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HUMAN RIGHTS

Newsletter

A monthly publication of the National Human Rights Commission, India



Hearing

Bonded labour cases in Haryana

Spotlight

Child labour

Article

Mental health of seafarers: An unaddressed human rights concern

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National Human Rights Commission, India

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- NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice V. Ramasubramanian addressing the two-day Human Rights Training for IPS Probationers at SVPNPA, Hyderabad, Telangana



- NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice V. Ramasubramanian addressing the online hearing of bonded labour cases in brick kilns in Haryana

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Monthly Recap

From the desk of the Secretary General and Chief Executive

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India continues to advance its mandate of promoting and protecting human rights through a range of interventions and activities encompassing complaint redressal, hearings, investigations, research and capacity-building. Reflecting the diverse dimensions of the Commission's work, this edition of the Commission's Newsletter presents an overview of its key activities during the month of July 2026.

A major highlight was the online hearing of bonded labour cases of Haryana presided over by Chairperson, Justice V. Ramasubramanian. Indeed, effective implementation of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 in compliance with the directions of the Supreme Court is necessary to end this exploitative practice with a coordinated approach among the state authorities. For this, timely identification, rescue and rehabilitation of bonded labourers are necessary as emphasised by the Commission.

The Spotlight section explores an important theme- Child Labour highlighting the continuing need to protect vulnerable groups and uphold the principles of dignity, equality and inclusion.

The Newsletter also covers an article focusing on the rights and welfare of seafarers, drawing attention to the human rights challenges and mental health issues faced by this indispensable workforce and the need to ensure safe working conditions, social security and legal protection for them.

From time to time, the NHRC, India has taken up the issues of seafarers' rights through institutional working groups and Open House Discussions, targeting issues like illegal recruitment and the "Flag of Convenience" loophole enabling shipowners to register vessels in foreign nations, bypassing strict labour laws, safety regulations and tax obligations. These discussions highlight how this practice leaves seafarers in a jurisdictional vacuum, making it difficult to hold owners accountable for abandonment, unpaid wages or abuse.

The Commission's proactive interventions through its *suo motu* cognizance of cases demonstrate its prompt response to alleged human rights violations reported in the media. Alongside these, readers will find updates on the Commission's recommendations for monetary relief to victims of human rights violations, significant case studies and spot enquiries, reflecting its commitment to ensuring accountability, justice and effective follow-up.

Another important feature of this edition is the coverage of field visits undertaken by the Commission's Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors, whose interactions with state authorities, civil society organisations and local communities provide valuable insights into ground realities and strengthen the Commission's monitoring mechanism. Some important initiatives undertaken by State Human Rights Commissions have also been covered.

The Commission promotes research on various aspects of human rights. A column on research studies in the Newsletter carries a brief outcome report on 'A study on the socio-legal aspects of the adoption process in India' sponsored by the Commission. This evidence-based study seeks to contribute to informed policy interventions and strengthen the protection of vulnerable groups.

Capacity building continues to remain a key priority. Reinforcing its commitment to mainstreaming human rights in policing, the Commission partnered with the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA), Hyderabad to conduct a specialised training programme for IPS probationers. The aim was to equip future police leaders with a deeper understanding of constitutional values, accountability and citizen-centric policing. This edition carries a report on this event.

Through these columns on diverse issues, this edition of the Newsletter reflects various dimensions of the Commission's work towards promoting and protecting human rights, institutional accountability and advancing the constitutional values of justice, equality, liberty and dignity for all. We hope these provide an engaging read.

Piyush Goyal
Secretary General &
Chief Executive Officer

Hearing

Bonded labour cases in Haryana

Despite constitutional and statutory safeguards, bonded labour remains one of the gravest violations of human rights, depriving individuals of their freedom, dignity and livelihood. Recognising the need for timely identification, rescue and rehabilitation of affected persons, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India has been closely monitoring bonded labour cases and engaging with state authorities to strengthen enforcement and accountability. As part of these efforts, the Commission held an online hearing of 86 cases of alleged bonded labour in brick kilns across various districts of Haryana on 9th July 2026.

Chairperson, Justice V. Ramasubramanian presided over the hearing in the presence of Joint Secretary, Shri Samir Kumar, Joint Registrar (Law), Shri Indrajeet Kumar and other senior officers. The hearing was attended by senior functionaries of the Haryana government, including the Chief Secretary, Shri Anurag Rastogi, Labour Commissioner, Shri Vijaykumar Bhavikatti and the District Magistrates (DMs) of all the districts.

Justice Ramasubramanian observed that in most cases, the records had not been properly examined by the concerned government functionaries. Therefore, they did not have credible evidence to declare the labourers as bonded labourers. He urged the officers to remain vigilant while constituting the team to enquire into the complaint of bonded labour. They were asked to follow the requirements laid down in the standard operating procedure for identification and rescue of bonded labourers and prosecution of offenders, issued by the Ministry of Labour and Employment vide letter dated 14th May 2026. He also emphasised the need to launch a helpline so that labourers can seek help when needed to track the incidents of bonded labour.



► NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice V. Ramasubramanian presiding over the online hearing of bonded labour cases in Uttar Pradesh in the presence of senior officers of the Commission

Shri Samir Kumar, Joint Secretary, NHRC highlighted the need to comply with the Commission's directions and take action as per its 'Advisory 2.0 to Identify, Release and Rehabilitate Bonded Labourers.' The Haryana Chief Secretary, the Labour Commissioner and the DMs presented the bonded labour cases during the hearing. The Commission reviewed the Action Taken Reports (ATRs) submitted by the DMs on the complaints under its consideration.

The Chief Secretary and the Labour Commissioner assured the Commission that all 86 cases would be reviewed and the requisite information and reports would be submitted thereafter. They also assured the Commission that full compliance with the directions of the Supreme Court and the applicable laws would be ensured to facilitate immediate remedial action in bonded labour cases.



► The hearing of bonded labour cases in progress

Spotlight

Child labour

Every year, 12th June is observed as the World Day Against Child Labour, reaffirming the collective commitment to eliminate child labour and ensure that every child enjoys a safe, healthy and fulfilling childhood. But employment of children below the age of 14 remains one of the most pressing human rights challenges and a persistent socio- economic problem amidst poverty, inequality and restricted educational opportunities.

According to the latest ILO UNICEF Global Estimates of Child Labour 2024, released in June 2025, nearly 138 million children are involved in work that jeopardises their health, safety or development. While this represents a reduction of over 20 million children since 2020, the world has missed the

Sustainable Development Goal target of eliminating child labour by 2025.¹

The Indian Constitution, through Articles 21A and 24 guarantees the right to education of children and their protection against exploitation, while Articles 39 (e) and (f) as well as 45 further strengthen these safeguards. These constitutional provisions are reinforced by the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, as amended in 2016, which prohibits the employment of children below the age of fourteen years in all occupations and regulates the working conditions of adolescents in non-hazardous occupations.

¹ International Labour Organization, United Nations Children's Fund, Blanco, F., Cappa, C., Guarcello, L., Jugder, M., Lyon, S., Petrowski, N., Weathersby, E., Mahajan, A., Gomis, R., Kapsos, S., Bescond, D., Limani, D., Perardel, Y., Blight, S., De Coninck, S., Darer, M., Hahn, M.,... Vanhuynegem, P. (2025). Child Labour: Global estimates 2024, trends and the road forward (G. Luchsinger, L. Jensen, & A. F. Cresswell, Eds.). <https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/202506/2024%20Global%20Estimates%20of%20Child%20Labour%20Report.pdf>

As per India's 2011 Census data, which continues to serve as a key reference point, there were approximately 10.1 million child labourers in the age group of 5 to 14 years.² Recent analyses point to an increase in urban child labour, underscoring the shifting dynamics of exploitation from rural to urban environments driven by rapid urbanisation and demand for cheap labour.³

Further insights from education data highlight the vulnerability. The COVID-19 pandemic aggravated vulnerabilities by pushing more children into labour due to school closures, economic distress and disrupted social safety nets.⁴ In the academic year 2024-25, around 46 million children aged 6 to 17 years were out of school, according to a report that analysed UDISE (Unified District Information System for Education) statistics.⁵ Secondary level dropout rates stand at 8.2 per cent nationally, but rise sharply in states such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, often exceeding 15 per cent.⁶ Many of these out-of-school children are at heightened risk of entering the workforce prematurely.

Enforcement actions have yielded results, with authorities rescuing over 44,902 children from various forms of exploitation in 2025.⁷ The highest number of child labour rescues came from Telangana, which accounted for more than 11,000 cases.⁸ Other major contributors included Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh. In cases of sexual exploitation, West Bengal led with over 1,000 children rescued.⁹ Begging-related rescues were concentrated in Haryana and Maharashtra.

