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HUMAN RIGHTS

Newsletter

A monthly publication of the National Human Rights Commission, India



Report

- 30th NHRC Annual Debate Competition for CAPFs
- APF AGM and Biennial Conference at Fiji

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Volume 32 | Number 12 | December 2025

National Human Rights Commission

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▶ NHRC, India in Fiji attending APF Meetings



▶ Visiting Swedish delegation

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From the desk of the Secretary General & Chief Executive

Monthly Recap

The December edition of the NHRC, India Newsletter 'Human Rights' offers a reflective overview of the Commission's diverse initiatives and the collective progress made toward strengthening the nation's human rights framework. This month's developments illustrate how outreach, monitoring, capacity building, investigations and international engagement seamlessly converge to advance the cause of dignity, justice and accountability.

One of the key highlights of the period has been the 30th NHRC Annual Debate Competition for the Central Armed Police Forces, an important platform that encourages personnel to articulate nuanced perspectives on the interplay between duty and human rights. Beyond being a competitive exercise, it remains a meaningful space for self-reflection and dialogue within the country's security forces, reaffirming the importance of balancing operational responsibilities with the protection of fundamental rights.

Parallel to these engagements, the Commission continued its core work of addressing human rights violations through *suo motu* cognizance of incidents reported across different media. Recommendations for relief were issued in several cases and the Commission closely monitored the payment of compensation to victims to ensure accountability and timely redressal. This edition presents case studies that illustrate how prompt intervention can de-escalate crisis, prevent further violations and support those affected by rights infringement. In matters requiring immediate verification, the Commission also undertook spot enquiries, underscoring its commitment to swift and evidence-based action.

Complementing these investigative efforts, field visits by the Commission's Members and officers play a crucial role in assessing on-ground realities. These visits to custodial institutions, healthcare centres and other establishments provided insights into systemic challenges while enabling direct engagement with local authorities. Such interactions help strengthen institutional mechanisms and encourage compliance with human rights standards across the country.

The month also witnessed significant progress in capacity building initiatives, reflecting the Commission's belief that awareness and education are essential to fostering a culture of rights. The Online Short-Term Internship Programme continued to appeal students from diverse disciplines, offering them a structured introduction to constitutional values and practical aspects of human rights protection. Training programmes for government officials, law

enforcement personnel, educators and other stakeholders helped deepen understanding on key issues such as custodial rights, gender justice and service delivery. Exposure visits further enriched participants' learning by offering a closer look at the functioning of human rights institutions, while moot court competition nurtures analytical thinking and advocacy skills among aspiring legal professionals. Together, these programmes strengthen institutional readiness and enhance awareness to address human rights challenges.

The Commission organised several competitions for its employees during '*Hindi Pakhwada*' (Hindi Fortnight) to promote the use of the official language. The awards distribution ceremony was organised on 4th November 2025. Employees of the Commission are always encouraged to use Hindi in their official communication. It would be heartening to see them learning and using different Indian languages in official communication to the areas where these are understood the most, to reinforce the spirit of service and dedication that drives the NHRC's mandate.

In the field of international cooperation, the Commission maintained active engagement with global and regional human rights platforms. Participation of NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian led delegation in the Asia Pacific Forum's Annual General Meeting and Biennial Conference in Fiji allowed the Commission to contribute to collaborative deliberations on strengthening National Human Rights Institutions across the region. NHRC, India also received a delegation of NHRC, Nepal led by their Chairperson and a very meaningful dialogue took place. Similarly, Sweden's Ambassador at large for Human Rights accompanied by Sweden Ambassador to India, visited the Commission and had an insightful exchange of views on various aspects of human rights in today's world. On 21st November 2025, I along with Shri Samir Kumar, Joint Secretary also interacted with the EU Ambassador and Ambassadors and diplomats of EU Member States. I also interacted with the delegation of US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF). The Commission continued its interactions and online meetings with NHRIs of various countries, facilitating exchange of best practices and experiences leading to enhanced cooperation. These engagements strengthen India's position as a contributor to international human rights discourse.

The Newsletter also captures important updates from various State Human Rights Commissions, whose work at the regional level remains indispensable to ensuring that rights

protections are implemented effectively on the ground. Their initiatives, interventions and awareness programmes reflect a shared commitment across institutions to uphold human dignity. Brief news updates for the month offer snapshots of the Commission's key activities.

Finally, the statistical overview of complaints received in November 2025 provides insights into trends and recurring issues, reaffirming the trust the public places in the Commission's mechanisms and helping guide future interventions.

As we step into a new year, the NHRC remains committed to its mission of safeguarding rights, promoting accountability and nurturing an environment where respect, sensitivity and fairness continue to guide institutional and societal conduct. This edition serves as a testament to that ongoing journey and as an invitation to all stakeholders to stay engaged in the collective effort to strengthen the human rights landscape of the country.



[Bharat Lal]

Secretary General &
Chief Executive Officer

Report

30th NHRC Annual Debate Competition for CAPFs

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India has been organising an annual debate competition for the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) in collaboration with one of the CAPFs on rotation since last three decades. The 30th edition of this debate competition

was organised in collaboration with the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) in New Delhi on 27th November 2025.

The topic was 'Human rights can be observed by para-military forces without compromising national security concerns.' 16 participants

debated for and against the motion in Hindi and English in the final round after semi-final and zonal rounds. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) lifted the running trophy as the best team in the competition.



► NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian, flanked by Member, Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani; Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal; DG (I), Shri Anand Swaroop; Special DG, SSB, Smt. Anupama Nilekar Chandra; the two jury members, Former Director General, BPR&D, Dr Meeran Chadha Borwankar and Director, South Campus, Delhi University, Prof Rajini Abbi and senior officers with the running trophy winning team of CISF



► NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian addressing the participants and attendees of the debate competition

Among the individual honours, the first prize for debate in Hindi went to Shri Mayank Verma, Assistant Commandant, CISF and in English to Ms Arundhathi V., Assistant Commandant, CISF. The second prize in Hindi went to Shri Deepak Singh Yadav, Recruit GD, Assam Rifles and in English it went to Maj. Aditya Patil, Assam Rifles. The third prize in Hindi went to Shri Ashutosh Singh, Constable, BSF and in English it went to Shri Naresh Chandra Bajetha, Assistant Commandant, NSG. Besides the certificates and a memento, the first, second and third prize winners were also given cash awards of Rs

12,000/-, Rs 10,000/- and Rs 8,000/- each respectively.

The NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian appreciated the efforts of all the 16 participants for their forthright views on the subject and said that all of them deserved to be the winners. He said that the purpose behind NHRC's initiative is to give armed forces a platform to reflect on duty through a human rights lens.

Justice Ramasubramanian said that balance is the essence of duty in armed forces to ensure national security and protection of human rights. He said that

it may be an overstatement of the facts to suggest that human rights can be observed only by compromising national security concerns. He also said that the debate regarding human rights concerns during armed action is not new but centuries old. In this regard, he cited examples from the Ramayana and the Mahabharata.

Before this, NHRC, India Member, Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani and the Chief of Jury said that security and human rights are not opposing concepts. They are complementary pillars that hold our democracy together. This competition is not merely an academic exercise. It reflects the intellectual strength, moral courage and democratic values that our Central Armed Police Forces carry with pride.

In his address, NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal said that there is no contradiction in the duty of the police forces and protection of human rights. The Constitutional guarantee of equality, liberty and justice can be enjoyed only when there is a public order which the security forces are expected to maintain. He said that with power comes great responsibility and armed forces play an important role in creating an environment where people's lives and rights are protected.



► NHRC, India Member, Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani and the Chief of Jury delivering her speech



► NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal addressing the attendees and participants



► Special DG, SSB, Smt. Anupama Nilekar Chandra delivering her speech

Special DG, SSB, Smt. Anupama Nilekar Chandra lauded efforts of the participants and said that they expressed their thoughts with clarity during the debate. She noted the success of the event in its continuity over the last 30 years by consistently following a system of organising the debate in both English and Hindi with eight zonal rounds, semi-final and final. This process creates a lot of scope for introspection and the clarity required in dispensation of duty with a human rights perspective by armed forces.

NHRC, India Director General (Investigation), Shri Anand Swaroop; Registrar (Law), Shri Joginder Singh; the two jury members including Former Director General, BPR&D, Dr Meeran Chadha Borwankar and Director, South Campus, Delhi University, Prof Rajini Abbi, other senior NHRC officers and CAPF personnel were present. NHRC SSP, Shri Hari Lal Chouhan delivered the vote of thanks.



► A section of participants and attendees

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 November 2025, the Commission took *suo motu* cognizance of **06** cases of alleged human rights violations reported by media and issued notices to the concerned authorities to send action taken reports. Summaries of some of these cases are as follows:

Bus in flames after touching high-tension wire

(Case No. 3553/20/14/2025)

On 29th October 2025, the media reported that a private bus carrying over 50 labourers caught fire after touching an overhead 11 KV power cable resulting in the death of two of them and injuries to ten others. The incident happened near

Manoharpur village on the Jaipur-Delhi highway when the bus touched an overhead high-tension live wire. The labourers were travelling from Pilibhit district of Uttar Pradesh to a brick kiln in Rajasthan. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Rajasthan, calling for a detailed report on the matter.

A solemn farewell turns into a nightmare of corruption

(Case No. 1113/10/1/2025)

On 30th October 2025, the media reported that while mourning the death of his only daughter, a grieving 64-year-old father was made to pay bribes at every step, including an ambulance driver, police, crematorium staff and civic officials in Bengaluru, Karnataka. According to the media report, what should have been a solemn farewell turned into a nightmare of corruption, bureaucracy and inhumanity. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Karnataka, calling for a detailed report on the matter.

Reportedly, an IIT Madras and IIM Ahmedabad graduate woman working in the city suffered a brain haemorrhage on 18th September 2025. When the father called an ambulance after the death of his daughter, the ambulance driver apparently over charged for the services. When he reported his daughter's death to the police, they not only displayed a lack of empathy but gave copies of the FIR and post-mortem report only after a bribe was paid.

According to the media report, the deceased's family donated the her eyes before cremation. Money was again demanded at the crematorium, which her father paid. There was also a considerable delay in issuing a death certificate from Mahadevapura Municipal authorities. Despite intervention by a senior officer, the certificate was issued only after the father paid a bribe.

Death due to non-maintenance of lift

(Case No. 403/9/5/2025)

On 6th November 2025, the media reported that negligence of authorities in not maintaining a lift at a Super Speciality Hospital in Jammu resulted in the death of a 58-year-old woman. Reportedly, the moment she stepped into the lift, it abruptly started moving upwards with a high speed resulting in serious injuries to her. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police, UT of Jammu and Kashmir, calling for a detailed report on the matter.

According to the media report, her relatives alleged that there was no lift operator or security guard present at the time of the incident. They also alleged that the hospital authorities failed to display any warning sign about the technical issues with the malfunctioning lift.

Rats nibbling dead bodies in a mortuary

(Case No. 2719/7/8/2025)

On 12th November 2025, the media reported that a dead body

was nibbled by rats in the mortuary of Narwana Civil Hospital in Jind, Haryana. Reportedly, earlier also similar incidents happened in the mortuary of this hospital. The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana, calling for a detailed report on the matter. The hospital authorities have claimed that they complained to the concerned company for repairing the freezer of the mortuary, but it did not take any action. For now, a temporary mesh has been installed to block the entry of rats into freezer.

Life threats to a gang rape victim

(Case No. 24142/24/54/2025-WC)

On 15th November 2025, the media reported police inaction on life threats to a gang rape victim after the arresting of four of her six perpetrators in Khurja city, Bulandshahr district, Uttar Pradesh. Reportedly, the police personnel also tried to stop the minor victim when she attempted to meet the Deputy Inspector General of Meerut Division to tell her ordeal. She was eventually heard by him. He ordered an enquiry into the matter and attached the SHO of Police Station Khurja to police line for negligence. The Commission has issued a notice to the Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh, calling for a detailed report on the matter.

Reportedly, the girl was subjected to sexual assault for two days in June 2025 by six perpetrators. An FIR was registered on the matter at Khurja Police Station on 10th June 2025. Four of the accused were arrested and sent to judicial custody but the two other perpetrators managed to escape.

Police inaction in a case of gang rape

(Case No. 24143/24/18/2025-WC)

On 17th November 2025, the media reported that the husband of a gang rape victim was illegally detained at a Police Post in Bulandshahr district, Uttar Pradesh. Reportedly, the police personnel allegedly demanded Rs 1.2 lakh bribe and also received a part amount of Rs 50,000 from the victim to release her husband. Allegedly, the victim was also sexually assaulted by the SHO of Khurja Police Station in the district. The Commission has issued a notice to the Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh, calling for a detailed report on the matter.

