

## 97 laws in India discriminate leprosy-affected people

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2022/india/97-laws-in-india-discriminate-leprosy-affected-people.html>

Leprosy is now completely curable and can be rendered non-contagious by administering first dose of Multi-Drug-Therapy (MDT). However, India continues to be the home of around 57 per cent of the global population of people with leprosy — mainly because of stigma and discrimination against the sector.

There are at least 97 legislations at the Centre and States levels that have various clauses that allow continuation of discrimination against leprosy affected persons in the country. With such legal discrimination, various other welfare and medical measures taken by the Government are not yielding desired results, say experts.

Taking serious note of these legal discrepancies, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in an advisory to the States sought immediate removal of such legal provisions.

Of 97 legislation in the country, at least 21 are central laws while rest are implemented by the States like Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Odisha, Punjab, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Assam, Gujarat, West Bengal and Kerala.

The clauses openly discriminate and restrict people with leprosy from taking certain professions or contest municipality polls or enter public places.

Caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium leprae*, leprosy primarily affects the peripheral nervous system causing skin lesions, numbness, and other deformities. Latest data from the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) reveals that a total of 65,147 new leprosy cases were detected during 2020-21 in India.

On the eve of the World Leprosy Day, Alice Cruz, the UN Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members took strong umbrage at the discriminatory laws, which she said whether actively enforced or not, motivates, authorizes and normalizes substantive violations, especially against women.

“The mere existence of laws allowing for divorce on the grounds of leprosy have a devastating impact on women, hindering their access to health care and justice,” the UN expert said.

“By formalizing harmful stereotypes as lawful labels and normalizing humiliation and violence as authorized practices, such laws significantly compromise livelihoods, exclude people affected by leprosy from political and civic participation, and augment the State’s negligence towards this marginalized group,” she further added.

NHRC chief justice (retd) Arun Kumar Mishra in the advisory issued by the Commission also suggested the Centre to consider enacting a law to provide for substitution of “derogatory terms” used to describe persons affected by leprosy. The advisory called upon authorities to ensure that no person or any of his family members is discriminated against and denied all or any of the right to healthcare, employment, education and land rights.

For the betterment of lives, the NHRC urged authorities to start special programmes to provide vocational training, employment and unemployment benefits, health insurance among others.

The NHRC members also felt that besides several problems notwithstanding, the COVID-19 pandemic further worsened the condition of leprosy-affected persons, particularly with regard to their food and livelihood.

## Compensation given to 49 victims of Muzaffarpur shelter home case

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/patna/bihar-govt-paid-compensation-to-49-victims-in-muzaffarpur-shelter-home-case-nhrc-told-7748207/>

Compensation has been given to 49 victims of the Muzaffarpur shelter home case, the Bihar government has told the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in its latest action-taken report.

The 2018 case is related to the alleged sexual assault of girls at an NGO-run shelter home in Muzaffarpur. Journalist and owner of the shelter home, Brajesh Thakur, is among the 19 people convicted in the case by a Delhi court under sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

A senior official with Bihar government and the NHRC confirmed the development on Sunday.

“The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India has been informed by the Government of Bihar that it has paid Rs. 3 to 9 lakh to the 49 victims of sexual abuse.”, the rights commission said in a statement on its website.

The compensation was recommended by the NHRC and the Delhi court, which had heard the case and pronounced its judgment in 2020.

The NHRC was also informed by the Bihar government that the registration of NGO which ran the shelter was cancelled and the structure of the shelter home demolished in compliance of orders of the court.

Over a dozen cases were filed after a report by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences — on the status of 110 government and private-run shelter homes – brought the matter to light in 2018. Subsequently, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probed the case.

The Indian Express previously reported how the key accused and convict, Thakur, was once in line for a state award and how he allegedly fudged the data of his newspaper circulation.

## **Bengal Guv attacks Mamata govt, alleges violence, trampling of human rights**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/bengal-guv-attacks-mamata-govt-alleges-violence-trampling-of-human-rights-122013000521\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/bengal-guv-attacks-mamata-govt-alleges-violence-trampling-of-human-rights-122013000521_1.html)

West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary, and launched another attack on the Mamata Banerjee government, stating that he cannot see "trampling of human rights" and the state "getting drenched" in violence.

Asserting that no amount of "insults" will deter him from performing his duties, Dhankhar said violence and democracy do not go together, and urged all to become messenger of peace and non-violence as a tribute to the father of the nation.

"I cannot see the hallowed land of Bengal getting blood drenched (in violence) and becoming a laboratory for trampling of human rights. People are saying that the state is turning into a gas chamber of democracy," Dhankhar said at Gandhi Ghat on the bank of Hooghly river at Barrackpore in North 24 Parganas district.

He also said the situation had become such that the Calcutta High Court had to order the chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission to form a fact-finding committee to probe into allegations of human rights violations in post-poll violence in West Bengal last year.

