innovative solutions, strengthening their dedication to the cause. A stipend of Rs. 12,000/- is given to each student who successfully completes the internship. Lt. Col. Virender Singh, Director, NHRC, delivered the vote of thanks.



► The SIP-2025 interns with the Chairperson, Members and senior officers of the Commission

Capacity Building Programme for Phase II IPS Probationers on Human Rights

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India, in collaboration with the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA), Hyderabad, organised the second edition of its Capacity Building Programme on Human Rights for the Phase - II IPS Probationers of the 76RR (2023 Batch). The programme was held at SVPNPA, Hyderabad from the 16th – 17th June, 2025.

Addressing the inaugural session, Shri R. Prasad Meena, Director General (Investigation), NHRC, India, emphasised the importance of ethical policing and safeguarding human rights within law enforcement practices.

This was followed by a session by Shri Pupul Dutta Prasad, IPS, Professor at the Lloyd Law College on 'Victim Compensation Matters'. Another session on 'Human Rights as evolved by the Jurisprudence of the Supreme Court and Rights of Vulnerable Sections' was conducted by Shri O.P. Vyas, Chairman, CWC, Delhi. A session on 'NHRC's Guidelines and Advisories' was delivered by Ms. Ilakkiya Karunakaran, IPS, Senior Superintendent of Police, NHRC.

The programme concluded with a valedictory session addressed by the Chief Guest, Justice V. Ramasubramanian, Chairperson, NHRC, India on 'Human Rights – A Historical Perspective.' He highlighted the evolution of human rights through history and emphasised their enduring relevance.



NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice V. Ramasubramanian addressing the IPS probationers

Workshops

- On 23rd June, 2025, NHRC, India in collaboration with Sree Narayana College, Alathur in Palakkad, Kerala, organised a day-long seminar on 'Human Rights awareness of students'. About 110 students attended.



- On 24th June, 2025, the NHRC in collaboration with the Society for Empowerment and Welfare Action, Balangir, Odisha organised a day-long training programme on 'Human Rights Awareness for Students'. It was virtually inaugurated by the NHRC Director, Lt Col Virender Singh. About 110 students attended.



- On 25th June, 2025, NHRC, India in collaboration with the New Arts, Commerce and Science College, Ahmadnagar, Maharashtra, organised a two-day training programme on 'Human rights in rural areas.' More than 100 participants attended it. Addressing the valedictory session, NHRC SSP, Shri Yuvraj, emphasised the critical role of human rights awareness in empowering rural communities.



- From 28th- 29th June, 2025, the Indian Law Institute (ILI) organised a two-day training programme for First Class Judicial Magistrates on 'Human Rights: Issues and Challenges.' NHRC, India Joint Secretary, Shri Samir Kumar addressed a session.



NHRC in the International arena

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India, continues to engage with various international programmes to foster an exchange of ideas on various aspects of human rights. Several foreign institutional delegates visit the Commission and meet the Chairperson, Members and senior officers to understand the functioning of the Commission for promoting and protecting human rights. The Commission's Chairperson, Members and senior officers also visit various international forums to share their thoughts on the achievements of the Commission, interact with other NHRIs, and discuss the challenges to human rights in the fast-evolving world.

High-level Policy Dialogue on 'Multi sectoral Partnerships for Marine & Coastal Ecosystem Restoration'

On 11th June, 2025, NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal delivered the Chair Address at the High-level Policy Dialogue on 'Multi sectoral Partnerships for Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Restoration' - an official UN Ocean Conference side event by India Water Foundation in Nice, France. In his address, Shri Lal said that the dialogue builds on the momentum of the 2025 UN Ocean Conference and reinforces the urgency of implementing SDG-14: Life Below Water. He said that oceans regulate climate, sustain biodiversity and support over 3 billion people globally.

