

## **NHRC India Organises Core Group Meeting On Criminal Justice System Reforms**

<https://www.freepressjournal.in/india/nhrc-india-organises-core-group-meeting-on-criminal-justice-system-reforms>

Creating a cadre-based service of Public Prosecutors is essential for transparency and merit in their appointment due to their critical role in the trial stage.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India today organized a core group meeting on criminal justice system reforms. The focus was on finding ways to address the delay in forensic reports, areas of improvement in the prosecution system, burking of offences and simplification of language used in organs of criminal justice system. The meeting in hybrid mode was chaired by the NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra in the presence of Member, Shri Rajiv Jain, Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal, Director General (I), Shri Ajay Bhatnagar, core group members, experts, academicians, representative of civil society organizations and senior officers of the Commission.

Justice Mishra said that forensic examination in the criminal justice system plays a critical role. Delay in forensic examination results in delayed justice. The number of technologically advanced forensic laboratories needs to be augmented for expeditious examination. The digital forensics also needs to be strengthened in the wake of new challenges of cyber-crime to reach the culprit fast.

He said that investigation and forensics examination should be part of the process and not independent of each other. He emphasised for increased systematic coordination between public prosecutors, forensic teams and the police. For this, their training in the legal provisions, the concept of trial and the importance of forensics is necessary for reforms in the criminal justice system for speedy trial ensuring that any innocent person doesn't suffer.

Justice Mishra also said that Public Prosecutors need to be given exposure to forensics and the concept of trial. He said language is a barrier for the common man in understanding legalese in judgments as most of these are delivered in English, which is difficult to understand for many people.

Before this, NHRC, India Member, Shri Rajiv Jain gave an overview of the four sessions of the meeting which he said are very significant aspects of the criminal justice system. He expressed the hope that the related issues and sessions will help the Commission in further shaping them for necessary recommendations.

Shri Devendra Kumar Nim, Joint Secretary, NHRC underscored the concerted efforts of the Commission seeking reforms in the criminal justice system. He said the Commission had organized the Core Advisory Group on Criminal Justice System Reforms in 2021 and 2023 and it has also issued an advisory to mitigate Deliberate Self Harm and

suicide attempts by prisoners in 2023. The Commission also released a book on Forensic Science and Human Rights in 2023.

#### Key Recommendations And Expert Insights From NHRC's Criminal Justice Reforms Discussion

During the discussions, it was emphasised that Public Prosecutors play a very important role at the trial stage and therefore, it is necessary to create a cadre-based service of Public Prosecutors to ensure transparency and merit in their appointment. A Training Academy should also be set up for them with a research and analysis wing. They also need to be supported with proper office infrastructure. The witness examination should be the prerogative of the Public Prosecutor and not of the judges.

Some of the prominent speakers included Shri Rajesh Kumar, Director, Odisha State Forensic Science Lab, Bhubaneshwar, Dr. G.K. Goswami, IPS, Founder, Uttar Pradesh State Institute of Forensic Science, Dr. S.K. Jain, Director-cum-Chief Scientist, DFSS, MHA, Smt. Shreya Rastogi, Founding Member & Director, P39A, NHRC Core Group Members, Prof. (Dr.) Manoj Kumar Sinha Smt. Meeran Chadha Borwankar, Shri Rishi Kumar Shukhla, De B.T.Kaul, Member Secretary Law Commission of India Dr Reeta Vashishta , Smt. Aditi Tripathi, Advocate, Prof. (Dr.) Arvind Tiwari, Dean, School of Law, TISS Mumbai, Shri Bhim Sen Bassi, Former Commissioner of Police, Delhi, and Dr. Chanchal Singh, Professor of Law, Himachal Pradesh NLU.