Reportedly, the victim woman went to Aligarh to see an exhibition on the invitation of one of her husband's friends in 2024. There she was intoxicated by him and subjected to gang rape for one and a half months in captivity. She was also converted to another religion. The victim somehow managed to escape her perpetrators and approached a Police Post to make a complaint. The police called her husband who had earlier filed a missing complaint about his wife. But some argument ensued between him and the police personnel after which he was assaulted and detained.

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 cases and gives directions and recommendations to the concerned authorities for relief to the victims. In November 2025, besides the cases taken up daily by the Member Benches, 16 cases were heard by the Full Commission and 50 cases by Division Bench-II. Monetary relief of more than Rs 18 lakh was recommended for the victims or their next of kin (NoK) in four 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 NHRC, India website by logging the case number given in the table below:

S. No.	Case Number	Nature of complaint	Amount (Rs in lakh)	Authority
1.	128/6/6/2024-PCD	Death in police custody	5.00	Govt. of Gujarat
2.	639/6/14/2022-AD	Death in police custody	5.00	Govt. of Gujarat
3.	33038/24/17/2022-AD	Death in police custody	3.00	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
4.	24279/24/4/2024	Deaths/ injury in unorganised sector	5.00	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh

Payment of relief to the victims

During November 2025, the Commission closed four cases, either on receipt of compliance reports and proof of payment from public authorities or by giving other observations/ directions. An amount of more than Rs 29 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 NHRC, India website by logging the case number given in the table below:

S. No.	Case Number	Nature of complaint	Amount (Rs in lakh)	Authority
1.	1581/1/5/2023-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
2.	3900/4/1/2022-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Govt. of Bihar
3.	315/30/0/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	7.00	Govt. of Delhi
4.	31/15/11/2022-JCD	Death in judicial custody	12.00	Govt. of Meghalaya

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 respond why monetary relief should not be recommended to be paid to the victims of human rights violations 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:

Negligence of jail staff

(Case No. 31/15/11/2022-JCD)

The matter pertained to the death of four under trial prisoners in a mob lynching while escaping from District Prison and Correctional Home in the West Jaintia Hills district, Meghalaya in 2022. They were taken to the Civil Hospital where the doctor declared them brought dead. Based on the material received from the concerned authorities in response to its notices, the Commission found that there was negligence on part of the jail staff. Therefore, the Commission recommended that the Government of Meghalaya pay Rs 3 lakh each as relief to the next of kin of all four deceased prisoners, which was paid.

Lack of proper medical care

(Case No. 1581/1/5/2023-JCD)

The matter pertained to the custodial death of a 41-year-old convict prisoner at Rajamahendravaram Central Jail in East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh in 2023. Based on the material received from the concerned authorities in response to its notices, the Commission found that prisoner's health deteriorated in absence of better treatment resulting in his death. The state failed in its duty to take care of the inmate in its custody. Therefore, the Commission recommended that the Government of Andhra Pradesh pay Rs 7 lakh as relief to the NoK of the deceased, which was paid.

Negligence in giving timely medical treatment

(Case No. 174/7/15/2020-JCD)

The matter pertained to the death of a 19-year-old under trial prisoner in District Prison, Panipat, Haryana in 2020. Based on the material received from the concerned authorities in response to its notices, the Commission found that he died due to lack of timely medical treatment. He needed at least three doses of insulin to manage his diabetes. The medical expert opined that he died due to Diabetic Ketoacidosis and its complications. Therefore, holding the state vicariously

responsible for the negligence of its prison staff, the Commission recommended that the Government of Haryana pay Rs 5 lakh as relief to the NoK of the deceased, which was paid. The Commission was further informed that departmental action was also taken against the erring jail officials.

Suicide by an under trial prisoner

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

The matter pertained to the suicide of a 23-year-old under trial prisoner at Central Jail, Bettiah, Champaran West Bihar in 2020. He was admitted to Mandalkara Prison, Bettiah on 30th September 2019 in a case related to mobile theft. Based on the material received from the concerned authorities in response to its notices, the Commission found that he committed suicide in broad daylight by hanging to a gate of the jail ward with the help of his gamacha. This clearly indicated negligence of jail officials, who had left the ward unattended. Therefore, holding the state vicariously responsible for the negligence of its prison staff, the Commission recommended that the Government of Bihar pay Rs 5 lakh as relief to his NoK, which was paid.

Death due to collapsing of a tin shed at a railway station

(Case No. 24279/24/4/2024)

The matter pertained to the death of a 60-year-old man and serious injuries to another after a tin shed collapsed upon them at Prayagraj Railway Junction, Uttar Pradesh in 2024. In response to the notices of the Commission, the authorities submitted a report stating that the incident happened due to heavy rainfall. They also stated that there was no provision of compensation in the case. Not convinced by the response, the Commission held that the incident could have been averted if the Railways had taken timely safety precautions especially in view of monsoon season. Accordingly, the Commission has issued a notice to the Chairman, Railway Board to show cause why it should not recommend to pay Rs 5 lakh as monetary relief to the NoK of the deceased.

Spot enquiries

T

he 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 November 2025:

Case No. 2363/25/5/2024

From 3rd -7th November 2025, a spot enquiry was conducted into the allegation that police used excessive and brutal force against the agitating students in Kolkata demanding justice in the R. G. Kar Medical College case. Over 200 students were allegedly arrested and subjected to brutal physical assault.

Case No. 1423/36/2/2025

From 4th-7th November 2025, a spot enquiry was conducted into the allegation of sexual abuse at the state-run Juvenile Welfare and Correctional Centre in Sadabad, Hyderabad.

Case No. 546/22/13/2025

From 10th-14th November 2025, a spot enquiry was conducted into the allegation of false implication, arrest and torture at the behest of the Police Commissioner in retaliation for filing a complaint against him by the victim in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Case No. 2195/1/27/2025

From 10th-14th November 2025, a spot enquiry was conducted into the allegation that several Scheduled Tribe girl students fell seriously ill after consuming faecal-contaminated water at the Tribal Welfare Residential Girls' School in Kurupam area of Parvathipuram Manyam district, Andhra Pradesh. Allegedly, some students had died.

Case No. 4762/30/8/2025

From 12th-13th November 2025, a spot enquiry was conducted into the allegation of serious public nuisance, pollution and safety hazards in the GPRA area of Hudco Place Extension, New Delhi due to non-maintenance by the CPWD and unauthorised use of common areas.