He noted that if the oceans were an economy, it would rank 7th globally at \$2.6 trillion/ year. Yet its health is declining - absorbing 90% of excess heat, with acidification up 26% since pre-industrial times and over 35% of fish stocks exploited unsustainably. Shri Lal called for regional-to-local adaptation,

urging BIMSTEC, IORA and ASEAN to scale marine planning and blue carbon restoration. With 7,517 km of coastline and 28M marine-linked livelihoods, India is strengthening Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

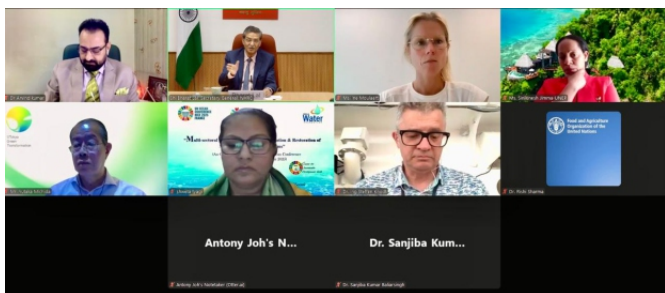
He also said that nature-based solutions such as mangrove and dune restoration could save up to \$100 billion annually in disaster-related losses. The importance of coherent governance across sectors was also highlighted. Shri Lal said that case studies from Tamil Nadu's mangrove restoration and Gujarat's women-led seaweed farming demonstrate the value of local leadership and traditional knowledge in building ocean resilience.



► NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal delivering the Chair Address at the High-level Policy Dialogue on 'Multi sectoral Partnerships for Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Restoration'

He said that more funds are required as only 1.6% of global climate finance goes to ocean solutions. The National Blue Resilience Fund-pooling CSR, public and international funds-can bridge this gap. He also stressed the role of strong data and knowledge systems, including ocean observation and citizen science. Blue carbon ecosystems, which store 3 to 5 times more carbon than forests, remain underfunded despite their potential.

Shri Lal said that coastal communities, including fishermen and migrants, are increasingly vulnerable. Climate responses must embed justice, social protection and the right to a healthy environment- which NHRC affirms as an integral part of the right to life under Article 21. He said that ocean conservation is key to climate resilience, economic stability, food security and human dignity. It's time to shift from recognition to action which is science-based, rights-aligned and equitable. India, as a G20 and Global South leader, is catalysing this transformation.



► A section of online participants at the High-level Policy Dialogue on 'Multi sectoral Partnerships for Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Restoration'

6th Annual Meeting of the UN Network on Migration

On 23rd June, 2025, Shri Samir Kumar, Joint Secretary NHRC, India, attended the 6th Annual Meeting of the UN Network

on Migration to launch the Network work plan for 2025-2026 and include the Migration MPTF (Multi-Partner Trust Fund) Consultative Forum. The online meeting was attended by 131 participants across the world.

Other international engagements

- On 4th June, 2025, Lt. Col. Virender Singh, Director, NHRC, India attended a webinar on the participation of the NHRIs in the sessions of the Human Rights Council.
- From 10th - 11th June, 2025, Dr. Rajul Raikwar, Consultant (Research), NHRC, India attended online Asia-Pacific Training of NHRI's on Integrating Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights into Human Rights Monitoring and Reporting of NHRIs.
- On 18th June, 2025, Shri Samir Kumar, Joint Secretary, NHRC, India attended the monthly GANHRI Working Group of Business and Human Rights organised by the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines.
- From 19th - 20th June, 2025, Shri Samir Kumar, Joint Secretary, NHRC, India participated in the Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.



► NHRC, India Joint Secretary, Shri Samir Kumar with the participants of the Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons

- On 30th June, 2025, Shri Samir Kumar, Joint Secretary, NHRC, India attended an online Seminar on National Mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up to Human Rights Council's resolution 51/33.

Research Study

The National Human Rights Commission sponsors research projects on various aspects of human rights to have an assessment of the situation on the ground and related policy and legal provisions. Below is a brief outcome of one such recently concluded research study:

Women's Falling Participation in the Labour Force in India: A Ground-Level Study

Commissioned by:

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India

Principal Investigator:

Prof. Rishi Kumar, BITS Pilani, Hyderabad Campus

Full Report available at:

www.nhrc.nic.in

India, a developing nation undergoing significant structural transformation, holds immense potential for inclusive economic growth. At the heart of this potential lies an underutilised resource: **female labour**. Despite rising per capita income and expanded development, the country's **female labour force participation (FLFP)** remains low and in many states, it is declining.

To understand this troubling trend, the NHRC sponsored a detailed research project titled 'Women's Falling Participation in the Labour Force in India: A Ground-Level Investigation into Factors and Obstacles' Conducted under the leadership of Prof. Rishi Kumar, the study explored the socio-economic and cultural reasons for declining FLFP by collecting primary data from Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Telangana—states where FLFP has significantly dropped.