## **NHRC calls for increasing advanced forensic labs**

<https://www.millenniumpost.in/nation/dangerous-to-say-private-property-cant-be-taken-over-to-subserve-common-good-sc-561447?infinitemscroll=1>

NEW DELHI: The number of technologically advanced forensic laboratories in India needs to be “augmented for expeditious examination”, the NHRC said on Wednesday. Chairperson, NHRC, Justice (retd) Arun Kumar Mishra, during a core group meeting here also said that investigation and forensics examination should be part of the process and “not independent” of each other. The NHRC on Wednesday organised a core group meeting on criminal justice system reforms.

## **Number of technologically advanced forensic labs needs to be augmented: NHRC**

<https://english.mathrubhumi.com/news/india/human-rights-commission-on-forensic-labs-in-india-1.9511166>

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Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission, Justice (retd) Arun Kumar Mishra, during a core group meeting here also said that investigation and forensics examination should be part of the process and "not independent" of each other. The NHRC on Wednesday organised a core group meeting on criminal justice system reforms, the rights panel said in a statement.

The focus was on finding ways to address delay in forensic reports, areas of improvement in the prosecution system, and simplification of language used in organs of criminal justice system. During the discussions, it was emphasised that public prosecutors play a very important role at the trial stage and therefore, it is necessary to create a "cadre-based service" of public prosecutors to ensure transparency and merit in their appointment, the statement said.

A training academy should also be set up for them with a research and analysis wing. They also need to be supported with proper office infrastructure, it said, adding that the witness examination should be the "prerogative of the public prosecutor and not of the judges". The meeting, in hybrid mode, was chaired by the NHRC chairperson in the presence of core group members, experts, academicians, representative of civil society organisations and senior officers of the Commission.

Justice Mishra said forensic examination in the criminal justice system plays a critical role. Delay in forensic examination results in delayed justice, he was quoted as saying in the statement. The number of technologically advanced forensic laboratories needs to be augmented for expeditious examination, he said. The digital forensics also needs to be strengthened in the wake of "new challenges" of cyber-crime to reach the culprit fast, the NHRC chief added. He emphasised on increased systematic coordination among public prosecutors, forensic teams and the police.

For this, their training in the legal provisions, the concept of trial and the importance of forensics is necessary for reforms in the criminal justice system for speedy trial ensuring that any innocent person doesn't suffer, the NHRC chief said. Justice Mishra also said that public prosecutors need to be given exposure to forensics and the concept of trial. He said language is a barrier for the common man in understanding legalese in judgments as most of these are delivered in English, which is difficult to understand for many people. PTI

# The Indian seafarer deserves better in choppy high seas

**A**mid rising safety concerns among Indian seafarers following the recent attacks on commercial ships in sensitive geographical areas such as the Red Sea and the Strait of Hormuz, India submitted three papers to the 113th Session of the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Legal Committee (LEG), which is from April 22 to 26, 2024. These submissions address crucial issues such as seafarers' security, contract terms, and broader maritime security challenges. India has stressed the need for a comprehensive approach to maritime security and advocated improved contractual conditions for seafarers. While acknowledging the IMO's efforts to combat maritime fraud, India has called for broader international cooperation to tackle various maritime threats, including piracy, armed robbery, extremist attacks, regional conflicts, and emerging risks such as drone attacks and the use of maritime weapons.

## Sea piracy is back

Recent pirate attacks off the coast of Somalia, including hijackings, suggest a resurgence of piracy. In December 2023 and January 2024, Somali pirates targeted vessels such as the *MV Ruen* and *MV Lila Norfolk*. India has called for vigilance, proactive measures, and international cooperation to combat piracy and protect seafarers, in line with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

India has also highlighted the impact of unlawful recruitment practices on seafarers' well-being and international trade. Since 2020, over 200 cases of seafarer exploitation have been reported to the Indian Maritime Administration. India has urged international coordination to address these issues and ensure seafarers' rights under the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006.

The maritime industry, vital for global trade, depends heavily on seafarers who often face challenges and risks.

