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HUMAN RIGHTS

Newsletter

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Report

4th ITEC Executive Capacity Building
Programme on human rights

Consultation

National Conference on the
'Rights of Transgender Persons'

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National Human Rights Commission

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► NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian lighting the ceremonial lamp before inaugurating the National Conference on the 'Rights of Transgender Persons'



► NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian lighting the ceremonial lamp before inaugurating the 4th ITEC Executive Capacity Building Programme on human rights

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Monthly Recap

From the desk of the Secretary General & Chief Executive

September, 2025 saw significant activities of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India. Besides the registration and disposal of cases, the Commission organised a National Conference on the theme 'Rights of Transgender Persons: Revamping Spaces, Reclaiming Voices.' It was perhaps the first of its kind national-level consultation with active participation of the representative voices among the transgender community. Members of the community shared their concerns with other stakeholders, which included the NHRC, senior functionaries of the Government of India, SHRCs, NCPDR, academia and civil society, to discuss and find a constructive way forward.

History reminds us how transgender persons once held a place of respect in India, only to be criminalised under colonial laws like the Criminal Tribes Act (1871) and Section 377 IPC. Though repealed and struck down in modern India, the scars of stigma remain. The 2011 Census recorded 4.87 lakh transgender persons (0.04% of India's population). With a literacy rate of just 56%, limited access to healthcare and few employment opportunities, the community is facing significant challenges. Studies reveal alarming rates of harassment, dropout and violence against transgender persons, especially in educational institutions. Over the past decade, landmark judgments – NALSA (2014), Puttaswamy (2017), Navtej Johar (2018) and the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 have laid a strong legal foundation. But laws alone are not enough. People's attitudes, institutions and practices must transform.

At NHRC, inclusivity remains a priority. From constituting the Core Group on LGBTI issues (2018), issuing advisories during COVID-19 and visiting Garima Greh shelters (2024–25) to releasing a report 'Transgender Persons: Revamping Spaces, Reclaiming Voices' – all are an affirmation that NHRC learns from lived realities and works to turn rights into everyday experiences. The central message is clear that a shelter is not just four walls; it must be a space of empowerment, education, providing healthcare, skills and dignity. Beyond shelters, we must ensure care for children questioning their identity, support for elderly transgender persons, sensitisation of law enforcement machinery and open pathways to employment and enterprise.

The road ahead demands collaboration among union ministries, state governments, civil society, academia and

most importantly, the transgender community. Gandhiji reminded us that the true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members. Therefore, let us remember that inclusion is not a charity, it is justice; equality is not a favour, it is a right and dignity is not negotiable, it is the essence of being human. This edition of the Newsletter carries a report on the National Conference on Transgender Persons.

Besides this Conference, the Commission, in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs, organised the fourth ITEC Capacity Building Programme on Human Rights for the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) of the Global South. 43 senior functionaries from 12 NHRIs attended the programme. The programme aims to strengthen the capacities of the NHRIs and reflects the Commission's ongoing commitment to global human rights dialogue, South-South cooperation and the collective advancement of rights-based governance. It also encouraged peer learning and collaboration in promoting socio-economic progress and human development to support collective well-being.

The programme highlighted India's rich and diverse cultural ethos with various religious faiths, castes, languages, dialects and art forms; all thriving together in unity for centuries through shared traditions and values. It gave a better understanding of the Indian ethos of respecting human rights and values, besides fostering mutual learning on issues of shared concerns across the Global South. This edition carries a report on this Capacity Building Programme.

In September, the Commission conducted another round of its Online Short-Term Internship (OSTI) programme. Over a period, the OSTIs have evolved as a significant initiative to orient and sensitise young minds about the significance of human rights and values in life. The online internship programme has ensured that students living in remote, forested and border areas, who cannot travel and stay in Delhi for the in-person internship programme, can learn from their places. These internships aim to empower participants as ambassadors of human rights, enabling them to recognise and respond to justice and injustice in everyday settings, be it home, workplace or public spaces. Interns are chosen for their potential to lead and contribute meaningfully to human rights advocacy.

Human rights constantly evolve with time, bringing in new concerns such as climate justice, with an estimated 120 million people at risk of displacement by 2030; cyber security in an era of rapid technological advancement and the rights of workers in the gig economy, which often lack the security and protections of conventional jobs. Human rights advocacy is vital to ensure fairness and dignity in this changing landscape.

The month also provided me opportunities to engage in discussions on various aspects of human rights at national and global forums. This included a keynote address at GDHS 2025 in Mumbai on Mental Health, Digital Health and Human Rights. Nearly 15% of Indians face mental health challenges in their lifetime, yet 70 – 90% do not receive timely care. The most critical question remains how to detect mental health issues early. The Mental Healthcare Act 2017, the District Mental Health Programme and new digital initiatives are significant milestones, but we must go further to ensure access for children, students, professionals, prison inmates, the elderly and those facing trauma or emotional distress.

The way forward lies in family and community-based support systems, early identification, destigmatisation, awareness generation, building empathy among youth, strengthening institutions and expanding the pool of trained mental health professionals. World Mental Health Day on 10th October is an opportunity to reflect on what has been accomplished and what more needs to be done to further the cause of mental health in the country. The NHRC has been working very closely with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, State governments and the National Medical Commission to address the issue.

Dementia is another concern faced by the elderly that requires focussed attention. While inaugurating the National Consultative Meet on Dementia Strategy on 'Dementia and Human Rights: Dignity, Protection and Policy Imperatives,' I highlighted the challenges faced by the elderly population and the concerns relating to the rising number of people with dementia and Alzheimer's were highlighted. The stigma and vulnerability to fraud and cybercrime infringe upon their dignity and rights. An element of consistency is required in the way forward adopted by different stakeholders to rebuild a system of elderly care in our homes, which, with the growing concept of the nuclear family, is fading in our society. The key initiatives by the government and NHRC, which include inputs from its Core Group on Rights of the Elderly, Advisories, *suo motu* interventions and support for

dementia research, are catalysts to prompt civil society action.

Corruption impacts human rights. It is not just a governance challenge, but a criminal offence violating economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights. It erodes trust, weakens democracy, undermines the rule of law and disproportionately harms the poor and the vulnerable. It triggers a chain reaction of systemic issues: children are deprived of educational opportunities, families lose access to basic healthcare, nutrition and housing while communities experience long-term environmental degradation. The Constitution, Judiciary, NHRC, SHRCs, anti-corruption bodies and other statutory bodies collectively uphold accountability. Over the past decade, India's digital governance reforms have sharply reduced corruption. India has built a strong institutional and legal framework to fight corruption while safeguarding rights. At the UN Human Rights Council meet in Colombo, Sri Lanka, I highlighted the robustness of Indian institutional frameworks while delivering the keynote address on 'Corruption and Human Rights – India's Experience and Institutional Responses', followed by insightful Q&A session.

Character building while pursuing career is of utmost importance. This edition of the Newsletter carries an insightful and thought-provoking article on this subject by the NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian, providing an engaging read.

India's strength lies not only in technology but also in its civilisational ethos, traditional knowledge and wisdom, values of harmony, inclusivity and resilience. These must guide us in shaping ethical and trustworthy science for the world. The 5th INSA–NCGG LEADS Programme, centred on developing leadership in Science and Technology, provided me with an opportunity to encourage the distinguished scientists to uphold these values as they are preparing for leadership roles in India's scientific institutions.

This issue also includes detailed reports on the visits and key engagements of NHRC, India officers throughout the month, providing a comprehensive view of the Commission's continued advocacy and action.



[Bharat Lal]

Secretary General &
Chief Executive Officer

Consultation

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India organises various consultations from time to time. These include conferences, open house discussions, national seminars and symposiums on various aspects of human rights with different stakeholders. The purpose is to bring such issues of importance to the mainstream of national discourse, identify the problems and find solutions to recommend to the government as a way forward. On 4th September, 2025, the Commission organised one such important National Conference on the 'Rights of Transgender Persons: Revamping Spaces, Reclaiming Voices.'

National Conference on the 'Rights of Transgender Persons'

NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian inaugurated the Conference at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi in the presence of Shri Amit Yadav, Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General, NHRC, senior officers, representatives of key Ministries, experts, judicial and legal experts, policy makers, civil society organisations, UN agencies, law enforcement agencies, academicians and community leaders among other stakeholders.

Citing the Isavasya and Chandogya Upanishads, Justice Ramasubramanian highlighted India's rich tradition in which the concept of equality was taken to profound heights, with the Upanishads viewing every element of creation as a manifestation of the divine. He questioned how, in such a worldview, any part of creation could be subject to discrimination by another. He emphasised that

these fundamental questions form the core of the NHRC's decision to organise this Conference on the Rights of Transgender Persons.

He observed that the modern evolution of human rights has largely operated within a binary framework. Simply replacing the word "men" with "human beings" in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948 did not fundamentally change our ingrained stereotypical thought processes. Society continues to think that men and women alone constitute the human race. There are and there could be individuals who do not fit into this binary of men and women. This is something that societies all over are still grappling to accept. As a result, transgender individuals continue to face widespread discrimination and stigma in areas such as healthcare, education, employment, housing and even access to basic facilities like washrooms.