Research Scope and Methodology

The study followed a **participatory, micro-level approach**, focusing on three categories of women:

- i.) Those who have **never worked**,
- ii.) Those who have **dropped out** of the workforce, and
- iii.) Those who are **currently employed**.

A total of **1,510 women** were surveyed across the three states, with approximately 500 from each state. Each employment category made up roughly **one-third** of the

sample population, offering a balanced dataset to analyse trends and perceptions.

Key Findings and Regional Differences

Rural-Urban Disparities

- **Savings Behaviour:** Urban working women saved more (7.8%) than rural counterparts (6.22%). Conversely, rural women who had dropped out saved more (6.47%) than urban dropouts (4.75%).
- **Digital Payments:** Usage was found to be consistently increasing across both rural and urban areas, reflecting a broader move toward cashless transactions.
- **Employment Type:** Over 50% of rural women, irrespective of job status, were engaged in temporary, non-contractual work. In contrast, only 9.24% of urban working women were in such employment.
- **Maternity Benefits:** Access remains alarmingly low. Just 4.37% of rural and 6.02% of urban working women had access to paid maternity leave. None of the dropouts received it.
- **Promotion and Mobility:** Promotion rates were poor—27% for rural and 14% for urban working women. Rural women typically travelled over 5 km to work, often relying on auto-rickshaws or buses, while urban women commonly walked.

These differences underscore deep-rooted structural inequalities that affect women's employment prospects and continuity.

Determinants of Female Labour Participation

Financial Necessity and Family Dynamics

Women often entered the workforce in response to financial crises or inadequate household income. Those with greater domestic responsibilities, particularly in joint family setups where duties were shared, showed a higher likelihood of continued employment.

Women aged 25–34 were most prone to workforce exits due to motherhood, exacerbated by the lack of maternity leave, childcare and domestic support. Notably, women from families where mothers were employed were more likely to be in the workforce themselves, revealing an important intergenerational impact.

Education and Vocational Training

The correlation between education and employment followed a **J-shaped curve**:

- **Illiterate women** often worked in informal sectors.
- **Secondary-educated women** showed reduced participation.
- **Higher-educated women** exhibited increasing engagement.
- Vocational and technical training significantly improved job prospects, reinforcing the importance of **skill-based, job-oriented education** alongside formal academics.

Social Norms, Autonomy, and Perceptions

The study found that family support, autonomy and gender role perceptions strongly influenced women's employment status. Women in supportive family environments, where both parents and in-laws were encouraging, were more likely to work. Several indices were developed:

1. **Family Equality Index** – higher among working women, reflecting equitable sharing of responsibilities.
2. **Financial Inclusion Index** – working women were more active in financial services.
3. **Autonomy Index** – based on decision-making, spending rights and asset ownership; again, higher for working women.
4. **Awareness Index** – measured internet usage, legal knowledge (e.g., POSH Act), and general awareness, all showing higher scores for working women.

Mobility was also a critical factor. Working women drove vehicles more often and were more confident commuting alone. In contrast, women who had never worked usually needed permission to travel and were reluctant to commute, limiting their employment opportunities.

Women's Perceptions by Employment Category

Never-Employed Women

These women often believed that working women faced:

- Difficulty balancing home and work,
- Marital challenges, and

- Lack of family support.

Such perceptions often deterred them from seeking employment, even when financially necessary.

Dropouts

Women who had exited the workforce cited:

- Low wages (especially compared to men),
- Childcare challenges, and
- Unfriendly or unsafe work environments.

Strikingly, 40% felt that their domestic life improved after quitting, reflecting a preference for home over hostile workplaces.

Barriers and Potential Solutions

The study highlighted several recurring obstacles:

- Inadequate jobs matching women's skill sets.
- Lack of domestic support, particularly from male family members.
- Unfavourable workplace conditions: no childcare, maternity leave, or safety.
- Societal norms that restrict female independence.

Working women often persisted due to strong family backing and belief in empowerment. Meanwhile, women who had dropped out or never worked indicated they would consider joining the workforce if:

- Their families were more supportive,
- Workplaces were safer and more flexible, and
- They had access to better training and job opportunities.

Government Programmes: Awareness and Gaps

Awareness and utilisation of government schemes like **MGNREGA** and **Mahila-e-Haat** were **low**, especially among non-working women. Even among those aware, perceived benefits were minimal.