"No amount of insults will deter me from my path. It has not been appropriate for the chief minister of the state (Mamata Banerjee) to make derogatory remarks within and even outside the state," he said.

Dhankhar said it has to be everyone's effort to ensure that there is "peace in the society in terms of the Constitution of the country".

The governor, who has crossed swords with the Mamata Banerjee government over several issues since assuming charge in the state, recently accused the chief minister and the speaker of the assembly of transgressing constitutional norms by not providing him the information he had sought on multiple matters.

He has had run-ins over appointments of vice chancellors of universities, calling bureaucrats to his office for explanations.

On January 25, the governor, after paying floral tributes at the statue of B R Ambedkar on the assembly premises, had described the political condition in Bengal as horrible and frightening.

## **WB post-poll violence: CBI probing political case will prove**

<https://www.deccanherald.com/video/national/east-and-northeast/wb-post-poll-violence-cbi-probing-political-case-will-prove-nothing-says-saugata-roy-1076186.html>

Defending Mamata Banerjee-led TMC government in West Bengal, Sougata Roy said that the term 'post-poll violence' used by the "Bharatiya Janata Party is just a "political case" through which "BJP is trying to save face after defeat."

"Post-poll violence did not happen after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee took charge again... CBI is doing its work, let it, but I don't think it'll not prove anything. It was a political case, BJP tried to save itself after its defeat, NHRC team was also political," said Roy.

# Governor attacks Mamata govt. again

## State 'getting drenched' in violence, alleges Jagdeep Dhankhar

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA**

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Asserting that no amount of "insults" will deter him from performing his duties, Mr. Dhankhar said violence and democracy do not go together, and urged all to become messenger of peace and non-violence as a tribute to the father of the nation.

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Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar with TMC leader and MLA Sovandeb Chattopadhyay paying tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on Martyrs' Day in Kolkata on Sunday. ■PTI

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bank of Hooghly river at Barrackpore in North 24 Parganas district.

### **NHRC probe ordered**

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cutta High Court had to order the chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission to form a fact-finding committee to probe into allegations of human rights violations in post-poll violence in West Bengal last year. Mr. Dhankhar said it has to be everyone's effort to ensure that there is "peace in the society in terms of the Constitution of the country".

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# Muzaffarpur shelter home case: 49 victims given compensation

**SANTOSH SINGH**

PATNA, JANUARY 30

COMPENSATION HAS been given to 49 victims of the Muzaffarpur shelter home case, the Bihar government told the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in its latest action-taken report.

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victims of sexual abuse", the rights commission said in a statement.

The compensation was recommended by the NHRC and the Delhi court, which had heard the case and pronounced its judgment in 2020. The NHRC was also informed by the Bihar government that the registration of NGO which ran the shelter was cancelled and the structure of the shelter home demolished in compliance of orders of the court.

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## भारतीय मानवाधिकार एसोसिएशन की बैठक

जमशेदपुर। भारतीय मानवाधिकार एसोसिएशन पूर्वी सिंहभूम के तत्वावधान में जुगसलाई स्थित हॉल में सामूहिक बैठक का आयोजन किया गया, जिसके मुख्य आयोजक विष्णु अग्रवाल रहे। अध्यक्षता कोल्हान अध्यक्ष रवि राज दुबे ने की। बैठक में जिले में किए गए तमाम कार्यों का अवलोकन किया गया तथा आगामी कार्यक्रमों की सूची बनाई गई।



**बिहार: मुजफ्फरपुर शेल्टर होम की 49 पीड़ितों को मुआवजा दिया गया, सरकार ने एनएचआरसी को जानकारी दी**

<https://www.lokmatnews.in/india/bihar-govt-paid-compensation-to-49-victims-in-muzaffarpur-shelter-home-case-nhrc-told-b626/>

:बिहार सरकार ने मुजफ्फरपुर आश्रय गृह मामले के 49 पीड़ितों को 3 लाख से 9 लाख रुपये का मुआवजा दिया है। राज्य सरकार ने हाल ही में अपनी कार्रवाई रिपोर्ट में राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) को सूचित किया है। साल 2018 में मुजफ्फरपुर आश्रयगृह में 34 लड़कियों के यौन उत्पीड़न का मामला मुंबई स्थित टाटा इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ सोशल साइंसेस की सोशल ऑडिट में प्रकाश में आया था। उसके बाद बिहार के सामाजिक कल्याण विभाग ने एक प्राथमिकी दर्ज की थी और 10 व्यक्तियों को गिरफ्तार किया गया था जिसमें मुख्य आरोपी ब्रजेश ठाकुर भी शामिल था जिसका एनजीओ आश्रयगृह संचालित करता था।