Justice Ramasubramanian noted that India is ahead of many countries in recognising the rights of transgender persons. With the whole-of-government approach, the legislative, the executive and the judiciary have collectively worked to transform the inclusive philosophy of the Upanishads into a constitutional theme, which was translated into a court order and further into legislation through the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019. However, the constitutionality of its



► NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian addressing the National Conference on the 'Rights of Transgender Persons'



► A section of attendees

provisions under Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 12(3), 18(a) and 18(d) is currently under review by the Supreme Court of India. It is in recognition of the fact that the transgender population, estimated at around 4.88 lakh according to the 2011 Census, cannot be left out of the mainstream that the NHRC has the honour to host this National Conference.

Before this, in his special address, Shri Amit Yadav, Secretary, MoSJE, reaffirmed the Government's commitment to ensuring that no individual, including transgender persons, faces discrimination, reflecting the principles enshrined in Articles 14, 15 and 16 of the Constitution. He noted that the 2019 Act, enacted following Supreme Court directives, addresses various aspects of their welfare, including health and education. He stressed the importance of translating the provisions of the Act into tangible actions. He highlighted several proactive measures taken by the Government, such as the formation of

the National Council for Transgender Persons, the launch of the SMILE scheme supporting Garima Grehs and the creation of the National Portal for Transgender Persons.

Shri Yadav emphasised that policy improvement is an ongoing process. Based on community feedback, the Government revised the guidelines for Garima Grehs in 2025. For health care, the issuance of Transgender Ayush Cards has begun, with 50 cards issued so far. He urged members of the community to identify themselves and register on the National Portal to accelerate this process. He also called upon institutions like the NHRC, State Human Rights Commissions and civil society to play a key role in raising awareness.

He also shared that skill development and vocational training initiatives have been launched to promote employment in line with the 2019 Act. The first batch of trained transgender persons is nearing completion of their training and Rozgar Melas are being organised specifically for them. He stressed the need for increased collaboration with



► Shri Amit Yadav, Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment delivering the special address

the private sector to expand employment opportunities. Shri Yadav stated that the Government is revising welfare schemes and welcomes suggestions, adding that funding is not a constraint. Plans to strengthen grievance redressal mechanisms are also underway. He further noted that MoSJE is working with the Department of Education to sensitise students on transgender issues. He concluded by underlining the importance of platforms like the NHRC conference in promoting dignity, inclusion and equal opportunity for transgender persons.

Before this, Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General, NHRC said that human dignity is inalienable; and the true measure of a society lies in how it treats its most marginalised and vulnerable communities. He highlighted that in ancient and medieval India, Transgender Persons were held in high esteem, without any discrimination. Unfortunately, the Criminal Tribes Act 1871 classified the community as a 'Criminal Tribe'. India repealed this Act in 1952 following its independence. Also, Section 377 of the erstwhile IPC criminalised 'non hetero-normative sexual behaviour.' This, too, has become a part of history now.

Shri Lal said that according to the 2011 Census, approximately 4.88 lakh individuals identified themselves as transgender persons. This is just 0.04% of India's population. Yet, behind these numbers lies a stark reality: a literacy rate of only 56.07% among transgender persons, which is significantly lower than the national average; limited access to formal employment and widespread barriers in accessing supportive, gender-affirming healthcare. He said that documentation also remains a major hurdle. Non-availability of 'gender identity certificates' continues to block their access to welfare schemes, financial services and justice. He said that we must support transgender children with care, not rejection; ensure dignity and care for elderly transgender persons; make law enforcement protective allies, not threats and open up employment opportunities to uphold their dignity through financial independence.

Shri Bharat Lal also noted the tremendous progress made since 2012 with the work of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on issues related to

transgender persons. He emphasised that for the NHRC, India, protection and promotion of the most vulnerable and marginalised sections of society and their dignity is the top-most priority. In 2001-02, the Commission recommended the review of Section 377 of the IPC as well as the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. In 2018, NHRC constituted a Core Group on LGBTI issues with a focus on transgender community. In 2020, during Covid-19 pandemic, it issued an advisory protecting the LGBTQ+ community. On 15th September, 2023, the Commission issued an advisory for ensuring the welfare of Transgender Persons. He also shared that during 2024-25, the NHRC team visited 12 Garima Greh Shelters established in the first phase, to gather ground-level insights and develop evidence-based future course of actions. The findings have been compiled in the form of a report, 'Transgender Persons: Revamping Spaces, Reclaiming Voices – Insights from Garima Greh Shelters and Beyond.' This report was released on the occasion.

Apart from the inaugural and valedictory sessions, the Conference was divided into three technical sessions and a panel discussion. The first session on 'Strengthening Garima Greh Shelters' was chaired by Smt Anita Sinha, Chief Commissioner, Income Tax Department. The panelists were Smt B. Radhika Chakravarthy, Joint Secretary, National Commission for Women; Ms Isabelle Tschan, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP, India; Ms Reshma Prasad, Dostana Safar, Patna and Shri Nikunj Jain, Co-Director, Tapish Foundation, Garima Greh.

The second session on 'Institutional Care for Gender Non-Conforming Children and Elderly Transgender Persons' was chaired by Dr D.M. Mulay, Former Member, NHRC. The panelists



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



► Release of the report, 'Transgender Persons: Revamping Spaces, Reclaiming Voices – Insights from Garima Greh Shelters and Beyond.'

were Dr Sanjeev Sharma, Member Secretary, NCPCR; Ms Laxmi Narayan Tripathi, NHRC Special Monitor and Core Group Member; Ms Abhina Aher, Managing Director, Tweet Foundation and Shri Gopi Shankar Madurai, Intersex and Gender queer activist, Founder, Srishti Madurai.

The third session on 'Building a Fair and Inclusive Law Enforcement Framework' was chaired by Smt Jyotika Kalra, Former Member, NHRC with participation from Ms Shalini Singh, Director General of Police, Puducherry; Shri Ram Dulesh, Dy. Commissioner of Police, Delhi; Ms Kalki Subramaniam, Founder, Sahodari Foundation and Ms Shreegauri Sawant, transgender rights activist.

In the valedictory session, Shri Bharat Lal while summing up the discussions, said that in every session, panellists from the transgender community brought to light the fact that among various marginalised groups, they remain the most vulnerable. He stressed the need for concerted efforts for their inclusion

through greater investment in education, improved access to healthcare and creation of more opportunities. While many states have initiated inclusive measures, there is still much room for improvement. He emphasised that transgender community, civil society and the Government must work together to uphold constitutional values and achieve true equality, reminding all that dignity must be extended to everyone. He concluded by noting that while progress has been made, significant work still lies ahead.



► Dr D.M. Mulay, Former Member, NHRC chairing a session



► Smt Jyotika Kalra, Former Member, NHRC chairing a session



► Smt Anita Sinha, Chief Commissioner, Income Tax Department chairing a session

Dr V. K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog, in his way forward address, thanked the NHRC, India for its outreach and acknowledged the importance of the issue. Referring to the NHRC's report, he praised its coverage of gender non-conforming children, best practices in employment and workplace inclusion. He stressed that awareness must be raised to reinforce the idea that society is one and humanity is indivisible. He further underlined that India must lead the way on transgender rights, as they are deeply rooted in Indian values. He called for scaling up efforts across all sectors of society, adopting systematic approaches to address gender related challenges in workplaces. He assured that the NITI Aayog stands ready to collaborate with the NHRC for any policy interventions and guide in advancing the cause of transgender persons.



► Dr V. K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog delivering his way forward address

In the beginning, Shri Samir Kumar, Joint Secretary, NHRC gave an overview of the Conference and Smt Saidingpuui Chhakchhuak, Joint Secretary, NHRC delivered the vote of thanks in the inaugural session. The Conference concluded with the vote of thanks delivered by Smt Kim, DIG, NHRC.

Some of the highlights of the NHRC, India's report 'Transgender Persons: Revamping Spaces, Reclaiming Voices – Insights from Garima Greh Shelters and Beyond' are as follows:

- All states should activate Project Monitoring Committees (PMCs) with clear delegation of responsibilities to district officials and appointment of police focal points for transgender issues.
- Timely release of funds must be ensured, along with revised allocations for food to the beneficiaries; besides context-specific financial models for urban and rural shelters and infrastructure support through one-time grants.
- Staffing structures should align with market standards with rationalised roles to prevent overburdening.
- Shelter heads must be empowered to assist in Transgender ID card issuance through simplified and privacy-sensitive processes.
- In healthcare, broader medical expenses should be covered, hospital partnerships established and the rollout of Ayushman Bharat TG Plus expedited alongside stronger mental health and HIV/ AIDS services.
- Shelter stay should promote employment and skill development with expanded vocational training access by linking with job portals, while ensuring workplace protection under the POSH Act. The stay should be extended for those pursuing education or exams.
- Legal amendments are needed to support gender non-conforming minors with the establishment of childcare and elderly homes for transgender persons, supported by NGOs.
- Greater transparency through updated data, strong monitoring and a dedicated ministry desk is essential. These reforms can transform Garima Greh into a foundation for dignity, empowerment and inclusion.