This underscores a key issue: policy existence does not guarantee impact. Effective implementation requires increased awareness, targeted outreach and community engagement to shift household attitudes and normalise female employment.

Intergenerational Impact and Long-Term Benefits

One of the most important insights from the study is the intergenerational benefit of female employment. Children—especially daughters—of employed mothers are significantly more likely to pursue education and careers themselves. This multiplier effect suggests that empowering one generation of women catalyses lasting societal change.

Hence, policies must move beyond short-term fixes and aim for systemic, long-term solutions, including:

- Gender-neutral pay,
- Skills training aligned with local job needs,
- Promotion of female education for employability, and
- Cultural campaigns to challenge gender norms.

Policy Recommendations

To reverse declining FLFP, the study recommends a multi-dimensional approach:

- i.) **Household-Level Interventions:** Sensitise men and elders to support women's employment through awareness programmes.

- ii.) **Workplace Reforms:** Create safe, inclusive and flexible work environments.

- iii.) **Educational Integration:** Combine formal education with vocational training and career counselling.

- iv.) **Infrastructure Support:** Improve rural mobility and transport access.

- v.) **Employer Incentives:** Offer tax relief and subsidies to organisations hiring and retaining women, especially mothers.

Conclusion

Declining female labour participation in India is a complex, multi-layered issue rooted in economic, social and cultural dynamics. Addressing it requires more than just policy changes—it calls for a cultural transformation that starts within homes and extends to workplaces and governance systems.

Empowering women through education, financial inclusion, autonomy, and respect is essential not only for gender equality but also for unlocking India's full economic potential. The insights from this study, though based on data from just three states, provide a compelling foundation for ground-level reforms and a roadmap toward inclusive, sustainable growth.

Book Review

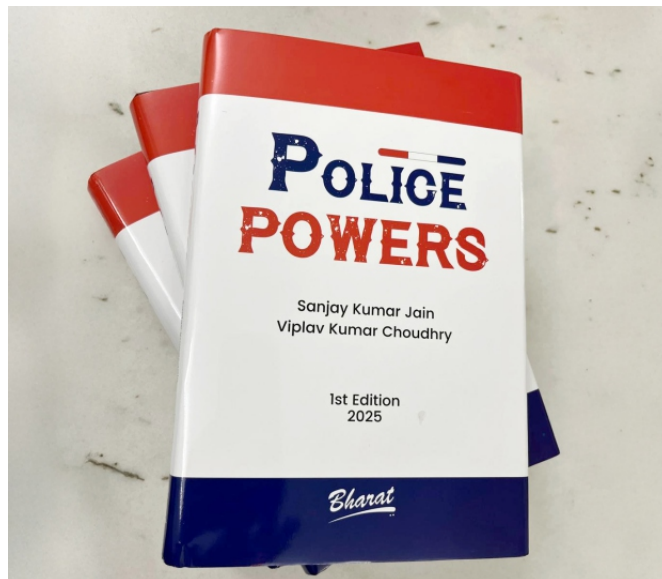
'Police Powers' by Shri Sanjay Jain and Shri Viplav Kumar Choudhry

Prevention and detection of crime, besides maintenance of law and order, is a major task assigned to the police. Despite numerous constitutional and statutory provisions safeguarding the life and liberty of the citizens, instances of abuse of police powers such as non-registration of an FIR, illegal detention, torture of suspects in custody and deaths in police-lock are not so uncommon. In this scenario, a very informative book titled 'Police Powers' has been written by the two IPS officers, Shri Sanjay Jain and Shri Viplav Kumar Choudhry of the 2002 and 1997 batches of AGMUT Cadre, respectively. At present, Shri Jain is posted as Joint Commissioner of Police, Delhi and Shri Viplav as Special Director, Enforcement Directorate. They have drawn upon their practical experiences, including their posting on deputation in the Investigation Division of the NHRC, India

as the Senior Superintendent of Police and Deputy Inspector General. It has been published by the Bharat Law House, New Delhi, for the information of the common reader as well as the serving police personnel. Shri Viplav presented a copy of the book to Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General, NHRC, India. Spread in 4 chapters across 288 pages in paperback format, the book, written in a simple language, provides a comprehensive analysis of various central acts that define and regulate police functions, including registration of an FIR, arrest and detention, investigation and use of force, besides the insights into the scope and limitations of police powers. It serves as an essential guide for law enforcement officers, legal professionals and students of criminal law, aiming to enhance their understanding of the legal boundaries within which police operate.