The root causes of child labour in India are multifaceted and interconnected. Poverty forces many families to rely on the income generated by their children to meet basic needs.¹⁰

Lack of access to quality education, inadequate infrastructure in rural and remote areas and high opportunity costs of schooling perpetuate the cycle. Seasonal migration for work disrupts family stability and exposes children to exploitation in brick kilns, construction sites, garment units and domestic settings.¹¹ Gender dimensions further compound the issue, with girls often pushed into invisible forms of labour such as household chores or domestic help, limiting their educational prospects even more severely. Additionally, supply chain demands in sectors like agriculture, textiles and handicrafts create indirect pressures that sustain child labour despite legal prohibitions.¹²

Children who are engaged in labour suffer from malnutrition, stunted growth, exposure to occupational hazards and limited social interaction. They often face abuse, exploitation and trafficking. Therefore, addressing child labour is not merely a welfare issue but also a crucial requirement for inclusive, sustainable growth that is consistent with the social, economic and political fairness envisioned in the Constitution of India.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India has been at the forefront of efforts to combat child labour through its mandate under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. The Commission has issued an Advisory to

¹ ILO. (2011). CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA. In ILO. https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---sro-new_delhi/documents/publication/wcms_557089.pdf

² Samantroy, E., Sekar, H. R., Pradhan, S., & V. V. GIRI NATIONAL LABOUR INSTITUTE. (n.d.). STATE OF CHILD WORKERS IN INDIA: Mapping trends. In V. V. GIRI NATIONAL LABOUR INSTITUTE.

³ UNICEF, (2020, June 11), COVID-19 and Child Labour: A time of crisis, a time to act, <https://data.unicef.org/resources/covid-19-and-child-labour-a-time-of-crisis-a-time-to-act/>

⁴ Admin. (2026, June 26). Out-of-School Children in India: A Comprehensive analysis based on UDISE+ 2024-25 | Education for All in India. Education for All in India. <https://educationforallinindia.com/out-of-school-children-india-udise-2024-25/>

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Tiwari, A. (2025, June 27). India rescued 44,902 children from exploitation last year. Many still remain in chains. India Today. <https://www.indiatoday.in/diu/story/india-rescued-44902-children-from-exploitation-last-year-2747260-2025-06-27>

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ ILO & UNICEF (2024): "Child labour is both a cause and a consequence of educational exclusion.", <https://www.ilo.org/resource/other/2024-global-estimates-child-labour-frequently-asked-questions>

¹⁰ Santhya et al., Child Labour and Schooling in India: A Reappraisal, 2024, <https://www.unicef.org/innocenti/media/9356/file/unicef-innocenti-child-labour-schooling-india-report-2024.pdf>

¹¹ UNICEF, "Despite Progress, Child Labour Still Affects 138 Million Children Globally," 2025, <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/despite-progress-child-labour-still-affects-138-million-children-globally-ilo-unicef>

¹² NHRC, Advisory 2.0 to Identify, Release and Rehabilitate Bonded Labourers. https://nhrc.nic.in/assets/uploads/other_advisories/1721809317_1b06c69a7556ab82a9db.pdf

Identify, Release and Rehabilitate Bonded Labourers.¹³ Key recommendations include strengthening coordination mechanisms for the rescue and rehabilitation of rescued child labourers and bonded labour victims. This involves ensuring access to formal education, skill development programmes and family support services to prevent re-trafficking or relapse into labour. The Commission advocates for bolstering the functioning of Child Welfare Committees across districts and enhancing the effectiveness of child helplines such as 1098. Field visits to vulnerable locations, including shelter homes, observation homes and worksites enable proactive monitoring and intervention.

The Commission has been advocating for the integration of child labour concerns into urban planning, migrant welfare policies and corporate responsibility frameworks. Businesses are urged to adopt robust due diligence practices in supply chains and comply with environmental, social and governance reporting standards that explicitly address labour welfare, including the elimination of child labour.

Rehabilitation of rescued children demands special attention. Mere removal from exploitative situations is insufficient. Comprehensive aftercare, including psychosocial support, bridging education programmes, vocational training and economic support to families is necessary to ensure sustainable reintegration. Successful models demonstrate that community-based monitoring, counselling for victims and their families and involvement of local self-government institutions can significantly improve outcomes.¹⁴

Under the slogan “Red card to child labour: Fair play for children, decent work for adults”, the 2026 World Day Against Child Labour campaign calls for reinforced action on the policies that prevent child labour and withdraw children from it through quality education, universal social protection, decent work and adequate livelihoods for adults, stronger laws and enforcement, better data and monitoring systems and responsible action in agriculture and supply chains. This

action is urgently needed. Despite progress, 138 million children remain in child labour worldwide, including nearly 54 million in hazardous work.¹⁵

Civil society organisations, non-governmental bodies and community groups play an indispensable role. Awareness campaigns, reporting mechanisms and direct interventions at the grassroots level complement governmental efforts. Educational institutions can contribute by maintaining vigilance, identifying at-risk children and facilitating re-enrolment. Corporate entities must move beyond compliance to proactive measures such as supporting education initiatives in labour-prone areas and ensuring ethical recruitment practices.

Eliminating child labour requires a whole-of-society approach built on collective responsibility and sustained commitment. Governments, employers, civil society, communities and citizens must work together to address its root causes, strengthen enforcement and ensure every child enjoys the rights to education, protection and a life of dignity. And that is how we can achieve the goal of ending child labour in all its forms.



¹³ NHRC, Advisory 2.0 to Identify, Release and Rehabilitate Bonded Labourers. https://nhrc.nic.in/assets/uploads/other_advisories/1721809317_1b06c69a7556ab82a9db.pdf

¹⁴ International Labour Organization. (2005). Overview of child labour monitoring. https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/Child_Labour_Monitoring_Overview_EN.pdf

¹⁵ United Nations. (n.d.). World Day Against Child Labour

Article

Mental health of seafarers: An unaddressed human rights concern

- Ms. Renu Varun

Head International Alliance and Outreach,
The Connect Hut



Seafaring is one of the most isolating occupations in the modern economy. Over 90% of global trade moves by sea, yet the workforce that carries it is largely invisible, confined for months at a time to a floating workplace, cut off from family, community and the everyday support systems that most workers take for granted. When we speak of seafarer welfare, the conversation still centres overwhelmingly on physical safety and wages. Mental health remains the least protected, monitored and understood dimension of a seafarer's life despite being foundational to their right to life, dignity and health under Article 21 of the Constitution of India and under international instruments India is party to.

Why this is a rights issue, not just a welfare issue

The Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, which India ratified on 9th October 2015, establishes minimum

international standards for the working and living conditions of seafarers, including hours of work and rest, repatriation, medical care, health and safety and social security protection. India implemented the Convention through the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour) Rules, 2016 and its provisions are now also reflected in the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025. But in this Act, mental health is largely addressed only indirectly through provisions on health protection and welfare access, rather than as a standalone right. This gap matters because the conditions of seafaring—prolonged separation from family, confined living quarters, multinational crews with language and cultural barriers, unpredictable contract extensions and in the worst cases, abandonment by shipowners—are conditions that predictably produce psychological harm, not incidental risks.

Abandonment is perhaps the starkest example. When a shipowner in financial distress simply walks away, leaving crew stranded without wages, food supplies or a route home, the harm is not just economic. It is a direct violation of the right to liberty and security of person and in acute cases, exposes seafarers to conditions the UN Human Rights framework would recognise as inhuman or degrading treatment. Indian admiralty courts have consistently treated a seafarer's claim to wages as inseparable from their right to dignity and survival. The Supreme Court's observation that a

seafarer's earnings are 'sufficient for him to hold on to the ship's last plank' captures this well. The same logic must extend to psychological well-being: a seafarer left stranded, unpaid and unheard is not only economically abandoned but also psychologically abandoned.

Domestic framework: A right not yet reached

India's Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 marked a shift from a custodial model of mental health governance to a rights-based one, recognising access to mental healthcare as a right, not a discretionary welfare measure and explicitly including conditions linked to substance use within its scope. NHRC's own advocacy this year has extended this rights-based lens to adolescents and substance-vulnerable groups, calling for treatment "without stigma" and for whole-of-society responses. Seafarers occupy an analogous position of vulnerability, yet the infrastructure the Mental Healthcare Act promises, such as Mental Health Review Boards and accessible treatment pathways, has no meaningful reach into a workforce that spends most of its year outside Indian territorial jurisdiction altogether.

What a rights-based response requires

- I. Recognition of psychological well-being as a distinct protected

interest under the MLC framework and India's domestic maritime labour rules- not folded silently into general 'health protection' clauses.

2. Mandatory, confidential access to mental health support at sea and in port, including tele-counselling, in the same spirit as MANAS or the Nasha Mukta Bharat helpline model- extended specifically to seafarers, who currently fall outside most national outreach architecture by virtue of being at sea.
3. Faster admiralty remedies tied explicitly to psychological harm in abandonment cases, recognising that delay in wage recovery and repatriation compounds mental health deterioration, not merely financial hardship.
4. Pre-departure and post-voyage psychological screening and debriefing, particularly for seafarers returning from high-stress voyages, extended contracts or incidents at sea.
5. Flag State and Port State accountability mechanisms that

treat sustained non-payment of wages, denial of shore leave or prolonged confinement aboard an arrested vessel as human rights violations warranting the same urgency NHRC applies to custodial deaths or institutional abuse on land.

6. Data and monitoring: There is currently no systematic national data on seafarer suicide, self-harm or psychological distress comparable to what exists for other vulnerable occupational groups. Without visibility, there can be no protection.