Reports

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India, in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs, has launched capacity building and experience sharing programmes to strengthen National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) of the Global South. The programme underscores NHRC India's commitment to fostering global dialogue on human rights, advancing South-South cooperation and promoting rights-based governance. The fourth edition of the six-day training programme, designed for 43 senior functionaries from the NHRIs of 12 countries across Africa, East Asia, Central Asia and the Pacific, received an overwhelmingly positive response. They included NHRIs of Mauritius, Jordan, Georgia, Philippines, Qatar, Fiji, Uzbekistan, Bolivia, Nigeria, Mali, Morocco and Paraguay.

4th ITEC Executive Capacity Building Programme on human rights



▶ NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian inaugurating the 4th ITEC Executive Capacity Building Programme on human rights



▶ NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal addressing the participants

Inaugurating the programme on 22nd September, 2025, NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian reflected on the current global landscape. He observed that today's world is marked by protests, anger, frustration, inequality, uncertainty and political unrest. Citing an international think tank - Carnegie's Global Protest Tracker Report, he noted that in the past year alone, more than a hundred protests erupted in various parts of the world, driven by factors such as anger, frustration, abuse of power, perceived government corruption and suppression of media.

He said that between 2022 and 2025, protests even toppled governments in three of India's neighbouring countries. The significant point to note was that in the countries where human rights institutions are very strong, such protests did not escalate into violence. These institutions act as safety valves for public discontent. He said that unfortunately, in some countries, human rights institutions are perceived as being anti-government, while they actually are people-friendly.

Justice Ramasubramanian further highlighted India's unique cultural diversity with its various religious faiths, castes, languages, dialects and art forms, all thriving together



Justice (Dr) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi
Member, NHRC, India



Dr Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay
Former Member, NHRC, India



Shri Rajiv Jain
Former Member, NHRC, India



Dr V. K. Paul
Member, NITI Aayog



Shri Rajeev Kumar
Former Chief Election
Commissioner of India

in unity through shared traditions and values. He also noted that Global South nations have rich traditions and unique experiences in addressing human rights issues. NHRC, India, through ITEC Executive Capacity

Building Programmes, seeks to provide a forum to learn together, share and grow together, in keeping with the spirit of the Vedic ethos of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* i.e. the world is one family.

In his opening remarks, NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal emphasised that human rights are always evolving. He underlined India's



► A section of senior functionaries of NHRIs attending the programme



Shri Bharat Lal
Secretary General,
NHRC, India



Shri Yugal Kishore Joshi
Programme Director,
NITI Aayog



Amb. Asoke Kumar Mukherji
Former PR of
India to UN New York



Smt Sumita Dawra
Former Secretary,
Ministry of Labour Employment



Shri Manoj Yadava
Former DG (I),
NHRC, India



Shri Ajay Bhatnagar
Former DG (I),
NHRC, India



Shri Surajit Dey
Former Registrar (Law),
NHRC, India



Mr Shombi Sharp
UN Resident Coordinator in India



Ms Sunita Narain
Director General, CSE



Shri Samir Kumar
Joint Secretary,
NHRC, India

tradition of sharing knowledge and wisdom for the greater good of humanity. This training programme has been designed with the expectation of mutual learning on issues of common concern across the Global South. These challenges may span diverse areas from energy security and climate change to

cyber security and emerging technologies like artificial intelligence. He called upon the Global South to unite in advancing socio-economic and human development to secure collective well-being.

The programme included interactive sessions with eminent persons and domain experts and participants got exposure to various aspects of civic and political rights as well as socio-economic and cultural rights enjoyed by the people of India.

The speakers of various sessions included NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian; Member, Justice (Dr) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi; Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal; Dr V. K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog; Shri Rajeev Kumar, Former Chief Election Commissioner of India; Dr Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay and Shri Rajiv Jain, former Members, NHRC; Shri Yugal Kishore Joshi, Mission Director at NITI Aayog; Ambassador Asoke Kumar Mukerji, former Permanent Representative of India to UN; Mr Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator, India; Ms Sunita Narain, Director General, Centre for Science and Environment, India; Smt Sumita Dawra, former Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment; Shri Manoj Yadava and Shri Ajay Bhatnagar, former DGs(I), NHRC; Shri Surajit Dey, former Registrar (Law), NHRC and Shri



► Another section of senior functionaries of NHRIs of the Global South attending the programme



► NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian addressing the valedictory session



► The valedictory session in progress

Samir Kumar, Joint Secretary, NHRC. The programme was also enriched by the experience sharing of the participating senior functionaries of various NHRIs.

In the valedictory session, Justice Ramasubramanian expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all the participants for their camaraderie and positive energy during the programme. He said that good vibrations generated during such interactive events raise the hope and sow the seed for a better world tomorrow amidst the strife-ridden challenging times. He reiterated that NHRC, India would continue to host ITEC Executive Capacity Building Programmes to provide a forum to learn together, share and grow together in line with the ancient Indian ethos.

Complementing a suggestion from a senior functionary of the Nigerian NHRI, Justice Ramasubramanian said that indeed it is time to think of forming up an alliance of the Global South Human Rights Institutions, as a one-size-fits-all approach cannot be the solution for all the countries to address human rights

issues given their different socio-economic, cultural and political realities.

The participants lauded the NHRC, India and the MEA for organising this programme. They said that it gave an opportunity to learn about various aspects of human rights, good governance and ancient Indian ethos of respecting human rights in a democracy with diverse social, cultural, religious and linguistic identities. The Participants also got the opportunity to visit iconic places like Pradhan Mantri Museum, Parliament of India, Garba Festival and Taj Mahal to have an immersive experience of India's rich cultural heritage.

NHRC, India Joint Secretary, Shri Samir Kumar, the programme coordinator presented the report on the training programme. He said that we must strive for a more nuanced approach while accepting and building the universality of human rights. He applauded the active engagement of participants and the invaluable exchange of knowledge throughout the programme. NHRC, India Joint Secretary, Smt Saindingpuui Chhakchhuak delivered the vote of thanks.



► NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian, Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal and other officers along with the participants

Character building more important than career building

- Justice V. Ramasubramanian
Chairperson, NHRC, India

(Based on his speech at ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education convocation in Hyderabad, Telangana on 12th September, 2025)



Let me begin with a story. Josiah Franklin was a blacksmith and a farmer. He lived in England. He migrated to Boston with his wife and 5 children. After begetting 2 more children, his wife died. Thereafter, Josiah Franklin married another girl and had 10 more children. The last of his 17 children dropped out of school at the age of 10 and started assisting his father as a soap and candlemaker. At 12, this boy joined his elder brother as an apprentice in a printing press. He was denied permission to publish his letters and so he wrote something in/ under a pseudonym. When caught, he ran away to Philadelphia as a fugitive. There he became a publisher and founded an Academy and College of Philadelphia, which later became a University.

Joining hands with 2 eminent persons, he created a new model plan of American college. In 1753, both Harvard and Yale awarded this school dropout, an honorary Master of Arts degree. In 1756, he received an honorary Master of Arts degree from the College of William and Mary. In June 1776, he was appointed a member of the Committee of Five that drafted the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America. This school dropout boy was none other than Benjamin Franklin, one of the founding fathers of the United States of America. Not just an academician, he was also a prodigious inventor. Among his many inventions were the lightning rod, Franklin stove, bifocal glasses and the flexible urinary catheter. He never patented his inventions; in his autobiography he wrote, "... as we enjoy great advantages from the inventions of others, we should be glad of an opportunity to serve others by any invention of ours; and this we should do freely and generously."

How did Benjamin Franklin achieve so much in life without

ever going to a college and without even completing school education?

A fish is an ace swimmer, a cheetah is an ace runner, an eagle is a great flyer and a monkey is an ace jumper from tree to tree. But we have a system of education that is uniform to all. Albert Einstein said if you judge all these creatures by their ability to climb a tree, the fish will certainly fail. Everyone is endowed with different talents, wish lists and attitudes. And when education attempts to standardise everything on a common ground, most people end up being either unhappily successful or happily wayward.

An interesting quote attributed by some to Sophia Loren and by others to Shakespeare goes as follows:

"When I got enough confidence, the stage was gone. When I was sure of losing, I won. When I needed people the most, they left me. When I learnt to dry my tears, I found a shoulder to cry on. When I mastered the skill of hating, someone started loving me from the core of the heart. And, while waiting for light for hours when I fell asleep, the sun came out. That is LIFE!! No matter what you plan, you never know what life has planned for you. Success introduces you to the world. But failure introduces the world to you. Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, God smiles from above and says, Relax, sweetheart; it's just a bend, not the end!"

Franklin sought to cultivate his character by a plan of 13 virtues, which he developed at age 20 (in 1726) and continued to practice in some form for the rest of his life. His autobiography lists his 13 virtues as:

- Temperance. Eat not to dullness; drink not to elevation.
- Silence. Speak not but what may benefit others or yourself; avoid trifling conversation.