► Shri Viplav Kumar Choudhary, Special Director, Enforcement Directorate presenting his book to the NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal



Also, abuse of such powers which amounts to serious human rights violations – as has been observed in a catena of judicial pronouncements, decisions of the National Human Rights Commission and reports of the National Police Commission and the Law Commission of India- have also been analysed. Custodial violence and death in custody have been discussed in greater detail as these are the worst forms of human rights violations. Important points have been illustrated through decided cases. Acts and provisions of laws, national as well as international, in abridged form,

have been mentioned at relevant places to make the reader aware of legal provisions relevant to police functioning.

Besides, the people in general, police personnel working at the cutting-edge level in the police stations and their supervisory officers may find this book particularly useful. Officers at similar levels in other law-enforcement agencies, the Central Armed Police Forces and other Armed forces, who also have the police powers of arrest and use of force, may also find this book hands on guide.

News from State Human Rights Commissions

Given the ever-expanding dimensions of human life and related challenges, the promotion and protection of human rights is always a work in progress. In India, besides the democratically elected governments, constitutionally committed to ensuring the welfare of the people by protecting their basic human rights, there are institutions of legislature, judiciary, a vibrant media, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and State Human Rights Commissions (SHRCs), as well as the other National Commissions and their state counterparts working as watchdogs of rights and issues of various segments of society. This column intends to highlight the exceptional activities of the SHRCs undertaken to protect and promote human rights.

Haryana State Human Rights Commission

During June, 2025, the Haryana State Human Rights Commission (HSHRC) called for urgent structural reforms in the government-run health institutions to safeguard the rights of healthcare professionals and improve public health services. The Full Commission, comprising Chairperson Justice Lalit Batra and Members, Shri Kuldeep Jain and Shri Deep Bhatia, appreciated the state Health Department's report detailing key developments like oxygen plant installations, expanded diagnostic services, and recruitment of 777 Medical Officers

but raised serious concern over the increasing administrative burden on specialist doctors, terming it a violation of their fundamental rights under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution. The HSHRC has directed the health authorities to ensure clear segregation of clinical and administrative roles, emphasising that doctors must be

allowed to focus solely on patient care to uphold both service rights and healthcare standards.

The HSHRC has also taken a serious note of the illegal operation of a Pipe Industry in a residential area on Jhajjar Road, Rewari allegedly causing severe air and noise pollution, endangering public health, including that of a heart patient. The Commission has directed the Deputy Commissioner, Pollution Control Board, and municipal officials to submit a detailed report.



► The HSHRC team visiting SOS Children's Village in Greenfield, Faridabad

In another major intervention, the State Commission has directed the Haryana government to urgently remove high-tension electricity lines passing over educational institutions, terming their presence a serious threat to children's safety and fundamental rights. It has also taken *suo motu* cognizance of a case involving a 96-year-old man and his 86-year-old wife allegedly abandoned by their son in Gurugram.

Besides dealing with the cases of human rights violations in Haryana, the HSHRC Chairperson, Justice Lalit Batra and Member, Shri Deep Bhatia visited SOS Children's Village in Greenfield, Faridabad, to review the living conditions, education, health and nutrition facilities provided to the children and sensitised them about their constitutional and human rights. He also urged society and industrial bodies to support such institutions working for the welfare of underprivileged children.

News in brief

- On 4th June, 2025, Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General, NHRC, India delivered a talk for Indian Foreign Service Officer Trainees of 2024 batch in a session on "Human Rights: Not just legal frameworks, but a reflection of the Nation's core values" at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, Old JNU Campus, Delhi.



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- On 5th June, 2025, NHRC, India Member, Justice (Dr) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi addressed as the Chief Guest the 2-day National Seminar on “Environment Protection and Human Rights” organised by the Ever Green Forum, Odisha Biodiversity Board and Government of Odisha. He emphasised that self-centred and selfish attitudes are severely harming environmental protection efforts. He stressed the need for a balanced lifestyle to ensure a healthy and sustainable environment.



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- On 6th June, 2025, Justice Shri V Ramasubramanian, Chairperson, NHRC attended as a Chief Guest the Silver Jubilee function of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan University in Bhubaneswar and delivered a keynote address centred on the theme “Environment & Humanity”. He highlighted the critical interdependence between ecological sustainability and human development.