Lessons from the field

Recently, The Connect Hut, in partnership with two leading seafarer organisations, delivered mental health, addiction awareness and suicide prevention training to crews on over 100 vessels, demonstrating the value of early intervention by ensuring immediate support and follow-up for all high-risk crew members. The programme identified key challenges, including poor mental health awareness, stigma, isolation, prolonged separation from families, poor sleep,

excessive screen time and unhealthy coping mechanisms. With 96% of participants rating the training positively, the initiative improved awareness of early signs of distress, reduced stigma and encouraged help-seeking behaviour, highlighting the effectiveness of practical, rights-based mental health interventions tailored to life at sea.

Conclusion

Seafarers keep the global economy moving while remaining almost entirely outside the reach of the human rights institutions built to protect land-based workers. A rights-based approach to seafarer mental health does not require inventing new principles. It requires extending principles India has already committed to (through the Mental Healthcare Act, the Admiralty Act and MLC ratification) to a workforce that has, until now, fallen through the gaps between maritime commercial law and domestic welfare law. As the necessary first step, seafarers' mental health is to be recognised as a human rights concern, not an occupational inconvenience.

Suo motu cognizance

Media reports have long served as an important source of information for the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India, in identifying incidents of alleged human rights violations. Over the years, the Commission has taken *suo motu* cognizance of numerous such cases, providing timely relief and support to victims. In July 2026, the Commission took *suo motu* cognizance of 19 cases reported in the media and issued notices to the concerned authorities, seeking detailed action taken reports. Brief summaries of some of these cases are as follows:

Loss of a toddler's eyesight due to medical negligence

(Case No. 1377/12/37/2026)

On 30th June 2026, the media reported that a one-and-a-half-year-old toddler lost his eyesight due to medical negligence at the Banda Civil Hospital in Sagar district, Madhya Pradesh. Reportedly, the child was taken to the hospital for treatment of cold and redness in his eyes. The doctors allegedly administered nasal drops into his eyes, following which he developed an infection that resulted in the loss of vision. The Commission has issued a notice to the Madhya Pradesh Chief Secretary, calling for a detailed report on the matter. Reportedly, the doctors at AIIMS, Bhopal informed the toddler's family that his eyesight could not be restored.

Toddlers treated inhumanly by nannies

(Case No. 402/10/1/2026)

On 2nd July 2026, the media reported some videos depicting inhuman treatment of toddlers by nannies at a crèche in an IT company premises in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The facility was set up to take care of children of company's employees while on duty. Reportedly, a Child Helpline official had received these videos. The Commission has issued notices to the Karnataka Chief Secretary and Director General of Police, calling for a detailed report on the matter. The video purportedly showed the nannies placing toddlers inside a washing machine, spraying water into their mouths through a toilet jet spray, locking them inside the toilets, forcing them to sit on Western-style commodes and threatening to remain silent whenever they cried. The crèche has been temporarily closed as a precaution.

Death of labourers at a quarry

(Case No. 403/10/1/2026)

On 3rd July 2026, the media reported that at least 7 migrant labourers died and 5 others were injured when a massive granite rock fell on them at a quarry in Bengaluru, Karnataka on 2nd July 2026. Reportedly, the incident indicated the quarry owner's negligence. Reportedly, about 16 labourers were on the site when the incident occurred. The investigations are going on to find the exact cause behind the incident. The Commission has issued a notice to the Karnataka Chief Secretary, calling for a detailed report on the matter.

Newborn dies due to lack of ventilator support

(Case No. 928/7/6/2026)

On 3rd July 2026, the media reported that a newborn died as he could not get ventilator support for nearly 24 hours in the hospitals of Hisar and Rohtak in Haryana. Reportedly, the father of the newborn struggled from one hospital to another in Hisar and Rohtak districts but could not succeed in getting ventilator support for his child. The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana, calling for a detailed report on the matter.

Reportedly, the infant was born through a caesarean section at the Civil Hospital in Hisar on 1st July 2026 and required immediate ventilator support. The doctors referred the newborn to the Medical College at Agroha

in Hisar district. However, a ventilator was not available there. The baby was then referred to the PGIMS in Rohtak. Still unable to get a ventilator at PGIMS, the child was brought back to Hisar and taken to a private hospital, where he was declared dead.

Snake bites students at a school hostel

(Case No. 548/34/13/2026)

On 10th July 2026, the media reported that four girl students were bitten by a snake in the hostel of a higher secondary residential school in Lohardaga district, Jharkhand on 7th July 2026. One of them died while the other three were undergoing medical treatment. Reportedly, the students were bitten by a snake at night while they were asleep in the ground floor room of the hostel. The Commission has issued a notice to the Jharkhand Chief Secretary, calling for a detailed report on the matter. The report is expected to include the health status of the three injured students. Reportedly, the condition of one of them turned critical and she was referred to the RIMS, Ranchi for a specialised treatment.

Explosion at a factory

(Case No. 278/33/14/2026)

On 8th July 2026, the media reported that at least three workers died and several others were injured in an explosion at a factory in the Urla industrial area of Raipur, Chhattisgarh on 7th June 2026. The explosion was allegedly caused by the bursting of an oxygen cylinder. The Commission has issued notices to the Chhattisgarh Chief Secretary and Director General of Police, calling for a detailed report on the matter. The report is expected to include the status of health of the injured, as well as compensation, if any, paid to the next of kin of the deceased and the injured. Reportedly, the injured workers were shifted to nearby hospitals for treatment and the factory was closed.

Death while cleaning sewer

(Case No. 1452/12/47/2026)

On 8th July 2026, the media reported that one worker died and two others were injured after inhaling toxic gases while cleaning a sewer chamber in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh 7th July 2026. Reportedly, the incident occurred near Pipli Naka on Bhairavgarh Road in the city when the victims fell unconscious after entering the sewer chamber. The Commission has issued notices to the Madhya Pradesh Chief Secretary and Ujjain

Superintendent of Police, calling for a detailed report on the matter. The report is expected to include the status of the investigation, as well as compensation, if any, paid to the next of kin of the deceased worker and the injured. Reportedly, one of the workers succumbed to his injuries during the course of treatment, while the other two were undergoing treatment.

Death due to drowning in NTPC coal ash lagoon

(Case No. 1470/4/23/2026)

On 12th July 2026, the media reported that three children died due to drowning in the 'Ash Dyke Lagoon' constructed by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) in the Kanti area of Muzaffarpur district, Bihar. A huge amount of coal ash is stored by the NTPC in this lagoon. Reportedly, the area had neither warning boards citing danger nor security personnel deployed to restrict the entry of villagers who collected coal residue from this lagoon to sell in the market. The Commission has issued notices to the Chairman and Managing Director, NTPC and Muzaffarpur Senior Superintendent of Police, calling for a detailed report on the matter.

Physical and sexual assault of juvenile home inmates

(Case No. 1497/12/8/2026)

On 12th July 2026, the media reported that two juveniles were subjected to physical and sexual assault by fellow inmates at a juvenile home in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Reportedly, the victims informed about the incident when their family members visited them. Later, medical examination of the victims substantiated the allegations. The Commission has issued notices to the Madhya Pradesh Chief Secretary and the Commissioner of Police, Bhopal, calling for a detailed report on the matter.

Post-surgery deaths at two government hospitals

(Case No. 1362/20/0/2026)

On 12th July 2026, the media reported that eight women and a minor died within a week after surgery in the government hospitals in Bhilwara and Banswara districts of Rajasthan. Reportedly, among the victims, five died in the Mahatma Gandhi Hospital in Bhilwara district and four others, including a minor in the Banswara district hospital. The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan, calling for a detailed report on the matter.

Death after inhaling toxic gases in sewer line

(Case No. 7812/24/30/2026)

On 15th July 2026, the media reported that a 28-year-old sanitation worker died after inhaling toxic gases in a sewer during a cleaning operation by the NOIDA Authority in Gautam Budh Nagar district, Uttar Pradesh. Reportedly, the victim's family alleged that sanitation workers were sent down into the sewer line without adequate safety equipment. Reportedly, the victim was pulled out by the police and fire brigade personnel and rushed to the hospital, where he died during the course of treatment. The Commission has issued notices to the Chairman, NOIDA Authority and Commissioner of Police, Gautam Budh Nagar, calling for a detailed report on the matter.

Death while cleaning sewage treatment plant

(Case No. 1013/7/6/2026)

On 16th July 2026, the media reported that one worker died and another was seriously injured after inhaling toxic gases while cleaning a tank of a sewage treatment plant at Gangwa village in Hisar district, Haryana. Reportedly, the deceased worker's family has alleged negligence by the contractor and the sewage treatment plant management. Reportedly, a contractor had engaged the workers to clean a blocked pipeline. They entered the tank without any safety gear. The Commission has issued notices to the Haryana Chief Secretary and Hisar Superintendent of Police, calling for a detailed report on the matter. The report is expected to include the status of the investigation, the injured worker's health, as well as compensation, if any, paid to the next of kin of the deceased and to the injured.

Removal of clothes of girl students by teachers

(Case No. 1387/20/27/2026)

On 17th July 2026, the media reported that IX and XI standard girl students were frisked and forced to remove their clothes by two teachers at a government school in Liwali village, Sawai Madhopur district of Rajasthan. Reportedly, the incident occurred after one of the teachers lost some money and suspected theft by students. They also beat students, but no money was recovered from them. After returning home, the students informed their parents about the incident. A large number of parents reached the school the next day to protest. The Commission has issued a notice to the

Rajasthan Chief Secretary, calling for a detailed report on the matter.