Case No. 1466/7/5/2022

From 13th-14th November 2025, a spot enquiry was conducted into the allegation of dumping of untreated waste on a landfill site at Bandhwari village in Gurugram District, Haryana causing serious health hazards to the people residing in the area.

Case No. 4228/4/10/2025-DH

From 17th-21st November 2025, a spot enquiry was conducted into the custodial death of a minor boy at a government-run children's home in Darbhanga, Bihar. He was found hanging in the home's toilet under suspicious circumstances. The boy was allegedly lodged in the home due to his involvement in a criminal case.

Case No. 312/36/2/2025

From 17th-21st November 2025, a spot enquiry was conducted into the allegation that new schools are running without necessary verification of basic infrastructure facilities by government authorities in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Case No. 3606/30/9/2025

From 24th-27th November 2025, a spot enquiry was conducted into the allegation that two labourers died due to asphyxiation while cleaning a carbon waste treatment tank in the basement of a Hospital in Paschim Vihar, New Delhi.

Field visits



► NHRC, India Member, Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani with the Anganwadi teachers in Rajkot, Gujarat

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 human rights situation and status of implementation of Commission's advisories, guidelines and recommendations by state governments and their concerned authorities. They also visit shelters, prisons and observation homes 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 promptly resolving human rights violation cases.

On 18th November 2025, NHRC, India Member, Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani interacted with Anganwadi teachers in Rajkot, Gujarat. She found that they have heavy workloads, low salaries, poor facilities, lack of access to Govern-

ment welfare schemes. She also noted that every Anganwadi teacher is responsible for nearly 1,500 households and each of them handles around 75–80 children, which compared to other places is a very high number. She

also visited Girls' Shelter Home in Rajkot. She found the facilities well-maintained with good infrastructure and cleanliness. It is housing around 40 children. She also heard their grievances.

Capacity Building

The National Human Rights Commission, 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 including moot courts to expand its outreach and human rights sensitisation especially for university level students. 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 join the programme without incurring any expenses for their travel and stay in Delhi.

Online Short-Term Internship programme

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India organised its 4th Online Short-Term Internship Programme (OSTI) of 2025-26 from 10th to 21st November 2025. Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General, NHRC, India delivered the inaugural address. 80 University - level students from 16 States and Union Territories completed it successfully.

In his valedictory address, Shri Lal congratulated the interns and said that the 80 students selected among so many applicants should consider themselves fortunate to get this opportunity to interact with experts on various aspects of human rights. He urged them to evolve as human rights ambassadors and build awareness to raise concerns on human rights violations by inculcating knowledge and values gained during internship

with the Commission. He reminded the interns that human rights must be internalised and lived through one's daily conduct. He emphasised that only a better human being can protect the rights of others, and this begins with building a character that is conscious, respectful and sensitive to the needs of people around them.

Shri Lal said that every segment of society can lead a dignified life by



▶ NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal addressing the OSTI interns



► NHRC, India Joint Secretary, Smt. Saidingpuii Chhakchhuak presenting the internship report

safeguarding their basic human rights. He also urged the interns to read Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Rights to reflect on how and where they can take forward the idea of promoting and protecting human rights more effectively.

Before this, Smt. Saidingpuii Chhakchhuak, Joint Secretary, NHRC presented the internship report. The internship had 46 sessions on different aspects of human rights by the NHRC Members, senior officers, experts and civil society representatives. She also announced the results of several competitions held during internship to enhance interns' capacities. NHRC Joint Secretary, Shri Samir Kumar and Director, Lt Col Virender Singh were also present.

Training programmes

- On 1st November 2025, NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat delivered the inaugural address as Chief Guest at the two-day training programme for judicial officers organised by the Indian Law Institute with the support of the Commission. He said that the soul of the Constitution of India is equality, liberty, dignity and justice for all. Aligning with these Constitutional guarantees and Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by the United Nations in 1948, the NHRC, India was established in 1993, a milestone in protecting rights, ensuring justice and guiding human rights policies.

Shri Lal further added that India's human rights journey began long before 1948 starting with country's ancient

ideals of empathy and compassion. Reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Savitribai Phule and Periyar and others worked for people's right to equality and dignity. These are reflected through Fundamental Rights and Directive Principle of State Policy enshrined in the Constitution. He said that human rights face new challenges due to climate-induced disruption, cybercrime, corruption and overcrowded prisons, which are a few of them. Judicial officers stand as beacons of hope ensuring justice is not distant but a reality and exhorted them to be the voice of voiceless.

NHRC, India Joint Secretary, Shri Samir Kumar also addressed a session on the 'Role of NHRC in promoting and Protecting Human Rights' in the training programme. He highlighted various activities of the Commission to protect and promote human rights of all.



► NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal inaugurating the two-day training programme for judicial officers at ILI, New Delhi





► NHRC, India Joint Secretary, Shri Samir Kumar addressing a session at ILI, New Delhi

- On 7th November 2025, NHRC, India Member, Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani delivered the keynote address at the National Conference on 'Empowering Abilities, Advancing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' in Jaipur, Rajasthan. It was organised by the Manav Seva Trust with the Commission's support. She reaffirmed that ensuring dignity, equality and inclusion of persons with disabilities is integral to protecting human rights. Citing examples of Arunima Sinha and Mahantesh G. Kivadasannavar, she said that their lives exemplify how inclusion transforms potential into achievements.

Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani stressed that India's true progress will be measured by how inclusively it empowers its 26.8 million citizens with disabilities to enable them contribute with their talent, strength and vision. She said that NHRC, India remains committed to advancing their rights and welfare. Highlighting positive steps like UDID cards, ADIP Scheme and Purple Fest, she noted that challenges remain in education, healthcare and digital access for them. She emphasised the need for building an inclusive Bharat, where every ramp becomes a runway to opportunity and every individual is a symbol of strength and dignity.



► NHRC, India Member, Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani delivering the keynote address at the National Conference on 'Empowering Abilities, Advancing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' in Jaipur, Rajasthan

- On 7th November 2025, NHRC, India SSP, Shri Hari Lal Chouhan delivered a lecture on 'Drafting the reports and enquiries in the Commission' at Academy for Smart Policing of Delhi Police, in Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.
- On 13th November 2025, NHRC, India Dy SP, Shri Rajendra Singh virtually delivered a lecture on 'Human Rights' during the 4-day Legal Workshop conducted by CISF unit, IGI Airport, New Delhi.
- On 14th November 2025, NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal addressed the Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers attending the Mid-Career Training (MCT) Programme (Phase – III) at the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), Dehradun, Uttarakhand. He said that India's civilisational ethos rooted in empathy, compassion, dignity and non-violence continues to shape human rights vision. Contributions from ancient scholars such as Gargi and Maitreyi and global interventions by Dr Hansa Mehta and Lakshmi Menon upheld this legacy.