- Order. Let all your things have their places; let each part of your business have its time.
- Resolution. Resolve to perform what you ought; perform without fail what you resolve.
- Frugality. Make no expense but to do good to others or yourself, i.e., waste nothing.
- Industry. Lose no time; be always employed in something useful; cut off all unnecessary actions.
- Sincerity. Use no hurtful deceit; think innocently and justly, and, if you speak, speak accordingly.
- Justice. Wrong none by doing injuries or omitting the benefits that are your duty.
- Moderation. Avoid extremes; forbear resenting injuries so much as you think they deserve.
- Cleanliness. Tolerate no uncleanness in body, clothes or habitation.
- Tranquillity. Be not disturbed at trifles or at accidents common or unavoidable.
- Chastity. Rarely use venery but for health or offspring, never to dullness, weakness or the injury of your own or another's peace or reputation.
- Humility. Imitate Jesus and Socrates.

If education can help individuals develop these human qualities, which will make our lives more meaningful as well

as successful, then we would have not only had empowerment and emancipation but also enlightenment if we are lucky.

vedamanūcyācāryo'ntevāsinamanuśāsti | satyaṁ vada | dharmaṁ cara | svādhyāyānmā pramadaḥ | ācāryāya priyaṁ dhanamāhṛtya prajātantuṁ mā vyavacchetsiḥ | satyānna pramaditavyam | dharmānna pramaditavyam kuśalānna pramaditavyam | bhūtyai na pramaditavyam | svādhyāyapravacanābhyāṁ na pramaditavyam |

1. Having taught the Vedas, the teacher thus instructs the pupil: Speak the truth. Practise dharma. Do not neglect self-study of the Vedas. Having brought to the teacher the gift desired by him, enter the householder's life and see that the line of progeny is not cut off. Do not swerve from the truth. Do not swerve from dharma. Do not neglect personal welfare. Do not neglect prosperity. Do not neglect the study and teaching of the Vedas.

devapitrkāryābhyāṁ na pramaditavyam | mātṛdevo bhava pitṛdevo bhava | ācāryadevo bhava | atithidevo bhava | yānyanavadyāni karmāṇi | tāni sevityāni | no itarāṇi | yānyasmākam sucaritāni | tāni tvayopāśyāni |

2. Do not neglect your duties to the Gods and the Manes. Treat your mother as God. Treat your father as God. Treat your teacher as God. Treat your guest as God. Whatever deeds are faultless, these are to be performed - not others. Whatever good works have been performed by us, those should be performed by you - not others.

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. During September, 2025, the Commission took *suo motu* cognizance of 20 cases of alleged human rights violations reported by the media and issued notices to the concerned authorities for reports. Poor healthcare facilities, deaths while cleaning sewer and attack on journalists dominated the issues of the Commission's *suo motu* cognizance. Summaries of some of these cases are as follows:

Attack on a media person

(Case No. 245/3/29/2025)

On 9th September, 2025, the media reported that a media person was assaulted and grievously injured by a group of some anti-social elements near Lumding Railway Institute in Assam on 7th September, 2025. The

incident happened around midnight when the victim was returning home after work. Reportedly, he was rescued by the police and taken to the hospital. The victim expressed concern for his safety and urged the authorities to register a case against the perpetrators to take appropriate legal action against them. The Lumding Press Club as well

as local citizens condemned the incident demanding strict action against the culprits and better security for journalists. The Commission has issued a notice to the Director General of Police, Assam, calling for a detailed report on the matter.

Piling up of unclaimed dead bodies in a hospital

(Case No. 516/33/14/2025)

On 9th September, 2025, the media reported that several unclaimed dead bodies were piled up in the mortuary of the District Hospital, Raipur, Chhattisgarh as there was no place allotted for their last rites to be performed by an NGO. Reportedly, three unidentified bodies were not sent for post-mortem examinations. According to the media report, the district administration had allocated three acres of land for the last rites of unclaimed bodies about three years ago, where the last rites of over 800 unclaimed bodies were performed by the said NGO. Reportedly, the land could be re-used after refilling of the soil, but no action was taken by the district administration. The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh, seeking a detailed report on the matter.

Poor medical services at a PHC

(Case No. 2676/12/22/2025)

On 9th September, 2025, the media reported that the medical services at a government-run primary health centre located on National Highway-30 in Barela, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh are in a very bad condition. As mentioned in the news report, doctors do not come to the hospital during the night shift. The patients, especially those injured in accidents, are reportedly referred to the District Hospital even for first aid and basic health care. In some cases, some of those injured have lost their lives due to the non-availability of doctors at the health centre. Therefore, the Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh, calling for a detailed report.

Lack of doctors and infrastructure at a hospital

(Case No. 2037/7/3/2025)

On 9th September, 2025, the media reported about the difficulties being faced by patients due to lack of doctors and infrastructure at the super speciality ESIC hospital run by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) in Faridabad, Haryana. Reportedly, in Palwal and Faridabad alone, there are more than 6.5 lakh ESIC cardholders and a larger number of patients from Delhi, Noida and Gurugram also come to this hospital for treatment of serious ailments relating to heart, cancer, neuro and intestinal infection, etc. They have to wait for many hours for treatment, even in the emergency ward. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana and the Chairman, ESIC, calling for a detailed report on the matter.

Death of a newborn due to lack of facilities at a mental health care institute

(Case No. 4430/30/0/2025)

On 10th September, 2025, the media reported that a destitute patient's baby died due to lack of facilities after delivery in the washroom of the government-run Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences (IHBAS) where she was admitted under a court order on 7th September, 2025. Reportedly, the hospital staff took a lot of time to manage, even arranging a clamp to cut the umbilical cord. Even though they were later shifted to the Swami Dayanand Hospital by an ambulance, the infant's life could not be saved. Therefore, the Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi, calling for a detailed report on the matter.

Death and injuries in police lathi charge

(Case No. 18476/24/32/2025)

On 12th September, 2025, the media reported that a villager died and some others sustained injuries in a police lathi charge while protesting against the installation of electricity poles in Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh. The incident happened on 9th September, 2025. Reportedly, five police personnel were placed under suspension after the incident. The Commission has issued notices to the Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh and the District Magistrate, Ghazipur, calling for a detailed report on the matter.

Death while cleaning sewer

(Case No. 4586/30/6/2025)

On 18th September, 2025, the media reported that one worker died and three others were critically injured while cleaning a sewer in the Ashok Vihar area of North West Delhi on 16th September, 2025. Reportedly, their co-workers stated that no safety equipment was provided by the private construction company that engaged them to clean the sewer. Therefore, the Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi, the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation and Police Commissioner, calling for a detailed report on the matter. It is expected to include the status of the investigation and the health of the injured workers. The details of compensation paid to the next of kin of the deceased and to the injured workers have also been sought.

Death of two sanitation workers

(Case No. 2171/22/36/2025)

On 23rd September, 2025, the media reported that two sanitation workers died due to asphyxiation on 22nd

September, 2025 while working on a newly constructed underground drainage pipeline near Carmel Garden in the Muthunagar area of Tiruverumbur, Tiruchirappalli district in Tamil Nadu. Reportedly, they were engaged by a construction firm for the work of the Tiruchy Corporation. Therefore, the Commission has issued notices to the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation and Superintendent of Police, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, calling for a detailed report. It is expected to include the status of the investigation and compensation, if any, paid to the next of kin of the deceased workers.

Delay in rehabilitation of blast victims

(Case No. 1107/19/7/2025)

On 23rd September, 2025, the media reported that even after a month of a blast in an LPG tanker causing seven deaths and damage to several properties, the affected families are still struggling to rebuild their houses and shops in Mandiala village, Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Reportedly, the government has released compensation to kins of the deceased. However, the assessment of damage to property is still going on. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab; Senior Superintendent of Police, Hoshiarpur and Chief Controller of Explosives, Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, calling for a detailed report including the status of the investigation on the matter.

Stray dog with the severed head of an infant near a hospital

(Case No. 979/19/15/2025)

On 27th August, 2025, the media reported that a stray dog was seen carrying the severed head of an infant

near the Government Rajindra Hospital in Patiala district of Punjab on 26th August, 2025. Reportedly, attendants of patients alleged that stray dogs are often found roaming freely inside the hospital premises. They also alleged poor sanitation, lack of security and negligence by the hospital authorities. Therefore, the Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab and the Senior Superintendent of Police, Patiala, calling for a detailed report on the matter.

According to the media report, the Medical Superintendent of the hospital has stated that no baby has been found missing from the hospital and in all recent cases of deaths of children, the bodies were handed over to their families after proper documentation. He has reportedly expressed apprehension that the remains might have been dumped outside the hospital premises by someone.