टाटा इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ सोशल साइंसेज की करीब 110 निजी और सरकारी आश्रय गृहों की स्थिति पर रिपोर्ट सामने आने के बाद एक दर्जन से अधिक केस दर्ज किए गए और बाद में मामला सीबीआई को सौंप दिया गया। बिहार सरकार के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने कहा कि मुजफ्फरपुर महिला पुलिस थाना मामले (33/2018) पर की गई कार्रवाई की रिपोर्ट भेजी गई थी, जिसमें ब्रजेश ठाकुर सहित 19 लोगों को दिल्ली की एक अदालत ने 2020 में दोषी ठहराया था। एनएचआरसी की वेबसाइट के अनुसार, आयोग ने 29 नवंबर, 2018 को मामले में एक शिकायत के आधार पर मामला दर्ज किया था। आयोग के अलावा, नई दिल्ली के साकेत ट्रायल कोर्ट ने भी पीड़ितों को योग्यता के आधार पर मुआवजे की सिफारिश की थी। आयोग को यह भी बताया गया कि मुजफ्फरपुर बालिका गृह चलाने वाले एनजीओ का पंजीकरण रद्द कर दिया गया है और जिस परिसर में वह स्थित है, उसे अदालत के आदेश के अनुसार ध्वस्त कर दिया गया है।

**धनखड़ ने ममता बनर्जी पर फिर निशाना साधा**

<https://www.livehindustan.com/ncr/new-delhi/story-dhankhar-again-targets-mamta-banerjee-5698575.html>

पश्चिम बंगाल के राज्यपाल जगदीप धनखड़ ने रविवार को राष्ट्रपिता महात्मा गांधी को उनकी पुण्यतिथि पर श्रद्धांजलि दी। उन्होंने एक बार फिर राज्य की मुख्यमंत्री ममता बनर्जी पर निशाना साधा। राज्यपाल ने कहा कि वह राज्य में मानवाधिकारों को कुचले जाने की घटनाओं और हिंसा की 'बाढ़' को नहीं देख सकते। धनखड़ ने कहा कि किसी भी प्रकार का 'अपमान' उन्हें अपने कर्तव्य पालन से विमुख नहीं कर सकता। उन्होंने कहा कि हिंसा एवं लोकतंत्र एक साथ नहीं चल सकते। उन्होंने सभी से अपील की कि वे शांति और अहिंसा के दूत बनें, जो राष्ट्रपिता को सच्ची श्रद्धांजलि होगी। राज्यपाल ने उत्तर 24 परगना जिले के बैरकपुर में हुगली नदी के तट पर स्थित गांधीघाट में कहा, मैं बंगाल की पावन भूमि को (हिंसा में) रक्त से सनी हुई और मानवाधिकारों का गला घोटने वाली धरती नहीं बनने दे सकता। उन्होंने कहा कि स्थिति ऐसी हो गयी है कि मानवाधिकार उल्लंघन के आरोपों की जांच के लिए कलकत्ता उच्च न्यायालय ने राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) के अध्यक्ष को तथ्यान्वेषी समिति गठित करने का निर्देश दिया है।

**ममता पर धनखड़ का फिर निशाना, राज्य में हिंसा और मानवाधिकारों को रौंदे जाने का आरोप**

<https://hindi.theprint.in/india/mamta-is-again-targeted-by-dhankhar-alleging-violence-in-the-state-and-trampling-of-human-rights/270248/>

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धनखड़ ने कहा कि किसी भी प्रकार का 'अपमान' उन्हें अपने कर्तव्य पालन से विमुख नहीं कर सकता। उन्होंने कहा कि हिंसा एवं लोकतंत्र एक साथ नहीं चल सकते। उन्होंने सभी से अपील की कि वे शांति और अहिंसा के दूत बनें, जो राष्ट्रपिता को सच्ची श्रद्धांजलि होगी।

राज्यपाल ने उत्तर 24 परगना जिले के बैरकपुर में हुगली नदी के तट पर स्थित गांधीघाट में कहा, "मैं बंगाल की पावन भूमि को (हिंसा में) रक्त से सनी हुई और मानवाधिकारों का गला घोटने वाली धरती नहीं बनने दे सकता।

उन्होंने कहा कि स्थिति ऐसी हो गयी है कि मानवाधिकार उल्लंघन के आरोपों की जांच के लिए कलकत्ता उच्च न्यायालय ने राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) के अध्यक्ष को तथ्यान्वेषी समिति गठित करने का निर्देश दिया है।

राज्यपाल ने कहा कि यह सुनिश्चित करना हर नागरिक का कर्तव्य है कि देश के संविधान के अनुरूप 'समाज में शांति' बहाल हो।

धनखड़ ने गत 25 जनवरी को भी विधानसभा परिसर में बी. आर. अम्बेडकर को श्रद्धांजलि देते हुए कहा था कि राज्य में राजनीतिक स्थिति 'भयावह और डरावनी' है।