Shri Lal said that India's humanitarian tradition is reflected in its acceptance of refugees, including Polish children during the Second World War, Tibetan refugees in 1959 and people fleeing conflicts in East Pakistan, Africa, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and other regions. The Constitution of India places human rights at its core through Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity rein-



► NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal addressing the IFS officers at IGNFA, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

forced by the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of State Policy. He said that judiciary, empowered by Articles 32 and 226, acts as the guardian of these rights through constitutional remedies, writs and Public Interest Litigations (PILs) that empower every citizen. He underscored that NHRC, State Human Rights Commissions (SHRCs) and national commissions protect vulnerable people. The Commission collaborates with civil society and global bodies to uphold India's commitment to protecting human dignity.

He urged the officers to uphold constitutional values through sensitive, transparent and accountable leadership. He said that humane governance must centre on people's lived realities. Thoughtful reflection, rather than impulsive reaction, leads to lasting change. He said that freedom fighters like Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela exemplified purposeful and courageous actions that continue to guide us.

- On 14th November 2025, NHRC, India SSP, Shri Hari Lal Chouhan delivered a lecture on 'Crime Prevention and Public Safety' for Inspectors, SHOs, ACsP, Additional DCsP and DCsP at Specialised Training Centre of Delhi Police, Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi.
- On 14th November 2025, NHRC Dy SP, Shri Kulbir Singh delivered a lecture at a Workshop for Constables to ASIs on protection of human rights and role of NHRC, procedure for interrogation in the cases of death in police custody and NHRC guidelines on encounter deaths' at Delhi Police Academy, Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi.
- On 18th November 2025, NHRC, India Member, Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani addressed as Chief Guest the training programme on 'Women Rights' at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Atmiya University, Rajkot, Gujarat. The training, organised in collaboration with NHRC, saw participation of about 300 women.



► NHRC, India Member, Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani addressing the training programme on 'Women Rights' at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Atmiya University, Rajkot, Gujarat



► A scene from the training programme

- On 21st November 2025, NHRC, India Member, Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani delivered a lecture on the theme 'Celebrating Women, Life and Dignity' at Sarat Centenary College at Dhanikhali village in Kolkata, West Bengal. It was supported by the NHRC, India. She spoke about various issues faced by women including discrimination, violence, inequality and safety at home, work and in public spaces. She said that upholding women's dignity strengthens the nation and urged all to commit to building a society where every individual enjoys freedom, respect and equal dignity.



► NHRC, India Member, Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani delivering a lecture on the theme 'Celebrating Women, Life and Dignity' at Sarat Centenary college in Dhanikhali village in Kolkata, West Bengal

- On 26th November 2025, NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian sent a message inaugurating the two-day national workshop on 'Right to Health: HIV and AIDS' organised at the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences and the School of Nursing, AUS, Namsai, Arunachal Pradesh. It was supported by NHRC, India. In his message, he emphasised that the right to health is core to human dignity and fundamental rights.

Justice Ramasubramanian stressed the need for greater awareness, accurate information and a rights-based

approach to dealing with HIV-AIDS victims. He underscored NHRC's commitment towards ensuring dignity, justice and equitable treatment for all individuals affected with HIV-AIDS, while appreciating the University for fostering dialogue and strengthening institutional capacities. About 200 participants attended.

- On 29th November 2025, NHRC, India Member, Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani addressed as Chief Guest a one-day training programme on 'Women Rights' organised by the V.S.B. College of Engineering, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. The training, supported by the NHRC, saw the participation of about 200 students.



► NHRC, India Member, Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani addressing the training programme on 'Women Rights' organised by the V.S.B. College of Engineering, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

Exposure visits

To promote human rights awareness among college-level students and their faculties, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India invites them to visit the Commission to understand human rights protection mechanism and its functioning in accordance with the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993. They are briefed by senior officers about the functioning of the Law Division, Investigation Divisions and the Complaints Management System of the Commission. The students and faculties of the following institutions visited the Commission:



On 12th November 2025, a batch of 100 students and 2 faculty members from the Law Centre-II, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi



On 14th November 2025, a batch of 65 students and 2 faculty members from Durgapur Institute of Legal Studies, West Bengal



On 19th November 2025, a batch of 25 students and 2 faculty members from Navsamvat Law College, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh and 26 students and a faculty member from the JIMSEMTC, Greater NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh



On 28th November 2025, a batch of 42 students and 2 faculty members from the School of Law, Dr. Vishwanath Karad MIT World Peace University, Pune, Maharashtra

Moot court competition

From 14th -15th November 2025, CPJ College of Higher Studies and School of Law, Narela, Delhi conducted a collaborative National Moot Court Competition 2025 and a One Day Training Programme on 'Human Rights in the Contemporary Era: Critical Concerns and Global Dynamics' Understanding Mental Health'. Shri Joginder Singh, Registrar (Law) graced the inaugural session as Chief Guest.

Awards



► NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian inaugurating the Hindi Fortnight in the presence of Members, Justice (Dr) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani and Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal



► NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian addressing the awards distribution function



► The winners of the Hindi Fortnight competitions

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India organised several competitions for its employees during 'Hindi Pakhwada' (Hindi Fortnight) to promote the use of the official language. Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian inaugurated it on 15th September 2025 in the presence of NHRC, India Members, Justice (Dr) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani, Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal, Registrar (Law), Shri Joginder Singh, Joint Secretary, Smt. Saidingpuii Chhakchhuak and other senior officers.

In their speeches, the Chairperson, Members, Secretary General and Joint Secretary encouraged employees to use Hindi in their work. It was also stated that some words and phrases from local languages should be used in the Commission's programmes held in non-Hindi speaking areas.

Later, at an awards distribution ceremony on 4th November 2025, the Chairperson congratulated all the participants of various competitions. He said that when we love a language, we express love for our culture, traditions and nation. A language is not merely a medium of communication; it is the very essence of our identity.

He said that today, Hindi is not merely a language; it has become a symbol of Indianness. He said that Hindi is one of the richest languages in the world. Over time, it has not only evolved with society but also established a strong presence in diverse fields such as science, literature, technology and administration.