India, with 9.35% of global seafarers and



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With Indians playing a significant role in keeping the global shipping industry running, their welfare and safety acquires significance

ranking third globally, confronts these issues, evident from recent incidents such as the seizure of *MSC Aries* and the detention of *MT Heroic Idun* at Nigeria (this last case went on for several months).

These events highlight the vulnerabilities of Indian seafarers, catalogued by a survey, showing how a majority lacked legal representation, felt unfairly treated, and were unaware of their rights. India has submitted papers to the IMO's Legal Committee, which emphasise seafarers' security and contract terms. Yet, enhanced international cooperation is needed to safeguard seafarers and ensure uninterrupted navigation, especially amid rising incidents involving Indian seafarers and geopolitical tensions.

Three years ago, the Maritime Union of India highlighted a 40% increase in kidnappings in the Gulf of Guinea, with 134 cases of assault, injury, and threats reported. Incidents such as the kidnapping of 20 Indian nationals from the *MT Duke* (off the western coast of Africa) and the ship owners paying hefty ransoms highlight the dangers faced by seafarers.

## An Indian initiative on rights

In response, the Indian government and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) launched the 'human rights at sea' initiative. Reports reveal cases of seafarers being held in foreign jails, stranded in foreign waters, and subjected to illegal detentions. 'Human Rights at Sea' has highlighted abuses against Indian seafarers, including 200 held in foreign jails and 65 stranded in Indonesia for 151 days. The NHRC has highlighted the challenges of holding ship owners accountable for violations against Indian seafarers operating under foreign registrations to evade taxes and has stressed the need for proactive cooperation among stakeholders and mechanisms to protect human rights in the maritime industry.

Maritime piracy is a growing concern for Indian seafarers. With around 2,50,000 Indian

seafarers serving on specialised cargo vessels worldwide, recent data from the International Maritime Bureau show a more than 10% increase in serious piracy incidents over the last 10 months. Armed pirates have boarded nearly 90% of targeted cargo ships, endangering seafarers.

Addressing piracy requires a comprehensive land-based solution. While private guards on merchant navy ships can deter piracy, the volatile nature of piracy-prone oceans poses challenges, as highlighted by Bjorn Hojgaard, CEO of Anglo-Eastern Univan Group, a major employer of Indian seafarers.

Further, reports suggest that Iranian shipping companies, in collaboration with international recruiters, exploit Indian seafarers by luring them with false promises of high salaries and opportunities in the Middle East. These seafarers often face overwork, are provided insufficient food, and are forced into transporting illegal cargo, despite paying hefty fees to secure overseas jobs.

## Seafarers need support

Despite these risks, many Indian seafarers remain committed to their careers at sea, which makes it imperative to have improved rights and protection. Currently representing 9.35% of the global seafaring population, India aims to increase its share to 20% in the next 10 to 20 years, with ship management companies playing a crucial role.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Indian seafarers demonstrated their resilience and professionalism, enhancing India's standing in the global maritime market. The Ukraine-Russia conflict has also created opportunities for new players in the Indian maritime sector.

Recent attacks on commercial ships have heightened safety concerns among Indian seafarers, with some considering quitting their jobs due to security fears. This underlines the urgent need for government support and enhanced protection measures.

## एमएचआरसी सार्वजनिक शिकायतों की कम संख्या से चिंतित

<https://jantaserishta.com/local/meghalaya/mhrc-concerned-over-low-number-of-public-complaints-3236778>

मेघालय मानवाधिकार आयोग चिंतित है कि बहुत से लोग शिकायत दर्ज कराने के लिए उसके पास नहीं आते हैं। एशिलांग : मेघालय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एमएचआरसी) चिंतित है कि बहुत से लोग शिकायत दर्ज कराने के लिए उसके पास नहीं आते हैं। एमएचआरसी के अध्यक्ष न्यायमूर्ति (सेवानिवृत्त) टी वैफेई ने मंगलवार को कहा कि आयोग को एक महीने में 10 शिकायतें भी नहीं मिलती हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि इसके विपरीत, असम, खासकर बराक घाटी के लोग अक्सर असम मानवाधिकार आयोग के पास जाते हैं और उसे हर दिन 7-8 शिकायतें मिलती हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि असम में लोग उचित जल आपूर्ति नहीं मिलने पर भी आयोग के पास जाते हैं।