Sexual harassment by a school Principal

(Case No. 673/19/12/2026)

On 23rd July 2026, the media reported that the Principal of a government school in Moga district, Punjab sexually harassed several girl students by inappropriately touching them. Reportedly, he used to threaten the students that he would fail them in the examination if they complained against him. The incident came to light when one of the victims informed her parents who called the Village Panchayat and reached the school to confront the Principal. He denied the allegations. However, several other girl students came forward making similar charges against him. The police were called. The Commission has issued notices to the Punjab Chief Secretary and Moga Senior Superintendent of Police, calling for a detailed report on the matter.

Death of two persons inside a sewage treatment plant

(Case No. 8185/24/30/2026)

On 27th July 2026, the media reported that a sanitation worker and a security guard died after inhaling toxic gases inside a sewage treatment plant at a residential society in NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh. Reportedly, the sanitation worker entered the sewage treatment plant to clean a tank and lost consciousness. When the worker did not come out, a security guard from the residential society entered the tank to rescue him but also lost consciousness. Both victims were pulled out by the police and fire brigade personnel and taken to a hospital, where they were declared dead during the course of treatment. The Commission has issued notices to the District Magistrate and Police Commissioner, Gautam Budh Nagar, calling for a detailed report on the matter.

Deaths in explosion at a metal processing factory

(Case No. 129/3/2/2026)

On 27th July 2026, the media reported that four workers died and two others were severely injured in an explosion at a metal processing factory in Cachar district,

Assam. Reportedly, molten metal spilled over the workers after the explosion. Over 100 workers were present at the factory when the explosion happened. The families of the victims and locals alleged that such incidents had happened at the factory earlier also. The Commission has issued notices to the Assam Chief Secretary and Cachar Superintendent of Police, calling for a detailed report on the matter. The report is expected to include the status of the health of the injured, as well as the disbursement of compensation to the next of kin of the deceased and to the injured workers.

Torture of a 5-year-old boy by his teacher

(Case No. 8253/24/72/2026)

On 28th July 2026, the media reported that a 5-year-old boy studying in a private school was subjected to torture and inhuman treatment by his teacher in Varanasi district, Uttar Pradesh. The teacher, enraged after the boy urinated in his pants, reportedly took him to the school kitchen and branded his private parts with a hot knife. The teacher threatened him with more severe punishment if he repeated it. The boy informed his parents about the incident after returning home. The Commission has issued notices to the Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary and Varanasi Police Commissioner, calling for a detailed report on the matter. The report is expected to include the health status of the victim.

5 persons die in a span of 13 days due to malaria

(Case No. 318/33/8/2026)

On 31st July 2026, the media reported that with the death of an 11-year-old boy on 28th July 2026, 5 persons died in a span of 13 days due to malaria in Kanker district, Chhattisgarh. The boy was initially tested negative for malaria at a private lab, but when his condition deteriorated, he was rushed to a hospital in Albelapara. However, by the time his blood reports came showing him positive for malaria, he had already passed away. Reportedly, after this incident, the State Health Department has initiated a door-to-door malaria screening and awareness campaign in the affected areas of the district. The Commission has issued a notice to the Chhattisgarh Chief Secretary, calling for a detailed report on the matter.

Recommendations for relief

One of the primary responsibilities of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India is to address cases of violation of human rights, 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 July 2026, an amount of Rs. 39.5 lakh was recommended for the victims or their next of kin (NoK) in 10 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	473/1/32/2025-JCD	Death in judicial custody	3.50	Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
2	4817/24/64/2024-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
3	2694/25/9/2023-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Govt. of West Bengal
4	710/6/1/2024-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Govt. of Gujarat
5	68/4/22/2023-AD	Death in police custody	7.50	Govt. of Bihar
6	800/20/38/2024-PCD	Death in police custody	5.00	Govt. of Rajasthan
7	1296/36/7/2025	Torture in police custody	0.5	Govt. of Telangana
8	86/34/24/2025	Police atrocity	1.00	Govt. of Jharkhand
9	2309/12/8/2025-WC	Police inaction on a complaint of harassment	2.00	Govt. of Madhya Pradesh
10	758/20/21/2018	Transfusion of HIV-infected blood to a Thalassaemia child	5.00	Govt. of Rajasthan

Payment of relief to the victims

During July 2026, the Commission closed 14 cases, either on receipt of compliance reports and proof of payment from public authorities or by giving other observations/ directions. An amount of Rs. 82 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	51/2/13/2019-AD	Death in police custody	5.00	Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh
2	1662/4/5/2019-AD	Death in police custody	5.00	Govt. of Bihar
3	639/6/14/2022-AD	Death in police custody	5.00	Govt. of Gujarat
4	677/34/11/2022-AD	Death in police custody	5.00	Govt. of Jharkhand
5	863/11/8/2022-AD	Death in police custody	5.00	Govt. of Kerala
6	13074/24/3/2022-AD	Death in police custody	10.00	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
7	128/6/6/2024-PCD	Death in police custody	5.00	Govt. of Gujarat

S. No	Case Number	Nature of complaint	Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Authority
8	4534/22/13/2022-PCD	Death in police custody	5.00	Govt. of Tamil Nadu
9	1561/4/7/2023-PCD	Death in police custody	2.00	Govt. of Bihar
10	5181/25/7/2022-PCD	Death in police custody	5.00	Govt. of West Bengal
11	898/25/22/2020-PCD	Death in police custody	5.00	Govt. of West Bengal
12	3283/22/5/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Govt. of Tamil Nadu
13	2007/7/11/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Govt. of Haryana
14	998/18/17/2025	Death of a child in hot ash dumped by a rice mill	15.00	Govt. of Odisha

Case studies

In many cases, the Commission found that contrary to the claims of the state authorities, 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 notices to them to show cause why monetary relief should not be recommended to be paid to these victims or their next of kin and why action should not be taken against the erring/ negligent officials. The merits of the states' approach to responding to show cause notices prompted the Commission to recommend monetary relief to the victims of human rights violations or their NoK. The Commission also received reports of compliance with recommendations by the respective state authorities. Summaries of such cases are as under:

Suicide in police custody

(Case No. 117/7/5/2021-AD)

The matter pertained to the suicide of a 20-year-old undertrial prisoner who hanged himself in police custody in Gurugram, Haryana in 2020. The reports received in response to the Commission's notices claimed that the victim had a documented history of suicidal tendencies. This was supported by his medical records and psychiatric consultation. But the Commission was not satisfied with the contention and held that the state is responsible for ensuring safety and protection of inmates in its judicial custody. Therefore, holding the state vicariously liable for the negligence of its employees in preventing suicide by the inmate in their custody, the Commission recommended that the Haryana government pay Rs. 5 lakh as relief to the next of kin of the victim, which was complied with.

Suicide in police station

(Case No. 13074/24/3/2022-AD)

The matter pertained to the suicide of a girl who jumped from the second floor of a police station in Aligarh District, Uttar Pradesh in 2022. She was brought to the

police station along with the man she was alleged to have eloped with. Based on the reports received in response to its notices, the Commission found that there was negligence by the Police personnel in ensuring her safety and security. Therefore, it held that the state is vicariously liable for the negligence of its employees and recommended that the Uttar Pradesh government pay Rs. 10 lakh as relief to the next of kin of the victim, which was paid. A criminal case was also registered against the erring Police personnel.

Police atrocity

(Case No. 863/11/8/2022-AD)

The matter pertained to the death of a 42-year-old man due to brutal assault in custody by police of Vadakara Police Station, Kozhikode district, Keralam in 2022. Allegedly, the deceased's friend witnessed torture by police. Based on the reports received in response to its notices, the Commission found that the victim died apparently due to torture in police custody. Therefore, it recommended that the Government of Keralam pay Rs. 5 lakh as relief to the next of kin of the victim, which was paid.

Death in police custody

(Case No. 128/6/6/2024-PCD)

The matter pertained to the death of a man in police custody after he jumped from an open window at a police station in Bhavnagar, Gujarat in 2024. The police brought him to the station after he was found drunk. He was being taken for photography and fingerprint impressions. Based on the reports received in response to its notices, the Commission found that there was negligence on the part of the Investigating Officer in handling the accused, which facilitated his attempt to escape. Therefore, it held that the state is vicariously liable for the negligence of its employees and recommended that the Gujarat Government pay Rs. 5 lakh as relief to the next of kin of the victim, which was paid.

Death due to negligence

(Case No. 998/18/17/2025)

The matter pertained to the death of a 12-year-old boy due to fatal burn injuries after falling into hot ash dumped negligently by the Kaleswar Rice Mill in Bargarh, Odisha in 2025. The Mill processes government-supplied paddy into rice for public distribution system. Despite prior warnings from villagers, the Mill continued unsafe dumping practices. The Mill owner also did not pay any compensation or support to the next of kin of the deceased. Based on the reports received in response to its notices, the Commission found that the Mill management was negligent. Accordingly, it recommended that the Odisha Government pay Rs. 15 lakh as relief to the NoK of the victim, which was complied with.

Spot enquiries

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India deutes its own team of Investigation Officers from time to time to conduct spot enquiries into cases of human rights violations.