Before this, Member, Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani said that the scope of Hindi-related competition should be expanded to encourage more participation from senior-level functionaries also. Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal said that for wider outreach of the official communication, Hindi and regional languages should also be used where they are understood the most. He also highlighted the need to learn at least one additional language. DG (I), Shri Anand Swaroop, Registrar (Law), Shri Joginder Singh and other senior officers were present.

NHRC in the International arena

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India continues to engage with various international programmes to foster the 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 its functioning 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 Commission's achievements, interact with other NHRIs and discuss the challenges to human rights in the fast-evolving world.

APF AGM and Biennial Conference at Fiji

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India participated in the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Biennial Conference of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF), held in Fiji on 11th November 2025. This regional gathering brought together human rights institutions from across the Asia Pacific to discuss ongoing activities, share experiences and plan future events. The NHRC, India delegation was led by Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian, Chairperson and included Shri Samir Kumar, Joint Secretary.

Fiji's Acting President and Chief Justice Salesi Temo officially opened the



► NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian discussing women's empowerment in India at Biennial Conference of APF in Fiji

Biennial Conference. The AGM was inaugurated by the President of the Court of Appeal of Fiji, Justice Isikeli Maitaitoga and APF Chairperson, Ms Samar Haj Hasan.

During the plenary session, NHRC, India delivered a detailed presentation on gender equality, highlighting the Commission's recent efforts to support and protect the rights of girls and women. The Commission shared key findings from major studies, including a nationwide assessment of shelter homes for women in distress and a study on women's declining labour force participation. It also outlined initiatives such as national conferences, open house discussions on harmful practices, advisories on widows' rights and programmes on women's safety in workplaces and public spaces. The presentation covered NHRC's work on missing girls and women, efforts to strengthen implementation of the Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act and regular gender sensitisation sessions for staff. Further, the efforts for Transgender communities'



► NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian and Joint Secretary, Shri Samir Kumar with Fiji's Acting President and Chief Justice Salesi Temo



► NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian and Joint Secretary, Shri Samir Kumar attending the Biennial Conference of APF in Fiji

welfare were also highlighted by the delegation.

Justice Ramasubramanian also held an engaging discussion with the participating NHRIs on the progress made and challenges that remain in the sphere of women's empowerment in India. He reaffirmed NHRC, India's commitment to promoting gender equality across the country. He also held several bilateral discussions with other peer NHRIs on shared practices and explored potential for future collaborations.

A key part of the AGM was the APF Performance Report for 2024- 2025, which gave an overview of the Forum's

work during the past year. Members noted the report, which highlighted efforts to strengthen human rights institutions and promote regional cooperation. The APF also shared updates on its works to promote gender equality, climate issues and rights of human rights defenders including training and capacity building activities.

Financial updates were discussed and members approved the audited accounts for 2024-2025. A resolution authorising the Chairperson to sign the official financial declaration was passed and revised membership fees were approved: USD 5,000 for 'A' status members and USD 3,000 for 'B' status

members with provisions for waivers or reductions, if needed.

Updates from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) were presented under international engagement, after which members agreed to form a working group to explore how national human rights institutions can contribute to ongoing reforms within the United Nations system.

During general discussions, the World Justice Project presented examples of its work with NHRIs in Thailand and Mongolia. Members found it useful and encouraged to pursue such work. An action item on the human rights situation in Palestine, shared by the New Zealand Human Rights Commission, was adopted.

A Senior Executive Officers (SEO) meeting was also held. Shri Samir Kumar attended it. At this meeting, NHRC, India made a strong case for broadening the membership of the Global Alliance of NHRIs (GANHRI) to include all nations in the Asia Pacific region that are not yet members. Currently, only 27 of the 48 UN member nations in the region are GANHRI members.



► Biennial Conference in progress

The AGM concluded with appreciation for APF Director, Mr Kieren Fitzpatrick, who will retire at the end of 2025 and congratulations to Ms Thuy Doan Smith on her appointment as the new Director. NHRC, India's active participation, including its presentation on gender equality, reflects its strong commitment to strengthening human rights work and collaborating with partners across the Asia Pacific region.

Delegation visits

- On 17th November 2025, NHRC, India hosted Ms. Irina Schoulgin Nyoni, Sweden's Ambassador-at-Large for Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law along with H.E. Mr. Jan Thesleff, Ambassador of Sweden to India. They met the Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian and Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal and engaged in discussions on a wide range of human rights and inter-linked issues. India and Sweden share a strong commitment to advancing human rights, democracy and the rule of law. This interaction further strengthened the mutual resolve to deepen cooperation and exchange best practices in



► Visiting Sweden delegation

these vital areas. NHRC, India Joint Secretary, Shri Samir Kumar was present.

- On 17th November 2025, a delegation of the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal led by Chairperson, Justice Top Bahadur Magar and accompanied by Secretary, Shri Murari Prasad Kharel and other senior functionaries visited NHRC, India. They met the Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian and Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal and spoke about various aspects of human rights and exchanged information about the functioning and best practices of their respective human rights institutions. NHRC, India Joint Secretary, Shri Samir Kumar was present. Later, the visiting delegates also engaged with various Divisions of the NHRC, India to understand the institutional processes and approaches for protecting and promoting human rights of all individuals. The interaction offered an excellent platform to discuss issues of mutual interest, reaffirm the longstanding partnership and identify concrete avenues to deepen cooperation in advancing human rights across both countries.



► Visiting NHRC, Nepal delegation

Other important interactions

Interactive session with the EU Ambassador and Ambassadors and diplomats of EU Member States

On 21st November 2025, NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal, accompanied by Joint Secretary, Shri Samir Kumar participated in an interactive session hosted by Mr. Hervé Delphin, Ambassador of the European Union to India with Ambassadors and senior delegates from 27 EU member countries in New Delhi. Shri Lal underscored the shared values of democracy, diversity and human dignity that continue to guide India – EU cooperation. He gave an overview of the evolution of human rights in India, beginning with civilisational ethos and freedom movement and moving to the constitutional framework, the institutional structure of national and state human rights bodies and the functioning of various sectoral commissions.



► NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal, flanked by Joint Secretary, Shri Samir Kumar, addressing the Ambassadors and senior delegates from 27 EU member countries in New Delhi



► Discussion in progress

Shri Lal highlighted judiciary's role, the government's focus on basic amenities and public services and the institutional safeguards available to every individual. He also spoke about the NHRC India's work, including inspections of observation homes, mental health institutions and detention centres; victim compensation; complaints management; enforcement of orders and issuance of recommendations and advisories. He discussed the contributions of Special Monitors and Special Rapporteurs; recent trends in cases, *suo motu* cognizance and compensation. He elaborated on the Commission's approach to human rights violations in the private sector through government enforcement.