यह कहते हुए कि जब कोई मामला निजी व्यक्तियों के बीच होता है तो आयोग का दायरा सीमित हो जाता है, न्यायमूर्ति वैफेई ने कहा कि यदि इसमें कोई सार्वजनिक तत्व शामिल है तो आयोग कार्रवाई कर सकता है। 2017 से, MHRC ने शिकायतों के 214 मामले दर्ज किए और इनमें से 108 का निपटारा किया गया। आयोग ने स्वतः संज्ञान से दर्ज किये गये 57 मामलों में से 22 का निपटारा किया। 11 मामलों में, पीड़ितों या उनके परिवारों को मुआवजा दिया गया। मुआवजे की कुल रकम 33,51,000 रुपये थी।

कोयला खदान दुर्घटना में जान गंवाने वाले छह लोगों के परिवारों को 5 लाख रुपये का मुआवजा प्रदान किया गया। इसी तरह एक अस्पताल की लापरवाही के मामले में 3 लाख रुपये का मुआवजा दिया गया। पश्चिमी खासी हिल्स के एक परिवार को 5 लाख रुपये (प्रत्येक को 2.5 लाख रुपये) का मुआवजा दिया गया, जिसने बिजली के झटके के कारण अपने दो नाबालिग सदस्यों को खो दिया था। हिरासत में मौत के एक मामले में एक परिवार को 5 लाख रुपये का मुआवजा मिला था।

यह कहते हुए कि मानवाधिकार का दायरा व्यापक है और पुलिस द्वारा उत्पीड़न तक सीमित नहीं है, न्यायमूर्ति वैफेई ने कहा कि लोग सरकारी परियोजनाओं और मनरेगा जैसी योजनाओं के मामलों पर भी आयोग से संपर्क कर सकते हैं जब उन्हें पता चलता है कि इन्हें ठीक से लागू नहीं किया गया है। उन्होंने कहा कि अगर जांच सही तरीके से नहीं की गई तो आयोग पुलिस पर कार्रवाई कर सकता है। उन्होंने कहा कि यद्यपि एमएचआरसी की सिफारिशें सरकार के लिए बाध्यकारी नहीं हैं, फिर भी इसकी अधिकांश सिफारिशों का मेघालय सरकार ने पालन किया है।

इस बीच, आयोग ने मीडिया रिपोर्टों पर राज्य सरकार से रिपोर्ट मांगी है कि हाल ही में दक्षिण पश्चिम गारो हिल्स में दो नाबालिग लड़कियों से कथित सामूहिक बलात्कार और हमले के मामले में अभी तक कोई गिरफ्तारी नहीं हुई है। विस्तृत रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने के लिए जिला पुलिस अधीक्षक को नोटिस जारी किया गया था। जस्टिस वैफेई ने कहा कि आयोग केंद्र सरकार के संस्थानों के मामलों में हस्तक्षेप नहीं कर सकता। उन्होंने कहा कि अगर लोगों को केंद्र सरकार के किसी संस्थान के खिलाफ मामला दर्ज कराना है तो उन्हें राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग से संपर्क करना होगा।

## **NHRC stakeholders meeting on medical education: Bond policy, stipends, ragging, other issues come up**

<https://www.edexlive.com/breaking/2024/Apr/24/nhrc-stakeholders-meeting-on-medical-education-bond-policy-stipends-ragging-other-issues-come-up>

According to Krishnan, the NMC was of the view that students' health is a state subject, therefore, it cannot force states to abolish the policy

Today, Wednesday, April 24, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) organised a core committee meeting with stakeholders of the medical community to discuss the existing issues and challenges related to the rights of patients and doctors in India.

Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA), United Doctors Front Association (UDFA), medical experts and others participated in the meeting which was held from 10.30 am to 3 pm at Manav Adhikar Bhawan, INA, Delhi.

The meeting was presided by Justice Arun Mishra, Chairperson of the NHRC. Chairman of the National Medical Commission (NMC) Dr B N Gangadhar (Officiating); and Secretary Dr Prof B Srinivas were also a part of the meeting.

### **Bond policy**

Stakeholders who participated in the meeting took to X (formerly known as Twitter) to share their views and contributions to the meeting. Meanwhile, speaking to EdexLive, Chairman of FAIMA, Dr Rohan Krishnan said, "NMC Chairman wishes to abolish bond policy in India."

Bond policy for medicos has resulted in an alarming rise in suicides, incidents of depression, anxiety, stress and mental illness. Therefore, it has been a predominant aspect of the meeting.

According to Krishnan, the NMC was of the view that students' health is a state subject, therefore, it cannot force states to abolish the policy. However, officials wanted to discuss this matter with the respective state heads and come to a conclusion to abolish this age-old practice.

### **Stipend disbursal**

Another important agenda of the meeting was the stipend issue. As of now, the stipend for medicos is different in different states. "Several stakeholders suggested 'One Nation, One Stipend' for all medicos. However, the officials were reluctant to comment on it," Krishnan shared.

"In my opinion, stipend is a state subject, therefore, NMC should fix a minimum amount for stipends in India. Following this, it should be left to the choice of states to pay more than the minimum amount or not," he added.

### Anti-ragging committee

"The official initiated discussions about anti-ragging committees in all institutions. I suggested to appoint professors of one institute as head of the anti-ragging committee of any other institute than its own, to ensure the judgement is unbiased," Krishnan added, stating that if the institute's own staff are presiding the anti-ragging committee, there is fear of favouritism.

### Other stakeholders

UDFA General Secretary Dr Arun Kumar said, "We supported no bond policy and submitted our recommendations to the NHRC."

Medical activist, Vivek Pandey wrote on X, "Took part in a meeting Organised by @India\_NHRC Raised issue's related to UG & PG doctors Given suggestions to implement One-nation-one stipend policy Raised serious issue of medicos suicide in medical colleges & talked abt mental health #NEET #MedTwitter #MBBS #HumanRights"

Krishnan concluded by saying that the commission directed stakeholders to submit their suggestions via email. "Following this, shortly, there will be other rounds of meetings," he added.



## NHRC के सामने डॉक्टर्स ने उठाया बॉन्ड पॉलिसी का मुद्दा

Doctors  
Bond Policy

■ **सान्ध्य टाइम्स ब्यूरो।** मेडिकल एजुकेशन और अन्य विषयों को लेकर नेशनल ह्यूमन राइट्स कमीशन (एनएचआरसी) के अधिकारियों के साथ रेजिडेंट डॉक्टर्स असोसिएशन ने बैठक की। इस दौरान डॉक्टर्स ने बॉन्ड पॉलिसी का विरोध जताया। साथ ही एम्बीबीएस और पीजी के छात्रों में बढ़ रही मेटल हेल्थ समस्याओं को लेकर अपनी बात रखी।