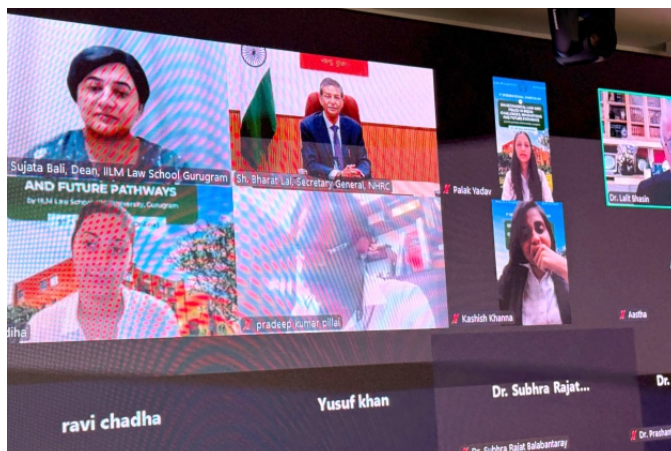


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- On 6th June, 2025, NHRC, India Member, Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani met the Prime Minister, and shared with him the information about the work and activities of the Commission for promoting and protecting human rights.



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- From 7th to 9th June, 2025, Shri Indrajeet Kumar, Deputy Registrar (Law), NHRC visited Ranchi in Jharkhand for interaction with DC, Ranchi in connection with a case regarding an elderly citizen who died at the doorsteps of a hospital after being left there for four days resulting in his death. He also met with the Secretary, Deptt. of Women, Child Development & Social Security to ascertain the status of implementation of various policies, schemes and laws to promote and protect the rights of the senior citizens in the state.

- On 9th June, 2025, Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General, NHRC, India delivered a keynote address on 'Environmental Law and Policy in India: Challenges, Innovations and Future Pathways' at the first International Symposium on Environmental Law.



- On 12th June, 2025, NHRC organised an Advisory Board meeting to discuss the contents for the 22nd edition of its annual Hindi journal 'Manav Adhikar: Nai Dishayein'. Member, Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani chaired it in the presence of Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal, Joint Secretary, Shri Samir Kumar, senior officers and six external experts.



- On 14th June, 2025, NHRC, India Member, Justice (Dr) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi addressed as the Chief Guest the Regional Conference -2025, organised by the 'Y' Men International, North-East India in Cuttack, Odisha. In his address he spoke about human rights and judicial ethics.



- On 21st June, 2025- the NHRC, India greeted the global fraternity on the 11th International Day of Yoga with the theme "Yoga for One Earth, One Health", signifying the inseparable link between personal and planetary health, reflecting the Indian ethos of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - the world is one family.

- On 25th June, 2025, Prof (Dr) Leena G. Gahane, ACET, Nagpur delivered a lecture on 'Empowerment of Women: Rani Ahilyabai Holkar' at NHRC in the presence of Members, Justice (Dr) B.R. Sarangi and Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani and Former Member, Dr D. M. Mulay. She shared insights about the pioneering works of Rani Ahilyabai Holkar towards people's welfare and women's empowerment through her administrative skills, which remain relevant today for the holistic development of society.



- On 26th June, 2025, Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General, NHRC, India delivered a keynote address as the Chief Guest at the 'Capacity Development Forum – Reimagining Institutional Capacity Development for a Sustainable Future' at India International Centre, New Delhi.



Forthcoming events

**21st to 22nd
July, 2025**

NHRC will hold Open hearing and Camp sitting to hear the complaints on Human Rights violation concerning the state of Odisha in Bhubaneswar

**28th to 29th
July, 2025**

NHRC will hold Open hearing and Camp sitting to hear the complaints on Human Rights violation concerning the state of Telangana in Hyderabad

Complaints in June, 2025

Number of fresh complaints received	17,514
Number of cases disposed of including old cases	2,769
Number of cases under consideration of the Commission	30,753

Human rights and NHRC in news



सर्वे
भवन्तु सुखिनः

National Human Rights Commission

Important telephone numbers of the NHRC for filing complaints

Toll Free No.: 14433 (Facilitation Centers) • Fax No.: 011-2465 1332

For Filing online complaints: www.nhrc.nic.in, hrcnet.nic.in, Common Service Centres

Email: complaint.nhrc@nic.in (For complaints), cr.nhrc@nic.in (For general queries/ correspondence)

Focal point for Human Rights Defenders

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