Death of 17 people in a building collapse

(Case No. 2147/13/16/2025)

On 28th August, 2025, the media reported that 17 people died and 8 were injured when a portion of a four-storey apartment collapsed in the Virar East area of Palghar district, Maharashtra on 27th August, 2025. Reportedly, the building was unauthorised and constructed more than a decade ago. However, the residents were paying taxes to the Vasai-Virar City Municipal Corporation (VVCMC), believing that the building was authorised as per the notarised documents. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Maharashtra, calling for a detailed report on the matter.

Reportedly, a senior officer of the VVCMC stated that the building might have collapsed due to the use of

inferior quality construction material. The residents were sent three notices to vacate the building, but all the warnings were ignored. Reportedly, the rear side of the building comprising around 12 flats collapsed. The building had around 50 flats and half a dozen shops.

Attack on a journalist

(Case No. 1447/18/10/2025)

On 30th August, 2025, the media reported about another attack on a journalist. The incident happened in the Papadahandi area of Nabarangpur district, Odisha on 29th August, 2025. The journalist sustained multiple stab wounds in the attack by a drug addict for filing a complaint against him. Reportedly, the victim was hospitalised in a critical condition. The Commission has issued a notice to the Director General of Police, Odisha, calling for a detailed report on the matter. The report is expected to include the status of the investigation as well as the health condition of the injured journalist.

Rape and murder of a 10-year-old girl

(Case No. 3408/4/26/2025)

On 31st August, 2025, the media reported that a 10-year-old girl was raped and murdered by the caretaker of a garden in the Maner area of district Patna in Bihar on 26th August, 2025. Reportedly, the perpetrator hanged the body of the victim from a tree to disguise the murder as a suicide. The victim had gone to collect wood when the perpetrator lured her with a guava to a room near the garden before committing the heinous crime. The Commission has issued notices to the Director General of Police, Bihar and the District Magistrate, Patna, calling for a detailed report on the matter, including compensation, if any, provided to the next of kin of the deceased.

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 cases of human rights violations and gives directions

and recommendations to the concerned authorities for relief to the victims. In September, 2025, besides the cases taken up daily by the Member Benches, 45 cases were heard by the Full Commission, 35 cases each by Division Bench-I and 60 cases by Division Bench-II. Monetary relief of more than Rs 150 lakh was recom-

mended for the victims or their next of kin (NoK) in the 22 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	483/30/2/2024-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Delhi
2	2597/18/3/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Odisha
3	3283/22/5/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Tamil Nadu
4	7075/24/54/2024-JCD	Death in judicial custody	7.50	Uttar Pradesh
5	7861/24/52/2020-AD	Death in police custody	5.00	Uttar Pradesh
6	2922/7/10/2022-PCD	Death in police custody	5.00	Haryana
7	830/7/15/2021-PCD	Death in police custody	5.00	Haryana
8	1050/34/14/2022-PCD	Death in police custody	4.00	Jharkhand
9	17/9/5/2021-PCD	Death in police custody	5.00	Jammu and Kashmir
10	2796/13/17/2021-PCD	Death in police custody	5.00	Maharashtra
11	537/19/5/2021-PCD	Death in police custody	10.00	Punjab
12	5186/22/13/2022-PCD	Death in police custody	10.00	Tamil Nadu
13	1561/4/7/2023-PCD	Death in police custody	2.00	Bihar
14	8622/24/2/2021-PCD	Death in police custody	1.00	Uttar Pradesh
15	710/9/15/2024-JK	Death in police custody	5.00	Jammu and Kashmir
16	13074/24/3/2022-AD	Death in police custody	10.00	Uttar Pradesh
17	1398/25/15/2018-PF	Death in custody of a CAPF	5.00	West Bengal
18	977/7/19/2024	Sewer deaths	20.00	Haryana
19	10033/24/72/2021	Exploitation/ denial of care to elderly persons	0.1	Uttar Pradesh
20	2168/30/0/2023	Inaction by the state / central government officials	10.00	Delhi

S. No.	Case Number	Nature of complaint	Amount (Rs in lakh)	Authority
21	12/11/15/2025	Sexual abuse of a minor by several people	20.00	Kerala
22	1130/18/21/2024	Deaths / injury in unorganised sector	6.60	Odisha

Payment of relief to the victims

During September, 2025, the Commission closed 52 cases, either on receipt of compliance reports and proof of payment from concerned public authorities or by

giving other observations/ directions. An amount of more than Rs 162 lakh was paid to the victims or their next of kin (NoK) on the recommendations 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	1588/4/9/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	4.00	Bihar
2	3728/30/9/2023-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Delhi
3	1335/34/16/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Jharkhand
4	489/34/10/2019-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Jharkhand
5	225/13/14/2023-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Maharashtra
6	8/16/6/2023-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Mizoram
7	3306/20/26/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	7.50	Rajasthan
8	331/20/26/2023-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Rajasthan
9	16720/24/13/2019-JCD	Death in judicial custody	3.50	Uttar Pradesh
10	33190/24/22/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Uttar Pradesh
11	1194/25/11/2020-JCD	Death in judicial custody	7.00	West Bengal
12	5061/25/5/2022-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	West Bengal
13	3567/30/6/2017-PCD	Death in judicial custody	7.50	Delhi
14	918/6/2/2023-PCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Gujarat
15	10/8/11/2023-PCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Himachal Pradesh
16	2497/25/13/2023-PCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	West Bengal
17	1053/34/4/2020-AD	Deaths in police custody	5.00	Jharkhand
18	990/7/11/2020-AD	Death in police custody	5.00	Haryana

S. No.	Case Number	Nature of complaint	Amount (Rs in lakh)	Authority
19	3945/4/32/2022	Negligence leading to death of many people in an explosion at an illegal firecracker factory	8.00	Bihar
20	514/30/4/2024	Non-registration and issuance of birth certificate	0.5	Delhi
21	6448/30/8/2022	Police inaction in a case of online fraud	0.25	Delhi
22	1954/12/8/2022	Police inaction in a case of harassment	0.25	Madhya Pradesh
23	415/18/7/2024	Negligence leading to injuries to students due to collapsing of school's toilet roof	1.00	Odisha
24	805/4/11/2024	Negligence leading to the death of a small girl due to falling in an open toilet tank	3.00	Bihar
25	478/4/6/2023	Harassment of students and parents	0.5	Bihar
26	5001/4/1/2022	Harassment by school authorities	0.25	Bihar
27	6231/4/24/2022	Sexual harassment and beating of a boy by police personnel	0.25	Delhi
28	1586/30/6/2023	Sexual harassment of a student in school premises	0.25	Delhi
29	1340/34/10/2019	Death in police firing	5.00	Jharkhand
30	1340/34/10/2019	Death in police firing	5.00	Jharkhand
31	44649/24/52/2016-AFE	Fake encounter	5.00	Uttar Pradesh
32	1655/34/6/2022	Medical negligence	4.00	Jharkhand
33	2032/34/4/2022	Irregularities in government Hospitals/ Primary Health Centres	4.00	Jharkhand
34	91/34/6/2023	Inaction by the state / central government officials	0.1	Jharkhand
35	3402/18/8/2022	Death due to electrocution	3.00	Odisha
36	947/18/1/2023	Death due to electrocution	5.00	Odisha
37	19424/24/18/2021	Death due to electrocution	5.00	Uttar Pradesh
38	34998/24/17/2022	Death due to electrocution	5.00	Uttar Pradesh
39	1655/34/6/2022	Medical negligence	4.00	Jharkhand
40	17926/24/49/2021	Child kidnapping	0.25	Uttar Pradesh
41	1544/34/11/2022-WC	Pregnant woman killed by recovery agents of a financial company	0.5	Jharkhand
42	18775/24/27/2021-WC	Non-registration of FIR in a case of sexual assault	0.5	Uttar Pradesh

S. No.	Case Number	Nature of complaint	Amount (Rs in lakh)	Authority
43	19992/24/3/2022-WC	Police inaction in a case of rape and murder	2.00	Uttar Pradesh
44	24874/24/69/2022-WC	Torture and parading of a woman on suspicion of exorcism	1.00	Uttar Pradesh
45	1256/35/12/2016	Custodial torture	0.5	Uttarakhand
46	38146/24/21/2022	Custodial torture	1.00	Uttar Pradesh
47	2768/25/22/2022	Police inaction in a case of murder	5.00	West Bengal
48	2517/24/43/2022	Torture by police leading to suicide of the victim	3.00	Uttar Pradesh
49	20631/24/1/2022	Non-registration of FIR	0.25	Uttar Pradesh
50	2644/20/25/2022	Non-payment of pension / compensation	0.25	Rajasthan
51	7405/30/8/2021	Police inaction in a case of trespassing into a clinic and outraging the modesty of female staff members	0.5	Delhi

Case studies

In many cases, the Commission, contrary to the claims of the concerned State authorities, found that human rights of the victims were violated due to their unlawful action, inaction or omission. Therefore, on a case-to-case basis, the Commission issued show cause notices to them to state 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. 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 police custody

(Case No. 3817/18/5/2022-AD)

The matter pertained to a death in police custody at the Chamakhandi, Odisha police station in 2022. Allegedly, in the early morning of 1st October, 2022, the victim was detained at the police station in connection with a complaint from his father for misbehaving, assaulting and forcing them out from his house. Later in the day, he was found hanging inside the toilet of the police station. He was rushed to the hospital where the doctor declared him brought dead. Based on the material on record received from the

concerned authorities in response to its notices, the Commission observed that the victim died while in police custody and it is the responsibility of the State to ensure the safety of persons held in its custody. Therefore, the Commission recommended that the Government of Odisha pay Rs 5 lakh as relief to the next of kin of the victim, which was paid.