Case No. 942/34/16/2024-JCD

From 6th to 10th July 2026, a spot enquiry was conducted into the allegation regarding death of an under trial prisoner in judicial custody of Birsa Munda Central Jail, Ranchi, Jharkhand.

Case No. 1369/18/27/2025-WC

From 6th to 10th July 2026, a spot enquiry was conducted into the allegation regarding a 19-year-old girl's death by self-immolation in Kendrapara district, Odisha.

Case No. 6572/24/62/2026

From 13th to 17th July 2026, a spot enquiry was conducted into the allegation regarding extortion, narcotics trafficking, mafia operations, gambling and corruption in Rampur District Jail, Uttar Pradesh.

Case No. 6784/24/30/2026

From 13th to 17th July 2026, a spot enquiry was conducted into the allegation regarding a 16-year-old boy arrested in connection with the NOIDA labour protests despite no evidence linking him to the incident in Gautam Budh

Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.

Case No. 418/34/5/2025-JCD

From 14th to 17th July 2026, a spot enquiry was conducted into the allegation regarding the death of an under trial prisoner at Central Jail Dumka, Jharkhand.

Case No. 1801/30/7/2026-WC

From 14th to 17th July 2026, a spot enquiry was conducted into allegations of procedural lapses by Palam Police Station in Delhi after rescuing 26 girls from a brothel and a spa on the directions of NHRC. It was alleged that the police failed to register an FIR, produce the rescued girls before the Child Welfare Committee, verify their age and ensure their rehabilitation as required under the law.

Case No. 20/3/22/2023

From 27th to 31st July 2026, a spot enquiry was conducted into the allegation regarding gunshot injuries suffered by an under trial prisoner when he tried to escape from police custody in Golaghat, Assam.

Field visits

Special Rapporteurs & Special Monitors

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India has designated 15 Special Rapporteurs to monitor human rights conditions across various regions of the country. They conduct visits to shelter homes, prisons, observation homes and similar institutions and write reports for the Commission that detail their observations besides suggestions for future action. Additionally, the Commission has appointed 18 Special Monitors tasked with overseeing specific thematic human rights issues and reporting their findings to the Commission.

Special Rapporteur

- From 27th to 30th June 2026, NHRC Special Rapporteur, Shri S.K. Satapathy visited Kataka in Odisha and assessed various facilities and human rights situations at Circle Jail Choudwar, child care institution, mental health institute, Nari Niketan-Shelter Home and Banki Sub Jail. He also visited Dhurusia Tribal Village and took stock of the villagers' grievances. He also drew the attention of the district administration to their issues.
- From 1st to 4th July 2026, NHRC Special Rapporteur, Shri Mohammad Jamshed visited Pune in Maharashtra. He assessed the facilities at a police station lock-up and held meetings with the ADG Prisons and Commissioner, Department of Women & Child Development. He also visited Yerwada Central Jail, government-run children's shelter home, old age home and regional mental hospital to assess the human rights situation.
- From 5th to 10th July 2026, NHRC Special Rapporteur, Shri Subhash Chandra visited Bhopal and Sehore districts in Madhya Pradesh. He assessed various facilities and human rights situation in prisons, detention centres, Anganwadi centres and shelter homes for women, orphanages, facilities for persons with



► NHRC Special Rapporteur, Shri S.K. Satapathy visiting Circle Jail Choudwar, Odisha

disabilities, transgender persons, elderly persons and institutions for persons with mental health issues, schools, as well as hostel facilities for tribal students. He also held meetings with senior state authorities, including Chief Secretary, Director General of Police and the Chairperson and Members of the State Human Rights Commission, Secretary, Departments of Women & Child Development, Secretary, Social Justice and Tribal Welfare to

discuss issues concerning human rights.

- From 7th to 16th July 2026, NHRC Special Rapporteur, Shri Upendra Singh Baghel visited Uttar Pradesh and assessed various facilities and human rights situations at Varanasi district Prison, Rajkiya Bal Grih, Rajkiya After Care Home (Women) and Ram Nagar Police Station, Chandauli. He also held a meeting with Police Commissioner and ADG of Varanasi Zone to

discuss issues concerning human rights.

- From 10th to 15th July 2026, NHRC Special Rapporteur, Smt. Suchitra Sinha visited Anda, Hutu, Chotalakha and Lawa villages in Nimdih Block of Seraikela-Kharsawan district, Jharkhand. During the visit, she held meetings with officials, Mukhiyas and displaced people to assess the human rights situation due to the Swarnarekha Multipurpose Project.
- From 12th to 17th July 2026, NHRC Special Rapporteur Shri Devendra Kumar Nim visited Tirupati and Chittoor districts in Andhra Pradesh to assess various facilities at EMR School, village health clinic, primary health centre and Navodaya Vidyalaya. He also held meetings with concerned authorities.
- From 17th to 26th July 2026, NHRC Special Rapporteur, Smt. Shomita Biswas visited child care institutions, specialised adoption agencies, shelter homes in the Union Territory of Ladakh to take stock of human rights situation and various facilities made available to the inmates.



► NHRC Special Rapporteur, Shri Upendra Singh Baghel interacting with the officers at District Prison, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh



► NHRC Special Rapporteur, Smt. Shomita Biswas visiting Observation cum Special Home in Leh, Ladakh

- From 20th to 25th July 2026, NHRC Special Rapporteur, Shri Nityanand Srivastava visited the Ranthambore and Sawai Madhopur districts in Rajasthan and held discussions with forest officers, local residents, guides and NGOs on issues relating to crop loss, livestock predation, relocation, public awareness, compensation schemes for cattle kills and early warning systems. He assessed facilities at Anganwadi centres, child care institutions, old age homes, ashrams and district jail. Besides, he also held a meeting with the District Collector of Sawai Madhopur.



► NHRC Special Rapporteur, Shri Nityanand Srivastava holding a discussion with the Collector, Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan

- From 27th to 31st July 2026, NHRC Special Rapporteur, Shri K. Padmakumar visited Chennai in Tamil Nadu and held discussions with the Director General of Prisons and senior officers of the Prisons Department on issues pertaining to human rights. He also visited Puzhal Central Jail to assess the facilities for inmates and the human rights situation.
- From 27th to 31st July 2026, NHRC Special Rapporteur, Shri Akhil Kumar Shukla visited Tarn Taran in Punjab. He visited a drug de-addiction centre at Tharu and the Patient Welfare Committee at District Hospital, interacting with persons undergoing treatment. At Bhai Veer Singh Old Age Home, he interacted with residents and enquired about food quality and their grievances. He also visited the district jail and Sub-Jail, Patti, inspecting barracks, hygiene and healthcare facilities and interacting with prisoners and under trial inmates. He also inaugurated an Ayushman Arogya Kendra at the jail hospital.

Special Monitor

- On 1st July 2026, NHRC Special Monitor, Shri Balkrishan Goel visited Jind, Haryana and assessed various facilities and human rights situation at the district jail, old age home and district hospital. Before this, he also visited one-stop centre, child care institution, shelter home, old age home, place of safety and specialised adoption agency. He also visited Anganwadi centres, government residential schools and public distribution system points. He also held meetings with the District Magistrates/ Deputy Commissioners and other concerned officers at the district level. This was in continuation of his tour programme since 25th June 2026.



► NHRC Special Monitor, Shri Balkrishan Goel visiting the District hospital, Jind, Haryana

- From 6th to 10th July 2026, NHRC Special Monitor, Shri Hari Nath Mishra visited Amritsar district in Punjab and assessed various facilities available for the inmates at the Central Jail and government de-addiction centres. He also held meetings with the Commissioner and other officers of the district administration.
- From 6th to 11th July 2026, NHRC Special Monitor, Shri Gopi Shankar Madurai visited Chengalpattu and Chennai districts, Tamil Nadu for capacity building, data collection, field visits, analysis and advocacy on issues relating to persons with diverse sex characteristics, intersex infants and gender non-conforming children. He conducted a training programme for Chengalpattu Police officials and Inspectors, including Juvenile Justice Police (JJP) and Women Police Officers, on 'Handling SOGIESC Communities with Dignity and Sensitivity.' He also visited Chengalpattu Government Hospital, the Department of Health and Family Welfare and the Directorate of Medical Education and Puducherry Central Prison.



► NHRC Special Monitor, Shri Gopi Shankar Madurai visiting Puducherry Central Prison

- From 12th to 13th July 2026, NHRC Special Monitor, Shri Vidya Bhushan Kumar visited Jammu in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. He reviewed the status of water quality, pollution sources, sewage treatment infrastructure, enforcement measures and river conservation initiatives relating to the Tawi River. He also visited critically polluted stretches of the river, including major drains, sewage outfalls, water intake points and upstream/ downstream locations. He also interacted with affected residents, farmers, fisher groups and local communities and held consultations with NGOs, environmental groups, resident welfare associations, academic experts and researchers to review the human rights implications of river pollution.
- From 13th to 18th July 2026, NHRC Special Monitor, Dr. Pradeepta Kumar Nayak visited the Union Territory of Chandigarh to assess the leprosy services and the conditions of the persons affected by leprosy and related disabilities. He met with the Director, Health and Family Welfare and Mission Director, National Health Mission, State Leprosy Officer, Additional District Commissioner and more than 30 officials of the health and leprosy programmes, Social Welfare, Mental Health and other departments, hospitals and health centres. He also met with several leprosy-affected people in health centres, hospitals, communities and leprosy colonies. He also assessed the implementation of health and welfare programmes for leprosy-affected persons. He also reviewed inter-departmental coordination and compliance with the Commission's advisories.