He also outlined NHRC, India's engagement with the Global South through the ITEC Capacity Building programmes; priority areas such as frontline sensitisation and institutional accountability and India's commitment to equality and inclusive development. The session ended with a meaningful exchange on outreach, training and public consultation traditions.

US-India Strategic Partnership Forum

On 12th November 2025, NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal interacted with the Board of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) in New Delhi. He gave an insight into India's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life, strengthen environmental stewardship, enhance ease of living and doing business and uphold the dignity and rights of every individual. The session was facilitated by Shri Mukesh Aghi, President and CEO of USISPF. It featured several eminent speakers, including Shri Amitabh Kant, Former G20 Sherpa and Ambassador, Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu, among others, who shared their insights.



► NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal interacting with the Board of USISPF in New Delhi

Shri Lal highlighted how over the past decade, India has simplified laws, rules and regulations, ensured policy predictability and strengthened governance to enable entrepreneurship, investment, efficiency and productivity. At the national level, numerous outdated and irrelevant laws have been reviewed and repealed. The government has been making huge efforts to ensure all basic amenities and efficient public services to enable people, especially youth, to focus on higher goals and realise their full potential. The investment in women's welfare has started paying rich dividends.

He said that as a Union of States, the true measure of ease of doing business in India is felt on the ground through daily experiences of companies and citizens. Significant work is underway to advance the next generation of reforms at the state level. These reforms will further improve the investment climate, create wider opportunities and elevate the lives of people.

Shri Lal said that India, as a living and evolving civilisation, places a high premium on investing in human capital. It is being ensured that people lead meaningful and dignified lives. Alongside economic development, the country continues to prioritise workers' rights, environmental sustainability, good governance and social responsibility. India is among the few large economies that give equal importance to business growth on the one hand and environmental conservation, human rights and quality of life on the other. He said that this balance makes India one of the most compelling destinations for investment and enterprise. The people of India value their friends and partners. It is a sentiment rooted in our civilisational ethos, central to how we engage with the world.

Online meeting

From 24th - 26th November 2025, Joint Secretary, Shri Samir Kumar and Ms Prerna Hasija, Junior Research Consultant, NHRC, India attended online the 14th United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights on the theme 'Accelerating action on business and human rights amidst crises and transformations' at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

News from the State Human Rights Commissions

Given ever-expanding dimensions of human life and related challenges, promoting and protecting human rights always remains a work in progress. In India, democratically elected governments are committed to ensuring people's welfare and protecting human rights with the help of executive machinery. Additionally, there are institutions such as the legislature and the judiciary. The country also has a vibrant media. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and State Human Rights Commissions (SHRCs) play important roles. There are other national commissions that are assisted by state-level commissions at the regional level. These institutions work as watchdogs for rights and welfare measures. They focus on various segments of society. This column intends to highlight the exceptional activities of SHRCs undertaken to protect and promote human rights.

Karnataka State Human Rights Commission

On 14th November 2025, Shri S.K. Vantigodi, Member, Karnataka State Human Rights Commission (KSHRC) visited Ramdurga Taluk in Belagavi district and held a meeting with the Tahsildar and local police officers regarding a *suo motu* case concerning human rights violations of marginalised communities. He also met with the victims; heard their grievances and concerns.



► KSHRC conducting full bench sittings to hear the cases of human rights violation



► KSHRC officers inspecting a District hospital

Besides, he visited all Pre-matric Girls Hostels for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in Koppala District after the KSHRC took *suo motu* cognizance of a media report about their poor infrastructure and facilities. He interacted with the students and gave instructions to the hostel authorities, calling for an action taken report. He also had an interactive session with Taluk - level officers and made recommendations for redressing people's grievances and preventing their human rights violations.

From 18th – 20th November 2025, the KSHRC conducted full bench sittings to hear the cases of human rights violation at Shivamogga and Davanagere districts in Karnataka. Acting Chairperson, Dr T. Sham Bhatt and Member, Shri S. K. Vantigodi visited District Prisons and heard the grievances of prisoners. The concerned authorities were asked to provide a balanced meal three times a day and proper clothing to the inmates, besides maintaining hygiene.

The KSHRC also visited District Hospitals and heard the grievances of patients and their attendants. The District Health Officer was directed to protect the human rights of patients in the Hospital by keeping it clean and providing proper medical facilities.

Telangana State Human Rights Commission

During November 2025, the Telangana State Human Rights Commission (TSHRC) took *suo motu* cognizance in three cases of human rights violations. These included reported food poisoning to about 55 students at BC Welfare Boys Hostel in Dharmavaram, road accident near Mirjaguda village claiming 19 lives and animal mutilation and black-magic incidents. The Commission also recommended relief to the mother of a new born, who was injured at a public health centre in Gudihathnoor, Adilabad on 24th November 2025.

Besides this, the TSHRC inspected Gandhi Hospital, Secunderabad and assessed its departments including the Emergency Ward, Geriatric, Paediatric and General Departments on 6th November 2025. They also interacted with the staff and examined hospital records.

On 20th November 2025, Justice (Dr) Shameem Akther, TSHRC Chairperson,

attended the valedictory function of the 58th National Library Week Celebrations and "Aksharasya Day" at the District Central Library, Nalgonda. He highlighted the significance of libraries and education in protecting human rights.

Madhya Pradesh State Human Rights Commission

On 14th November 2025, Madhya Pradesh State Human Rights Commission (MPSHRC) Member, Dr Awadhesh Pratap Singh held a public hearing under the 'Commission at Your Door' programme at the Collectorate auditorium, Orchha in



► MPSHRC conducting a public hearing at collectorate in Orchha, Madhya Pradesh



► MPSHRC Member, Dr Awadhesh Pratap Singh meeting with NHRC, India Member, Shri Priyank Kanoongo at Manav Adhikar Bhavan, New Delhi

Madhya Pradesh. District officials presented reports on pending cases. He urged departments to conduct timely investigations, avoid delays, compensate affected employees and resolve compassionate appointments quickly. He said that the officers should ensure disposal of all human rights-related complaints within stipulated time.

After the public hearing, the MPSHRC officers inspected the new building of the office of Police Superintendent. They also visited Niwari Sub-Jail and inspected the conditions and facilities therein.

Before this, on 6th November 2025, Dr Awadhesh made a courtesy call to the NHRC, India Member, Shri Priyank Kanoongo at Manav Adhikar Bhawan in New Delhi. He briefed him on State Commission's activities and discussed key human rights issues.