Death in judicial custody

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

The matter pertained to the death of a 20-year-old under trial prisoner by suicide at District Jail Bettiah, West

Champan, Bihar in 2020. Based on the material on record received from the concerned authorities in response to its notices, the Commission observed that the victim committed suicide in broad daylight which clearly indicated negligence of the jail officials. Therefore, the Commission recommended that the Government of Bihar pay Rs 5 lakh as relief to the next of kin of the victim, which was paid. The Commission was also informed that departmental action was taken against the errant jail officials.

Death due to accident on an un-barricaded under construction road

(Case No. 2168/30/0/2023)

The matter pertained to the death of a man in Delhi in 2023 when his car plummeted about 30-feet from an under-construction stretch of the Barapullah elevated road, which was left unattended and un-barricaded. Based on the material on record received from the concerned authorities in response to its notices, the Commission observed that the report received was silent about action taken against the responsible officers/officials and steps taken or proposed to be taken by the authorities to avoid such incidents. It was found that no barricade or signboard were installed either at the start of the flyover or at the end. Therefore, the Commission recommended that the Government of NCT of Delhi pay Rs 10 lakh as relief to the next of kin of the victim. The Commission had taken *suo motu* cognizance of this incident based on a media report.

Death due to sewage cleaning

(Case No. 977/7/19/2024)

The matter pertained to the death of two brothers while cleaning septic tank at North Point Packaging Factory, located near Bazidpur Saboli village of Sonipat district, Haryana in 2024. Based on the material on record received from the concerned authori-

ties in response to its notices, the Commission observed that the reports received were ambiguous and were not clear. Therefore, the Commission recommended that the Government of Haryana pay Rs 10 lakh as relief to the next of kin of the victims.

Multiple sexual assault on a girl

(Case No. 12/11/15/2025)

The matter pertained to the rape of a minor girl by 44 people in Kerala. Based on the material on record received from the concerned authorities in response to its notices, the Commission observed that the reports were silent about any social support provided to the victim, her rehabilitation and the steps taken in compliance with the directions of the Supreme Court of India in the case 'We the women of INDIA v. Union of India and Ors, 2023.' The Commission besides seeking action an taken report on these aspects, also recommended that the Government of Kerala pay an additional amount of Rs 20 lakh over and above the amount already ordered by the SC/ST Monitoring Committee. The Commission had taken *suo motu* cognizance of this incident based on a media report dated 15th January, 2025.

Death due to stone blasting

(Case No. 1130/18/21/2024)

The matter pertained to the death of two labourers due to illegal stone

blasting in Gajapati district, Odisha in 2024. A huge stone crushed them leading to their death on the spot. The incident happened due to unauthorised and illegal mining activities, driven by unscientific mining practices. This violation of regulatory guidelines caused the rock mass to become unstable, leading to its collapse.

Based on the material on record received from the concerned authorities in response to its notices, the Commission observed that the matter was reported earlier also but no action was taken by the State. The investigation was going on in a biased manner and no compensation provided. It was informed that Rs 60,000 was sanctioned vide order dated 1st September, 2023 out of the District Red Cross Fund. Rs 30,000 each was paid to the next of kin (NoK) of the deceased. It further observed that the relief amount approved by the state government is not commensurate with the gravity of the lapses and injuries to the victims. Therefore, the Commission recommended that the Government of Odisha pay Rs 5 lakh as relief to the NoK of the deceased. Accordingly, Rs 3.3 lakh each were paid to NoKs of the deceased labourers. The Commission has asked the state government to pay the remaining amount of Rs 1.7 lakh each to the victims' families.

Spot enquiries

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India deposes its own team of investigation officers from time to time to conduct spot enquiries into cases of human rights violations. The following spot enquiries were conducted in September 2025:

Case No. 1333/1/10/2024-WC

From 1st to 5th September, 2025, a spot enquiry was conducted in the matter of photos and videos taken from the washroom of a girls' hostel in an Engineering College of Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh.

Case No. 1674/7/22/2023

From 2nd to 5th September, 2025, a spot enquiry was conducted in the matter of an alleged assault on a Hindu family forcing their ouster from a Muslim-dominated village in Palwal, Haryana for sharing an anti-Rohingya post on social media.

Case No. 619/20/27/2022-PCD

From 8th - 9th September, 2025, a spot enquiry was conducted in the matter of the death of a 24-year-old man, who allegedly jumped out of a running train while in police custody in Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan.

Case No. 588/18/28/2025

From 8th -12th September, 2025, a spot enquiry was conducted in Khudra, Odisha on the allegation that a series of actions by police officials led to the absolving of an accused and framing of the victims instead in a case of fraud, forgery and cheating of Rs 6.2 crore.

Case No. 4534/22/13/2022-PCD

From 15th -18th September, 2025, a spot inquiry was conducted into the allegation of the death of a man in police custody in Greater Chennai, Tamil Nadu on 29th September, 2022.

Case No. 1001/18/3/2024

From 15th to 18th September, 2025, a spot inquiry was conducted into a fire that broke out in a private hospital in the Purighat area of Cuttack district in Odisha on 13th July, 2024.

Case No. 958/36/23/2024

From 22nd to 26th September 2025, a spot inquiry was conducted into an attack on a peaceful students' protest at IIT Basra, Telangana by the security guards using iron rods, sticks, deadly weapons and stones, allegedly on the instructions of the Chief Security Officer and the Vice Chancellor of the institution.

Case No. 1079/36/7/2025

From 22nd to 26th September 2025, a spot inquiry was conducted into the allegation of abuse of power by police in a case of civil dispute between two parties in Nalgonda, Telangana.

Case No. 1031/34/9/2025-ED

From 22nd to 26th September 2025, a spot inquiry was conducted into an alleged fake encounter killing of a tribal social-political activist from Godda, Jharkhand.

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 shelters, prisons and observation homes, working to raise awareness among government officials and encourage them to take necessary actions to improve human rights conditions. In these visits, the importance of state authorities submitting timely reports is also highlighted to the officials, as it aids the Commission in the prompt resolution of human rights violation cases.

Visits by NHRC, India Member

On 17th September, 2025, NHRC, India Member, Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani, accompanied by the Deputy Registrar (Law), Shri Indrajeet Kumar, met the Chief Secretary of the Government of Andhra Pradesh at Vijayawada. The meeting focused on critical concerns related to the Polavaram project and the urgent need for finalisation of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) governing eviction processes to ensure humane, lawful and rights-compliant rehabilitation of the displaced people. The Chief Secretary assured the

Commission of the state government's commitment to finalising the SOP on eviction in consultation with the stakeholders, ensuring full compliance with NHRC directions, including the timely submission of the report.

On 18th September, 2025, the Member visited Polavaram rehabilitation colonies in East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh to assess human rights, rehabilitation and resettlement conditions for displaced communities facing delays in packages, proper housing and amenities. She urged the public functionaries to ensure accountability, transparency

and early action for graveyards, water tanks, land allotment and quarterly inspections to address villagers' concerns. She also asked them to speed up rehabilitation and resettlement entitlement processing. NHRC's quick intervention led to temporary housing for a woman found sleeping at a bus stand, restoring villagers' faith in the institution as a protector of their human rights.



On 19th September, 2025, Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani visited the Central Prison, Rajamahendravaram to ascertain the facilities, problems and overall management of the jail. The Jail Superintendent also informed about the challenge of providing escort to prisoners who were sent to referral hospitals for treatment. The team also visited the female ward of the jail and interacted with the prisoners. The quality of food, kitchen, dispensary etc. appeared satisfactory. The availability of Legal Aid Advocates was emphasised to help the prisoners in the processing of their case.



Besides, the Joint Collector and the Additional Superintendent of Police, Nellore were asked to expedite compliance with the Commission's directions. In one case, an ex-serviceman was denied his entitled land despite orders by

the competent authority and in another case, the investigation was not carried out as per the law. The gaps and compliances required were pointed out to the authorities, who assured immediate compliance and sending a report to the Commission.

Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India has designated 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 provide detailed observations and suggestions for future action. Additionally, the Commission has also appointed Special Monitors tasked with overseeing specific thematic human rights issues and reporting their findings to the Commission. Here is a brief on the spot visits by the Special Monitors to numerous locations during September, 2025.

- From 11th-18th September, 2025, NHRC, India Special Monitor, Shri Balkrishan Goel visited Old Age Homes, Child Care Institutions (CCIs), Observation Homes, Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) in Bharatpur, Rajasthan. He also visited these institutions in Narnaul and Jhajjar in Haryana to assess various facilities and the human rights situation.