► NHRC Special Monitor, Dr. Pradeepta Kumar Nayak interacting with a woman affected by leprosy in Kaimbwala village, Chandigarh

- From 19th to 24th July 2026, NHRC Special Monitor, Shri R. Hemanth Kumar visited Adilabad, Warangal and Mulugu districts in Telangana to study socio-economic, cultural and governance issues faced by tribal communities. He also held meetings with district officials and visited tribal villages besides interacting with the community on welfare and development activities for them.
- From 19th to 26th July 2026, NHRC Special Monitor, Shri Umakant visited rural and suburban areas in Uttarakhand and interacted with senior officials on various human rights issues. He also held meetings with Gram Sabha office bearers, Village Panchayat office bearers and Zila Parishad officials to assess the human rights situation.
- From 20th to 26th July 2026, NHRC Special Monitor, Dr. Purva Mittal visited Ujjain, Khandwa and Indore districts in Madhya Pradesh to have an assessment of human rights situation at women police stations, one-stop centres, Nari Niketans, community health centres and Anganwadi centres. She also visited the Indian Institute of Management, Indore and various other institutions. She held meetings with the concerned authorities, including the district administration and representatives of NGOs to assess the human rights situation.
- From 20th to 25th July 2026, NHRC Special Monitor, Dr. Animesh Bhattacharya visited Malda and Murshidabad districts in West Bengal and held meetings with officers on issues pertaining to human rights. He interacted with the District Magistrates, BDOs, field-level engineering staff, school headmasters, Anganwadi workers and marginalised community representatives (SC/ST/ economically weaker sections), representatives of Gram Panchayats and Village Water Safety groups, medical officer in-charge of the local primary health centres, community health centres and public health engineering department officials.
- From 21st to 27th July 2026, NHRC Special Monitor, Prof. Kanhaiya Tripathi visited various schools, colleges, universities, institutes in Raipur, Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai, Durg and Bilaspur districts of Chhattisgarh and assessed the facilities and status of human rights education and gender equality at both higher and school-level education.
- From 22nd to 25th July 2026, NHRC Special Monitor, Dr. Poonam Malakondaiah visited Mulki and Kadaba Taluks in Dakshina Kannada district, Karnataka to have an assessment of human rights situation in elementary schools and Anganwadi centres. In this regard, she interacted with students, parents and teachers and also held meetings with the Deputy Commissioner, Child Development Project Officer, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, District Education Officer and other concerned officers.



► NHRC Special Monitor, Dr. Poonam Malakondaiah interacting with the students of Maharishi Valmiki Adivasi Budakattu Vasathi School, Kadaba, Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka

Research study

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India awards research projects to expert researchers on various aspects of human rights for an assessment of related policies and legal provisions and the situation on the ground. Below is a brief report on the outcome of one such recently concluded research study:

A study of the socio-legal aspects of the adoption process in India

Commissioned by: National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India

Principal Investigator: Dr. Deepika Prakash, Assistant Professor, Amity Law School, Amity University, Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Co-PI: Dr. Priya Mathur, Assistant Professor, Amity Law School, Amity University, Noida, Uttar Pradesh

This study examines the socio-legal dimensions of the adoption process in India. It analyses the laws and regulations governing the adoption process in India, along with the role of various institutions and agencies working within this legal framework to facilitate the process. Children are considered the foundation of a nation's future, requiring a protective and enabling environment to grow and flourish. In India, where children constitute a significant portion of the population- 27% under 15 years of age according to NFHS-5 (2022)- the state bears a constitutional and moral responsibility to safeguard their rights and ensure their overall well-being. Articles 39(f), 45 and 47 of the Constitution, the National Policy for Children (1974, 2013) and the National Charter for Children (2003), along with international commitments like the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), highlight children as a priority in national development and human rights discourse.

While the family is central to a child's growth, many children remain orphaned, abandoned or vulnerable, necessitating alternative care mechanisms. Adoption, recognised legally under the Juvenile Justice Act (2015), emerges as a vital means of securing the 'best interests of the child' by ensuring their physical, emotional and social development within a stable family environment.

Objectives of the study

The major objectives of the study were:

1. Identifying lacunae in the existing laws relating to adoption in India, leading to long wait time for children as well as prospective adoptive parents.
2. Tracing the work of existing stakeholders within the

adoption process i.e., Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA), District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Specialised Adoption Agency (SAA) and Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs),

3. Understanding the role of counselling for prospective adoptive parents and children in the adoption process.
4. Suggesting pragmatic solutions for reducing the wait time for children within the existing institutions

Research methodology

The study uses a mixed method of assessment designed to capture both the quantitative trends and the qualitative nuances of adoption in India, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon.

The data collection for the study was carried out in 9 districts from 6 states across the country. One state from each zone with the highest percentage of registered Prospective Adoptive Parent (PAPs) was sampled. The 6 states were: Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Assam and West Bengal. This was further narrowed down to one district with the highest number of SAAs in that state. Maharashtra and West Bengal are the top two states with the highest percentage of registered PAPs among the 6 states; hence, more than one district was included from these two states. In total, 9 districts constitute the sample, which are Jodhpur, Lucknow, Chennai, Mumbai City, Mumbai Suburban, Thane, Kamrup Metropolitan, Kolkata and Howrah.

Primary data was collected through quantitative and qualitative interviews conducted with the following stakeholders: a) CARA, New Delhi; b) SARA of each state in the sample; c) DCPU, CWC and SAA of each district in the sample; d) PAPs or parents through adoption; e) Resource Persons- professionals, psychologist and social activists, experts working in the domain of adoption and child rights.

Major findings of the study

1. Adoption Law

The study analysed adoption laws such as the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, the Juvenile Justice Model Rules, 2016, Mission Vatsalya 2022 and Adoption Regulations 2022.

Based on the analysis, the research study has found gaps in the Legal Framework such as unrealistic timelines and the lack of state-centre coordination, penalties for non-adherence to timelines as well as guidelines for the reception of the child by an SAA. It was also noted that licensing guidelines of SAAs should be age appropriate amongst others.

2. Working of stakeholders

CARA works as the nodal agency at the centre, regulating and promoting the adoption programme in the country. However, it is the stakeholders like SARA, DCPU, CWC and SAA that bear the responsibility of implementing the adoption programme at the state and district levels. There is a huge gap in the Constitution, infrastructure and capacity of these stakeholders, which has a bearing on their workings at the ground level. The key findings include the lack of fully functioning staff, capacity building programmes for the stakeholders, funding and technological infrastructure, among others. The findings also highlight the functions of monitoring, promotion and training as well as challenges faced by the stakeholders.

3. Adoption counselling

The role of counselling is extremely critical in every stage of the adoption process, pre-adoption and post-adoption, for both children and PAPs. Both the legal framework and the stakeholders recognise and emphasise this; however, its translation at the ground level is inadequate. The key findings include stakeholder's passive role in counselling and the lack of trained counsellors, clear guidelines on counselling and effective monitoring mechanisms for counselling, apart from other institutional constraints. Counselling is one of the key factors in preventing cases of disruption and dissolution. Unfortunately, it is not prioritised and is often treated as optional.

Key policy recommendations of the study

The study provides recommendations and practical solutions to reduce children's wait time in institutions. The recommendations are grounded in responses from the field and offer pragmatic, experience-based insights for reform. They cater to the five prominent causes of long wait time, i.e., legal, structural, procedural, technological and awareness issues. The recommendations in the study have also been prioritised and mapped by implementation timelines (short-term, medium-term and long-term), based on their urgency, feasibility and impact to ensure immediate action and sustained improvement.

I. Enhancing the legal framework

The law and regulations require a re-examination to streamline the adoption process in terms of its timelines, guidelines and protocols, such that it matches the on-ground realities. The legal framework also needs to strengthen the infrastructure of the stakeholders for their smoother functioning. Additionally, adoption through the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act (HAMA) needs to be regulated. It functions parallel to the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act 2015 with unclear guidelines and no regulations and thereby poses challenges to the overall adoption ecosystem within the JJ Act 2015. The study recommends revising the adoption legal framework along the following lines:

- Establishing mechanisms for centre-state coordination
- Establishing evidence-based timeline for the adoption process, stricter enforcement mechanisms and penalties for stakeholders for non-adherence to timelines
- Increasing supervision of the District Magistrate
- Creating guidelines for reception of the child by an SAA, licensing guidelines of SAAs, guidelines for PAP registration etc
- Creating detailed protocol for categorising children
- Bringing specificity regarding unfit guardians and children with no visitation
- Procedures related to monitoring and verifying child study report and medical examination report- it is recommended to amend JJ Act to empower CARA and SARAs to verify records and impose a fine on agencies with incomplete/ inaccurate documentation
- Publication of state-specific data by SARA
- Guidelines and verification of childcare staff at SAAs- The CARA to create uniformity in this regard by circulating guidelines, elaborating key eligibility conditions, roles, monitoring and feedback mechanisms for such childcare workers within the adoption system
- Inclusion of mandatory counselling of PAPs under AR
- Strengthening the adoption ecosystem funding through Corporate Social Responsibility
- Inclusion of concrete provisions relating to the

availability of counselling centres in each state for adoptees till the age of 25 years

2. Organisational structural reforms

The structural and institutional setup of the stakeholders needs to be re-engineered. Funding, manpower, training, coordination between stakeholders, DCPU's role, technical portal and infrastructure of stakeholders particularly need attention. Additionally, reviewing and resolving budgetary allocations under Mission Vatsalya, creating regional centres of CARA for better monitoring, a toll-free helpline at the state level, an efficient CARA help desk, resolving staffing issues of stakeholders, creating more CWCs in big districts, increasing tenure of CWC Members and support groups for PAPs in each state under CARA are also recommended.