During the month, the MPSHRC recommended monetary relief of Rs 22 lakh in six cases of human rights violations. These included three deaths due to drowning, suicide in police custody, death of a student due to lightning among others. The interventions of the MPSHRC also ensured relief to the victims of delayed payment of pension dues, medical claims, installment of *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana* and police atrocity.

Himachal Pradesh State Human Rights Commission

From October to November 2025, the Himachal Pradesh State Human Rights Commission (HPSHRC) registered a total of 22 complaints of human rights violations and disposed of 6 cases. Rs 4 lakh was recommended to be paid as relief to the victims.

News in brief

- On 6th November 2025, NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian and Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal called on the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu and requested her to grace the Human Rights Day function as Chief Guest on 10th December 2025.



- On 18th November 2025, a team from the Arunachal Pradesh State Human Rights Commission visited NHRC, India. The senior officers including Registrar (Law), Shri Joginder Singh; Director, Lt Col Virender Singh and SSA, Shri Sanjeev Sharma briefed them about the functioning of the Commission and various aspects of human rights including online complaints management.



- On 19th November 2025, NHRC, India Member, Justice (Dr) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi addressed as Chief Guest the 16th National Safety Conclave – 2025 on the theme 'Human Rights Commission in Ensuring Industrial Safety and Human Dignity' in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. He said that the right to a safe workplace is not merely a statutory or administrative duty; it is a fundamental human right derived from Article 21 of the Constitution, which ensures the right to life and personal liberty. He said that both governmental and non-governmental institutions must uphold this right, ensuring that individuals' life and dignity are not compromised in pursuit of economic progress.



- On 19th November 2025, NHRC, India Joint Secretary, Smt Sainingpuii Chhakchhuak addressed as Chief Guest an orientation programme organised by the North East Society of Law Centre II, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi on the theme 'Law's Diverse Landscape: Traditional and Emerging Career Path' in Delhi. Addressing students from various states of the North East, she urged them to remain sensitive to the plight of the most vulnerable people, who, in most situations, are disproportionately affected. She further encouraged the students to hone their analytical skills to unlock limitless possibilities in an era where the frontiers of technological advancements are expanding beyond imagination.



- On 20th November 2025, NHRC, India Member, Justice (Dr) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi addressed as Chief Guest the 36th Sisumela organised by People's Cultural Centre at Ekamra Haat, Bhubaneswar, Odisha on the occasion of World Children's Day.



- On 21st November 2025, NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal delivered the keynote address at the Tribal Women's Menstrual Health Awareness Programme organised by Gujarat's Sukh Parivar Foundation in New Delhi. The packed hall included over 60 tribal women from Gujarat. He said that improving health outcomes for women is not just about medical care; it is about their dignity, awareness and empowerment. Women form half of India's 1.46 billion population. Around 50 million of them are tribal women. They face some of the toughest barriers when it comes to menstrual hygiene.



He said that menstruation is a natural and vital process. It is a sign of the body's strength and rhythm. Poor menstrual hygiene doesn't just affect health; it impacts education and livelihoods too. Yet even today, it is surrounded by stigma and shame. This silence has serious consequences, particularly for women of reproductive age. They suffer from anaemia and conditions like endometriosis, which often go undiagnosed for years, particularly among women in rural and informal sectors. They struggle to manage menstruation safely at work because of inadequate sanitation or fear of social judgement.

Citing Gujarat's 2006 maternal healthcare initiative (Chiranjeevi Yojana) for tribal women and drawing from his personal field experience there, Shri Lal said that effective interventions can drive transformative change. Today, India's national programmes from the Menstrual Hygiene Scheme and *Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram* to *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* and *Samagra Shiksha* continue this journey. The results speak for themselves: the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5 shows that the use of hygienic methods during menstruation among young women has risen from 57.6% to 77.3% in just five years. That is real progress. Still, much remains to be done. We need to replace stigma with science, shame with conversation and barriers with access. When women are healthy and empowered, families prosper, societies thrive and nations move forward. He said that let us create an atmosphere where menstrual hygiene and their health issues can be discussed and addressed openly without any shame.

- On 25th November 2025, NHRC, India's Junior Research Consultant, Shri Raghwendra Singh participated in a seminar on Homelessness and Destitution: Law, Issues and Possibilities at YUVA Centre, Kharghar, Mumbai. It was organised by the Koshish Trust with support from the Centre for Dalit Studies and Rosa Luxemburg Foundation. He highlighted NHRC's initiatives for the rehabilitation of individuals engaged in beggary, recalling last year's open house discussion on systemic gaps and reforms. He also informed that the Commission is actively pursuing with the State/ UT administrations for implementing the NHRC Advisory on prevention and rehabilitation of persons engaged in begging.



- On 30th November 2025, NHRC, India Member, Justice (Dr) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi addressed as the Chief Guest a seminar on the 'Role of Bar for protection of Human Rights' organised by the BAR Association, Odagaon, Odisha. He said that the NHRC's mandate covers a vast range of issues including custodial violence, unlawful detention, bonded labour, child rights violations, atrocities against women and persons with disabilities, trafficking, environmental harm and the protection of vulnerable communities. He said that in many such cases, it is advocates who alert the Commission, send representations, assist victims and ensure that violations do not remain hidden. But human rights protection cannot be reactive alone; it must be preventive. And this is where the Bar has an even greater responsibility.

He said that when lawyers engage with communities, educate people about their rights, assist in legal aid efforts and hold authorities accountable through petitions and representations; violations can be prevented even before they occur. He urged the Odagaon Bar Association to take the lead in strengthening access to justice in the district. Efforts like regular legal awareness programmes, outreach in schools and villages, special drives focusing on women, children and marginalised communities can transform society.



Forthcoming events

**10th December
2025**

The NHRC, India will organise a function to celebrate Human Rights Day and a National Conference on 'Ensuring everyday essentials: Public services and dignity to all' at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Smt. Droupadi Murmu, Hon'ble President of India will grace the event as the Chief Guest. The keynote address at the Conference will be delivered by Chief Guest, Dr. P. K. Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister.

**From
15th December 2025**

The Commission will begin its 4-week in-person Winter Internship Programme for University-level students at its premises in New Delhi.

Complaints in November 2025

Number of fresh complaints received	5,517
Number of cases disposed of including old cases	4,162
Number of cases under consideration of the Commission	43,922

Human rights and NHRC in news



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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