- From 15th-16th September, 2025, NHRC, India Special Monitor, Dr Yogesh Dube visited institutions for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), including a school for children, District Rehabilitation Centre, homes for the visually impaired in Ahmedabad District, Gujarat. He also assessed the training programmes for teaching and non-teaching staff for the empowerment of PwDs, the status of inclusive schools in the district and sensitised the District Magistrate and concerned administrative officers.

- From 15th-20th September, 2025, NHRC, India Special Monitor, Dr Pradeepta Kumar Nayak visited the districts of Kamrup Metro, Kamrup Rural, Morigaon and Darrang in Assam. During the visit, he met with the State Leprosy Officer, Collectors and District Magistrates,

District Health Heads and officials from departments of Education, Social Security, Social Welfare, Women and Child Development. He also met with the officers dealing with the matters of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities and Other Backward Communities.

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 Short Term Internship Programmes (OSTIs) are organised to ensure that students from remote areas can join without any expenses for their travel and stay in Delhi.

Online Short-Term Internship

The September schedule of Online Short-Term Internship (OSTI) began from 22nd September, 2025. Inaugurating it, the NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal emphasised that the internship programme aims to foster awareness, sensitivity and responsibility among youth towards the evolving field of human rights. Grounded in constitutional values, it highlights the significance of civil, political, social and cultural rights, while addressing modern challenges such as climate change, artificial intelligence, cybercrime and gig economy exploitation.

He noted that human rights are dynamic and demand continuous re-evaluation and public engagement. Interns are encouraged to actively participate, ask questions and internalise values like justice, empathy and dignity. The programme aims to shape them into ambassadors of human rights who apply these principles in both their personal and professional lives.

Shri Lal said that emerging issues such as business and human rights, labour rights and climate-induced displacement are key focus areas. He stressed that true leadership lies not only in taking action against injustice but also in refusing to be silent or complicit. This programme is a call for self-reflection, purposeful living and making a meaningful contribution to society because those who live for others are the ones who are truly remembered.

NHRC, India Joint Secretary, Smt Saidingpuii Chhakchhuak presented a detailed overview of the OSTI curriculum. This includes lectures and virtual tours of institutions such as Tihar Jail, Shelter Home and Police Station to offer direct insights into the realities of human rights. She further informed the interns about various activities and competitions aimed at enhancing their understanding of human rights and bolstering their confidence.

A total of 896 applications were received for this OSTI, out of which 80 students representing a variety of academic disciplines from 21 States and Union Territories were selected.



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



► A section of students

Workshops

- On 19th September, 2025, the NHRC, India in collaboration with the Christ University (Deemed to be University), Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, conducted a one-day training programme on 'Rights of Children in Conflict with Law.'



- On 25th September, 2025, NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian addressed as Chief Guest the two-day training programme held in collaboration with the Indian Society of International Law, New Delhi. He spoke about 'Human rights in 21st Century: Issues and concerns.'



Exposure visits

On 18th and 30th September, 2025, 107 students and 4 faculty members from the Bennett University, Greater NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh and Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi visited the NHRC, India. Senior officers briefed them about the various dimensions of the Commission's functioning towards the promotion and protection of human rights.



► Bennett University, Greater NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh



► Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

Gender sensitisation programme

On 16th September, 2025, NHRC, India organised a gender sensitisation training programme for its officers and staff. Smt Anjali Gopalan, Member of the Commission's Core Group on Rights of LGBTQI+, interacted with them on 'Beyond Male and Female: Understanding Bias We Do Not Notice.'



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 other 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.

UN Human Rights Council meet in Colombo, Sri Lanka

On 26th September, 2025, NHRC Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal spoke on 'Corruption and Human Rights – India's Experience and Institutional Responses' at the UN Human Rights Council meet in Colombo, Sri Lanka. He said that corruption is not just a governance challenge - it is a criminal offence and a grave human rights violation. It erodes trust, weakens democracy, undermines the rule of law and disproportionately harms the poor and vulnerable. When resources are taken away, children lose education, families lose healthcare, food, housing and communities face environmental degradation. Corruption may distort

representation in electoral politics, justice and deepen inequality - violating economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights.

Shri Lal said that India has built a strong institutional and legal framework to fight corruption while safeguarding rights. The Constitution, judiciary, NHRC, SHRCs, anti-corruption bodies and other statutory bodies collec-



► NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal addressing the UN Human Rights Council meet in Colombo, Sri Lanka

tively uphold accountability. Over the past decade, India's digital governance reforms have sharply reduced corruption opportunities. The Jan Dhan–Aadhaar–Mobile trinity, Direct Benefit Transfers, UPI and Government e-Marketplace have eliminated millions of fake beneficiaries, enabled transparent procurement and saved billions. CPGRAMS, India's online grievance redressal platform has resolved millions of complaints efficiently, earning global recognition.



► A section of attendees

He underscored that India's legal framework, including the Prevention of Corruption Act, Money Laundering Act, Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, Benami Transactions Act and Right to Information Act, forms a strong backbone for governance. Parliamentary committees, audits by the CAG and institutions such as Lokpal, CVC, CBI, Enforcement Directorate and State Lokayuktas strengthen enforcement. The NHRC has consistently treated corruption as a serious human rights violation, protects whistleblowers as human rights defenders and collaborates with anti-corruption bodies.

He said that through initiatives like the ITEC Capacity Building Programme for the NHRIs of the Global South, India promotes knowledge sharing, capacity building and collective action.



► NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal along with the other participants of the meet

Shri Lal said that the fight against corruption is, ultimately, a fight for dignity, equality and justice. If unchecked, it erodes faith in democracy and governance forcing people on the streets toppling governments. Strengthening pillars of democracy like anti-corruption and human rights institutions and making them effective are true guardrails. India's experience shows that with strong institutions, digital innovation and citizen-centric governance, corruption can be curbed and rights advanced. For making the society corruption-free, strong political will and awareness with emphasis on our values hold the answer and India is showing the way. By learning and working together, we can build societies where governance is transparent, rights are protected, and democracy thrives.

Online meetings

- On 8th September, 2025, Ms Varsha Apte, Consultant (Research), NHRC, India attended the 'Learning call on International Humanitarian Law (IHL): Convergence points between state-led national IHL committees and NHRIs,' which was organised virtually by the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines.
- On 10th September, 2025, NHRC, India Joint Secretary, Shri Samir Kumar virtually attended the monthly GANHRI Working Group on Business and Human Rights.
- On 18th September, 2025, NHRC, India Joint Secretary, Smt Sainingpuii Chhakhuak and Ms Varsha Apte, Consultant (Research) attended the virtual meeting regarding the APF Gender Strategy Reference Group to contribute towards the development of a Gender Strategy Toolkit for NHRIs.

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 welfare measures related to various segments of society. This column intends to highlight the exceptional activities of the SHRCs undertaken to protect and promote human rights.

Punjab State and Chandigarh (U.T.) Human Rights Commission

The Punjab State and UT Chandigarh Human Rights Commissions took cognizance of a grave public health issue after a complaint by a journalist regarding lead and uranium contamination in Bathinda, Ropar and Chandigarh. A study led by the Punjab University and NGO- Baba Farid Foundation revealed dangerously high lead levels in children's blood and hair and uranium contamination in groundwater.

Based on this report, the Commission issued directions to the state Government of Punjab to set up Toxicology Departments, ensure availability of chelation therapy drugs, conducting pollution inspections, installing RO systems in public areas and carrying out a state-wide survey. The next hearing is on 4th December, 2025.

Besides, on 18th September, 2025, 50 students from the Punjab University visited the Commission for a one-day educational session, gaining practical insights into its functioning and role in protecting human rights.

Haryana State Human Rights Commission

On 5th September 2025, Shri Deep Bhatia, Member, Haryana State Human Rights Commission (HSHRC) visited the Vita Milk Plant, Ballabhgarh to assess operations, quality standards and its role in farmer welfare and consumer nutrition. He noted that the plant, supplying over one lakh litres of milk daily with ISO and NDDDB certifications, maintains excellent hygiene and produces safe and natural dairy products. Shri Bhatia recommended stronger public awareness campaigns to dispel misconceptions about Vita milk, greater brand promotion and collaboration with government nutrition schemes, terming the plant a model of cooperative success that upholds the human right to safe and nutritious food.

During the month, HSHRC took *suo motu* in a case of alleged punishment and public humiliation of an 11-year-old girl at a private school in Ridhana village, Sonapat.

Besides, the HSHRC has directed action for posthumous recognition of Saurabh Garg, who died on 8th December, 2012, saving 11 people from a house fire caused by an LPG leak.



▶ HSHRC officers inspecting a Milk Plant in Ballabhgarh, Haryana

Madhya Pradesh State Human Rights Commission

The Madhya Pradesh State Human Rights Commission (MPSHRC) celebrated its 31st Foundation Day on 13th September, 2025. A seminar on "Cyber Security - Human Rights" was organised to mark the occasion. Justice Shri Satya Kumar Singh, Lokayukta of Madhya Pradesh chaired it. The MPSHRC launched its new website www.hrc.mp.gov.in. A booklet titled "Cyber Security and Human Rights" was also released.