3. Process optimisation

The procedures followed at various stages of the adoption process need to be reassessed. Some of the key aspects where this is required include the matching process, counselling, procedures followed in cases of abandoned children, criteria for unfit guardians, documentation process, among others. There is also a need for capacity building of all the stakeholders.

4. Enhancing digital capabilities

The present CARINGS portal needs to be reinvigorated and more datasets can be used from the available information to make evidence-based improvements. Automation of declaring LFA with prompts will reduce human errors. It is also recommended to incorporate mandatory tabs on CARINGS regarding counselling,

create a connection with PAPs through regular check-ins on CARINGS and use AI tools to gauge adoption readiness of PAPs, as well as create awareness and resolve queries.

5. Research and advocacy

More awareness and advocacy sessions need to be conducted by various stakeholders to bust myths relating to adoption and encourage safe surrender. Additionally, more research and publications are required to increase discourse and public participation in adoption and child welfare.

6. Regulating and monitoring HAMA

There is a need to streamline processes relating to adoptions under HAMA by bringing it under a monitoring authority to assess the adoption readiness of parents, along with the child's wellbeing at the heart of the adoption journey.

Outcome

Reforms are required at all six levels to enhance the overall functioning of stakeholders, as well as the legal framework that shapes their functioning. Additionally, the report highlights best practices of stakeholders observed in the field, advocates for recognising and implementing a child-centric approach and the need to refine the adoption ecosystem to make it more time-bound and evidence-based utilising digital capabilities, ensuring that every child is part of a loving and nurturing family. There is a need to start looking at adoption as a nation-building tool. The detailed research study is available on the Commission's website: www.nhrc.nic.in.

Capacity Building

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India is mandated to promote, protect and build awareness about human rights. For this purpose, it has been organising internship programmes, collaborative training and various other activities, including moot court competitions, to expand its outreach and human rights sensitisation, particularly among university-level students.

Training programme for IPS Probationers at SVPNPA, Hyderabad

On 24th July 2026, NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice V. Ramasubramanian inaugurated the two-day Human Rights Training for IPS Probationers organised by the Commission in collaboration with the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA), Hyderabad, Telangana. NHRC

Director General (Investigation), Dr. Anupama Nilekar Chandra and SVPNPA Director, Shri Sujeet Pandey and other senior officers were present. The programme aimed to strengthen the capacity of police officers in upholding constitutional values with rights-based, citizen-centric policing.

In his address, the Chairperson explained the evolution of human rights from first-generation civil and political rights



► NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice V. Ramasubramanian addressing the two-day Human Rights Training for IPS Probationers at SVPNPA, Hyderabad, Telangana

to second-generation economic, social and cultural rights. He outlined 3rd and 4th generation rights related to environment, solidarity, science, technology and innovation. He traced how the concepts of liberty, justice and equality developed over centuries through landmark milestones, including Magna Carta (1215), Petition of Right (1628), Habeas Corpus Act (1679), English Bill of Rights (1689), American Declaration of Independence, French Revolution, Congress of Vienna, League of Nations, International Labour Organization (ILO) and adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948). He also highlighted the significance of the Paris Principles in establishing independent and effective National Human Rights Institutions and underscored the constitutional commitment to human rights through the Fundamental Rights enshrined in the Constitution of India.

Justice Ramasubramanian exhorted trainee IPS officers to be the agents of positive change, upholding the Constitution by adhering to the rule of law and discharging their duties with integrity, fairness, compassion and an unwavering commitment to the protection of human rights. He observed that systems could not reform themselves and required committed, ethical and courageous individuals to transform them.

Highlighting the challenges of policing in a democratic society, the NHRC Chairperson observed that police officers often face competing public expectations and must

balance effective law enforcement with the protection of human rights. Referring to the Hyderabad encounter case as an example, he emphasised that while adherence to the rule of law may not always yield immediate public approval, it alone ensures lasting justice and institutional credibility.



► Address of the Chairperson in progress

Referring to the NHRC award-winning documentary 'Dusk of Life,' screened on the occasion, he highlighted the importance of empathy and compassion in policing. He observed that understanding the hardships faced by vulnerable sections of society enables police officers to perform their duties with greater sensitivity and reinforces the human rights values underpinning public service.

The programme featured expert sessions on key human rights issues relevant to policing. Dr. Anupama Nilekar Chandra, Director General (Investigation), NHRC spoke on 'Human rights complaint management and the role of police in protection of human rights.' She covered the Commission's mandate, complaint management mechanism and emerging human rights challenges. Shri Ravi Kumar Paul, Senior Advocate, Madras High Court delivered a lecture on 'Pre-trial and post-trial procedures: Human rights perspective,' while Dr. Murali Karnam, Professor of Human Rights and Director, Access to Justice Program, addressed 'Prisoners, punishment and human rights.'

Smt. Bhamathi Balasubramaniam, Former Member, CAT, discussed 'Gendered and rights-based response for

combating human trafficking in the digital era in India,' and Smt. Roopa M., Inspector General (Administration), I4C, delivered a session on 'Cyber-related aspects of human rights.' The programme also included an interactive experience-sharing session by IPS probationers on 'Police as the protector of human rights of the citizen.'

Shri Rajiv Jain, Former Member of NHRC, India addressed the valedictory session of the programme. He emphasised constitutional values of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity in policing and governance. Citing the Vishakha and Anita Kushwaha judgments, he emphasised safe workplaces, access to justice and urged the officers to strengthen public trust through fair and transparent policing by placing human rights at the heart of every policing initiative.

Other collaborative programmes

The month of July 2026 also saw other collaborative training programmes organised by the NHRC, India. These included:

- On 10th July 2026, St. Agnes College (Autonomous), Mangaluru, Karnataka organised a training programme on 'Nurturing health, ensuring safety: Empowering women and children.'
- On 10th July 2026, the PSG College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu organised a day-long training programme on 'Human rights- Awareness, protection and responsibilities.'
- On 15th July 2026, the College of Multidisciplinary Studies, Nagpur, Maharashtra organised a training programme on 'Human rights-Protection of human rights of vulnerable groups.' Shri Gaurav Garg, DIG, NHRC addressed as the Chief Guest.





- On 17th July 2026, the Dhempe College of Arts and Science, Miramar, Goa organised a one day 'Basic Training Programme on Human Rights.' NHRC Joint Secretary, Shri Samir Kumar addressed them.



- On 17th July 2026, St. Aloysius (Deemed to be University), Mangaluru, Karnataka organised a seminar on 'Strengthening human rights for Class IV employees: A focus on employment, health and skill development.' NHRC PO, Shri Bipin Bihari Gautam addressed as the Chief Guest.

Exposure visits

To promote human rights awareness among college-level students and their faculties, the NHRC, India invites them to visit the Commission to have an exposure to the human rights protection mechanism and its functioning in accordance with the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. They are briefed by senior officers. The following institutions visited NHRC in the month of July:



- 25 students with 3 faculty members from the J. C. College of Law, Bahadurgarh, Jhajjar, Haryana.



- 12 trainee officers of the 36th Batch of the Nine-Month Basic Course for Prison Officers, along with a faculty from the APCA, Vellore, Tamil Nadu.



New joining

On 24th July 2026, Shri Piyush Goyal, a 1994-batch IAS officer of the Nagaland cadre, assumed charge as the Secretary General of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India. Prior to joining the Commission, he served as the Secretary, Ministry of Mines. He has held various positions in the centre and his cadre state as well as on inter-cadre deputation to Uttar Pradesh. This includes Chief Executive Officer of NATGRID, Additional Secretary and Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs. He also served at the Embassy of India in Washington, D.C. He holds a B.Tech in Electrical Engineering from Banaras Hindu University and an M.Tech in Behavioural Sciences from IIT Delhi.

News from the State Human Rights Commissions

Given the ever-expanding dimensions of human life and the evolving challenges associated with them, the promotion and protection of human rights remain a continuous and dynamic process. In India, democratically elected governments remain committed to ensuring the welfare of the people and safeguarding their rights through an extensive executive framework. This commitment is further reinforced by robust democratic institutions, including the legislature and the judiciary, along with a vibrant and vigilant media.

The National Human Rights Commission and the State Human Rights Commissions (SHRCs) play a vital role in the protection and promotion of human rights across the country. In addition, several national commissions, supported by corresponding state-level bodies, work at the regional level to safeguard the rights and welfare of different sections of society. Together, these institutions function as important watchdogs, ensuring accountability, justice and inclusive welfare measures. This column seeks to spotlight the significant and noteworthy initiatives undertaken by various SHRCs in advancing the cause of human rights and strengthening the culture of dignity, justice and equality in society.