Besides, the MPSHRC recommended payment of Rs 4 lakh as relief to the next of kin of a 10-year-old boy who drowned in the Kshipra River, which was paid.



► MPSHRC celebrating its 31st Foundation Day in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

Karnataka State Human Rights Commission

During September, 2025, the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission (KSHRC) Member, Shri S.K. Vantigodi inspected the Vantamuri Mother and Child Hospital in Belagavi District and met with doctors and hospital staff. In an interactive session, he also sensitised about 100 Taluk-level officers, including the Tahsildar and Medical Officer, on the importance of protecting and promoting human rights. Besides, the Member met with the advocates at the Chikkodi Bar Association and discussed the importance of upholding human rights by providing necessary support to victims. Additionally, he visited various hostels and government establishments in the district to inspect facilities and interact with students. The KSHRC took *suo motu* cognizance of the reported deaths of women in the postpartum period in Belagavi District due to alleged medical negligence.



► KSHRC Member inspecting a Hospital in Belagavi district, Karnataka

News in brief

- On 2nd September, 2025, NHRC, India Member, Justice (Dr) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi addressed as Chief Guest the 'Women Human Rights Defenders' Conclave' at Mahabodhi Society Meeting Hall in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. He spoke about women empowerment and human rights.



- On 2nd September, 2025, Shri Apoorv Om, a PwD artist, met NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian and presented his portrait to him. A globally honoured National and Youth Awardee, he leads the Apoorv Om Artist Trust, advocating for the inclusion of the hearing and speech impaired into the mainstream.



- On 6th September, 2025, NHRC, India, Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal addressed the 5th INSA–NCGG LEADS Programme in New Delhi, sharing insights on scientific leadership for India's future leaders in science and research. He said that as India aims to be among the world's top economies, science and technology will drive growth. Leaders must be ethical, visionary, nationally aligned with traditional values and wisdom to build scientific institutions that outlast their tenure.

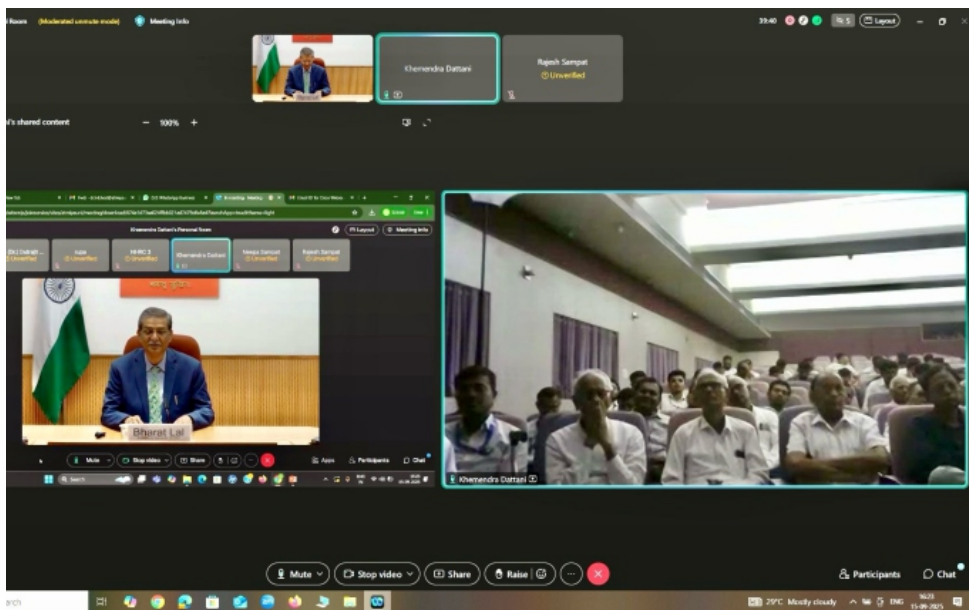


Shri Lal said that the Indian ethos of inclusivity should be a guiding principle for the scientific discoveries linked to human progress. Icons like Dr Homi J. Bhabha, Dr Vikram Sarabhai, Dr M. S. Swaminathan, Dr Verghese Kurien, Dr A. P. J. Abdul Kalam and others showed us the way. Innovation must be cutting-edge and India-centric, solving challenges of water, clean energy, food security, healthcare, urbanisation and climate resilience. Scientists must step beyond labs to serve society. Shri Lal said that India has talent and ideas aplenty. We need leaders with courage, vision and integrity to transform knowledge into action for a strong, self-reliant and globally respected India.

- On 12th September, 2025, NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian addressed as Chief Guest the 15th Convocation of ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education at ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education, Hyderabad, Telangana. An article based on his speech on the occasion has been carried on the previous pages of this Newsletter.



- On 15th September, 2025, NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal virtually addressed as Chief Guest the 'Engineers Day' organised to commemorate the 165th Birthday Celebration of Bharat Ratna Sri M. Visvesaraya by the Atmiya University, Rajkot.



- On 19th September, 2025, NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal addressed as Chief Guest the 'National Summit on Mental Health, Digital Health and Human Rights' in Mumbai, Maharashtra.



- On 19th September, 2025, NHRC, India Member, Justice (Dr) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi addressed as Chief Guest the Fifth Convocation of the ASBM University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.



- On 20th September, 2025, the NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal delivered the keynote address at the Global Digital Health Summit, Expo and Innovation Awards, organised by the Global Digital Health Summit in Mumbai, Maharashtra.



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- On 21st September, 2025, NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian inaugurated a two-day training programme on "Human Rights in the 21st Century" organised by ISIL in partnership with the Commission in Delhi. He highlighted evolving rights from the Charter of Cyrus to modern issues like cryonics, gender identity and environment to freedom of religion among civil and political rights. Students, law teachers and advocates participated in the programme.
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- On 26th September, 2025, Lieutenant General VPS Kaushik, Adjutant General, Indian Army, called on NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian to apprise him of the various initiatives taken by the Indian Army for protecting and promoting human rights. The meeting underscored NHRC's proactive role in human rights advocacy and the Indian Army's deep-rooted commitment to upholding human rights laws and international humanitarian principles, particularly in a complex operational environment. The Chairperson appreciated the proactive and positive engagement of the Indian Army and acknowledged the institutional mechanisms put in place to address human rights issues.



- On 29th September, 2025, NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal addressed the National Consultative Meet on Dementia Strategy as Chief Guest and spoke on 'Dementia and Human Rights: Dignity, Protection and Policy Imperatives.' The meet, supported by the NHRC and co-organised by the IHBAS and Dementia India Alliance, brought together policymakers, healthcare experts, researchers and civil society to strengthen India's response to dementia.

Shri Lal highlighted the challenges faced by the elderly population and the rising number of people with dementia and Alzheimer's. He noted that stigma and vulnerability to fraud and cybercrime threaten their dignity and rights. He shared key initiatives by the government and NHRC, including NHRC's Core Group on Rights of the Elderly, Advisories, *suo motu* interventions and support for research on dementia. He also referred to NHRC's efforts along with MoHFW, MoSJE, NITI Aayog and Sankala Foundation on the landmark report 'Ageing in India – Challenges and Opportunities' and the recent National Conference on the Elderly.



Shri Lal stressed the need for greater awareness, capacity building of caregivers, a rights-based, evidence-driven and family and community-rooted dementia management strategy. He urged experts to propose actionable ideas for a roadmap, one that ensures dignity, safety and a continued meaningful life for every elderly person in India.

- On 29th September, 2025, NHRC, India Joint Secretary, Shri Samir Kumar addressed the 4th National Transgender Persons Awards and Leadership Summit held at The Lalit, New Delhi. In his remarks, he noted that the last decade, since the landmark NALSA judgment, has been transformative for the recognition of transgender rights in India. With the enactment of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, the question of recognition has been settled; the task now is to ensure that these rights become lived realities.

Shri Kumar highlighted NHRC's role in strengthening the legal framework through a human rights lens, establishing a dedicated Core Advisory Group on LGBTI issues and issuing timely advisories to safeguard the community, including during the COVID-19 pandemic. He underlined that the Commission's current focus is on advancing economic and social rights, with particular emphasis on their employment, education and health.

He also referred to the recent National Conference organised by the NHRC, India in New Delhi. Congratulating the organisers - the Pride Business Network Foundation, the National Network for Transgender Persons and GAURAV (a non-profit Community-Based Organisation) and acknowledging the support of partner institutions, Shri Kumar said that the Summit stood as a powerful platform to reaffirm that every individual has the right to live with dignity, without fear and with pride.



Forthcoming events

**16th October,
2025**

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India was set up on 12th October, 1993. However, this time being a holiday, the Commission has decided to organise a function to mark the day with a National Conference on the 'Human Rights of Prison Inmates' on 16th October, 2025 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Complaints in September, 2025

Number of fresh complaints received	8,928
Number of cases disposed of including old cases	4,223
Number of cases under consideration of the Commission	39,454

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