Arunachal Pradesh State Human Rights Commission

The Arunachal Pradesh State Human Rights Commission (APSHRC) organised three-week Internship Programme for undergraduate-level students from 19th June to 10th July 2026 with nine students successfully completing it. The interns represented Don Bosco College, Jully, Government D. N. College, Itanagar and Adamas University, Kolkata. They were exposed to various aspects of human rights through lectures, practical exercises, group discussions, field visits and interactive sessions.



► APSHRC interns visiting Police Station in Chimpu

Haryana State Human Rights Commission

During July 2026, the Haryana State Human Rights Commission (HSHRC) took cognizance of several matters involving alleged violations of human rights and issued directions for independent enquiries, preservation of evidence and submission of reports. These included allegations of custodial torture in Gurugram and Ambala Cantt., suspicious death of an under trial prisoner in District Jail, Neemka and the alleged illegal detention and custodial assault of an advocate in Faridabad.

The HSHRC directed periodic inspection of mortuary facilities at B.



► HSHRC holding a review meeting with the officers of Women and Child Development Department

K. Civil Hospital, Faridabad, ordered immediate repair of waterlogged roads in Panchkula and sought reports regarding alleged assault of children at the Place of Safety, Madhuban.

The Commission reviewed the functioning of Child Care Institutions with the Women & Child Development Department, emphasising timely release of maintenance grants under Mission Vatsalya and ensuring identity documents for children. HSHRC Member, Shri Deep Bhatia visited SOS Children's Village, Faridabad to review child welfare measures.

The HSHRC also held a joint review meeting with the NHRC Special Monitor, Shri Dhananjay Tingal on issues relating to child rights, child labour and bonded labour, focusing on rescue, rehabilitation, victim compensation, inter-departmental coordination and strengthening enforcement mechanisms.

Madhya Pradesh State Human Rights Commission

In July 2026, the Madhya Pradesh State Human Rights Commission (MPSHRC) undertook several initiatives to strengthen human rights awareness and ensure timely redressal of grievances. The Chairperson, Dr. Avadhesh Pratap Singh interacted with *Aayog Mitras* in Indore. He reiterated the Commission's commitment to prompt action on human rights violations and discussing issues such as children's welfare, reducing the weight of school bags, overcrowding in school buses and vans, school safety and access to safe drinking water. He addressed social and community events, highlighting the importance of

humanitarian service, moral values and youth development. Meetings were also held with representatives of civil society organisations working in health, education and sanitation.

As a result of the Commission's interventions, monetary relief was paid by the state government in several matters involving accidental deaths, medical negligence, wildlife attacks, police excesses and other human rights violation cases. Legal heirs in 12 cases received a total of Rs. 45.20 lakh as relief, while compensation and pending service benefits were also secured for other victims.

Telangana State Human Rights Commission

In July 2026, the Telangana State Human Rights Commission (TGSHRC) took *suo motu* cognizance of four cases of human rights violations. These included two incidents of alleged food poisoning at BC Girls Gurukul School in Mancheria and Project Tribal Welfare Boys Gurukul in Nagarkurnool, respectively. The other two cases pertained to a stray dog attack on a four-year-old child in Rajanna Sircilla district and inadequate classrooms and basic infrastructure in government schools across Telangana, calling for reports from the concerned authorities.

In a case of the death of a sanitation worker, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) complied with the TSHRC's recommendation by paying Rs. 15.50 lakh as ex gratia, providing employment to the victim's eligible family members as per rules and strengthening safety measures at garbage transfer stations to prevent similar incidents.

News in brief

- On 2nd July 2026, NHRC, India Joint Secretary, Shri Samir Kumar and Senior Systems Analyst, Shri Sanjeev Sharma attended the 29th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) on 'Viksit Bharat 2047: AI-Enabled, Data-Driven and Secure Digital Governance' held at the Rajasthan International Centre, Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- On 9th July 2026, NHRC, India Joint Secretary, Shri Samir Kumar held the online review meeting of the research project titled 'Social



barriers that children of women engaged in inter-generational prostitution face in access to education,' sponsored by the Commission to Samvedna, RACE Lab, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

- On 14th July 2026, NHRC, India Director General (Investigation), Dr. Anupama Nilekar Chandra delivered an online session on 'Mental health and de-addiction in prisons' at the Academy of Prisons and Correctional Administration, Vellore, Tamil Nadu. Participants included trainee and in-service prison officers from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. She said that access to mental healthcare is a right under Article 21 and highlighted the significance of the Mental Healthcare Act 2017, NHRC proforma for health screening of prisoners at admission in jail, tele-medicine and a detailed report to be signed by the medical officer and psychologist.

Dr. Chandra also discussed the issue of substance abuse among the general population and prison inmates, explained key provisions of the NDPS Act, particularly Section 64A on immunity for addicts seeking treatment and shared best practices on de-addiction initiatives from various states. She also briefed the officers about the significance of following NHRC Advisory on mitigating deliberate self-harm and suicide attempts by prisoners and the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan. It was followed by a Q&A session.

- On 18th July 2026, NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice V. Ramasubramanian addressed the fourth day of the 'Deeksharambh 2026' Student Induction Programme as the Chief Guest at Dr. B. R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonapat, Haryana.
- On 18th July 2026, NHRC, India Member, Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani addressed the National Consultation on 'The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2023,' organised by the National Commission of Women at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. She said that consultations like this bring legal precision, courage and an unwavering commitment to genuine reform, build an inclusive, digital and equitable future for every worker in India. She stressed the need for creating a safe campus and workplace by ensuring robust, transparent and proactive Internal Committees equipped with the necessary resources and commitment.



- From 20th to 24th July 2026, NHRC, India Director, Shri Irsad Alam and Senior Systems Analyst, Shri Sanjeev Sharma attended a five-day Immersive Programme on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Panjim, Goa.
- On 21st July 2026, NHRC, India Director General (Investigation), Dr. Anupama Nilekar Chandra addressed a session on 'Mental health and de-addiction in prisons with respect to the rights of prisoners' at NFSU Delhi, as part of the 2-week Correctional Administration Training Programme for officers from Mauritius. She highlighted India's legal framework for protecting prisoners' rights and the NHRC's initiatives, including telemedicine, health screening and suicide prevention.

India's coordinated approach to prison mental healthcare and de-addiction, through collaboration among government agencies, healthcare institutions, correctional services and other stakeholders, was also highlighted. NDPS Act on rehabilitation and social reintegration of persons with substance dependence, India's *Nasha Mukta Bharat* approach and gender-responsive measures for women prisoners, including children residing with them, were discussed. It was followed by a Q&A session.



- On 22nd July 2026, Shri Yuvraj, SSP, NHRC addressed an online session on 'Effective Policing for Public Trust and Human Rights,' as part of the Police Image Lecture Series, organised by the School of Internal Security and SMART Policing, Rashtriya Raksha University, Gujarat. He said that human rights, public trust and effective policing are interdependent pillars of modern law enforcement and outlined India's transition to SMART policing. State citizen portals, new criminal laws, Integrated Criminal Justice System, women's safety schemes, CCTV installation in police stations, MHA's police station ranking initiative and Abhigyan App, emphasising police's role in ensuring respect for human rights, were highlighted.

- On 24th July 2026, NHRC, India Member, Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani attended a programme on Contemporary Motherhood, organised by the Vishwa Mangalya Sabha (VMS) at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. The programme focused on work-life balance, family values and modern technological challenges for mothers. More than 800 women from the Northern states attended.
- On 25th July 2026, NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice V. Ramasubramanian addressed the Induction Programme for New Students of SRM Law School, Chennai as the Chief Guest at SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur Campus, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He also launched the Centre for International Humanitarian Law and Refugee Law for 2026 batch of students.
- On 29th July 2026, NHRC, India Director General (Investigation), Dr. Anupama Nilekar Chandra visited Uttar Pradesh Prisons Headquarters in Lucknow 2026 and held a meeting with the DGP, Shri P.C. Meena to discuss the status of prison reforms and human rights situation. She assessed the initiatives related to prisoner welfare, mental healthcare, rehabilitation and other reformative measures. She stressed the need to further strengthen mental healthcare services for inmates and urged the officers to share the best practices with the NHRC.



- She also visited the AI-based Integrated Monitoring and Control Room, Prison Museum and 'One Jail- One Product' gallery showcasing inmates' skill development. Earlier, Dr. Chandra addressed the orientation of the fresh B.A., LL.B. batch at Dr. RML National Law University, Lucknow, urging students to advance access to justice through community outreach, legal aid, mental healthcare and the *Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan*.

Forthcoming events

On 2 nd and 3 rd September 2026	The NHRC, India will hold an Open Hearing and Camp Sitting in Gujarat.
On 14 th and 19 th September 2026	The NHRC, India will organise Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Capacity Building Programme for senior functionaries of NHRIs of the Global South.
On 14 th and 25 th September 2026	The NHRC, India will organise its two-week Online Short-Term Internship programme for university-level students.

Complaints in July 2026

Number of fresh complaints received	4,212
Number of cases disposed of including old cases	6,106
Number of cases under consideration of the Commission	39,397

Human rights and NHRC in news



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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)

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