फाइमा के नेशनल प्रेजिडेंट डॉ. रोहन कृष्णानन ने बताया कि आईएनए स्थित मानव अधिकार भवन में रेजिडेंट डॉक्टर्स की मीटिंग हुई थी, जिसमें हमने बॉन्ड पॉलिसी को लेकर बात की। हमें यह जनकार खुशी हुई कि इस नेशनल मेडिकल कमीशन (एनएमसी) के अधिकारियों ने भी इस पॉलिसी का विरोध जताया। इस पॉलिसी में डॉक्टरों के लिए एक ऐसी नीति है, जिसके तहत डॉक्टर अपनी अंडरग्रेजुएट और पोस्टग्रेजुएट की डिग्री पूरी करने के बाद राज्य के अस्पतालों में एक निश्चित समय के लिए अपनी सेवा देते हैं। अगर डॉक्टर इस बॉन्ड को तोड़ते हैं तो उन्हें राज्यों की ओर से तय किए गए एक निश्चित रकम का भुगतान करना पड़ता है। ऐसे में कई बार छात्रों को मेटी रकम तक चुकानी पड़ती है। इसके अलावा बैठक में मेडिकल कॉलेज में एंटी रैगिंग को लेकर भी बात रखी गई। इसके अलावा मानसिक स्वास्थ्य को लेकर भी बात रखी गई। उन्होंने बताया कि पिछले कई वर्षों में रेजिडेंट डॉक्टर्स में आत्महत्या करने की संख्या बढ़ी है। रेजिडेंट डॉक्टर्स में 85% आत्महत्या 35 वर्ष से कम उम्र के डॉक्टर्स करते हैं।

यूडीएफए के महासचिव डॉ. अरुण कुमार ने कहा कि हमने नो बॉन्ड पॉलिसी का समर्थन किया और एनएचआरसी को अपनी सिफारिशें सौंप दीं। मेडिकल एक्टिविस्ट विवेक पांडे के अनुसार, यूजी और पीजी डॉक्टरों से संबंधित मुद्दे उठाए गए, एक-राष्ट्र-एक वर्जिफा नीति को लागू करने के लिए भी सुझाव दिए गए। (नस)

## **Number of technologically advanced forensic labs needs to be augmented: NHRC**

<https://theprint.in/india/number-of-technologically-advanced-forensic-labs-needs-to-be-augmented-nhrc/2055578/>

New Delhi, Apr 24 (PTI) The number of technologically advanced forensic laboratories in India needs to be “augmented for expeditious examination”, the NHRC said on Wednesday.

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The focus was on finding ways to address delay in forensic reports, areas of improvement in the prosecution system, and simplification of language used in organs of criminal justice system.

During the discussions, it was emphasised that public prosecutors play a very important role at the trial stage and therefore, it is necessary to create a “cadre-based service” of public prosecutors to ensure transparency and merit in their appointment, the statement said.

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For this, their training in the legal provisions, the concept of trial and the importance of forensics is necessary for reforms in the criminal justice system for speedy trial ensuring that any innocent person doesn't suffer, the NHRC chief said.

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# The Indian seafarer deserves better in choppy high seas

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## Sea piracy is back

Recent pirate attacks off the coast of Somalia, including hijackings, suggest a resurgence of piracy. In December 2023 and January 2024, Somali pirates targeted vessels such as the *MV Ruen* and *MV Lila Norfolk*. India has called for vigilance, proactive measures, and international cooperation to combat piracy and protect seafarers, in line with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

India has also highlighted the impact of unlawful recruitment practices on seafarers' well-being and international trade. Since 2020, over 200 cases of seafarer exploitation have been reported to the Indian Maritime Administration. India has urged international coordination to address these issues and ensure seafarers' rights under the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006.

The maritime industry, vital for global trade, depends heavily on seafarers who often face challenges and risks.

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ranking third globally, confronts these issues, evident from recent incidents such as the seizure of *MSC Aries* and the detention of *MT Heroic Idun* at Nigeria (this last case went on for several months).

These events highlight the vulnerabilities of Indian seafarers, catalogued by a survey, showing how a majority lacked legal representation, felt unfairly treated, and were unaware of their rights. India has submitted papers to the IMO's Legal Committee, which emphasise seafarers' security and contract terms. Yet, enhanced international cooperation is needed to safeguard seafarers and ensure uninterrupted navigation, especially amid rising incidents involving Indian seafarers and geopolitical tensions.

Three years ago, the Maritime Union of India highlighted a 40% increase in kidnappings in the Gulf of Guinea, with 134 cases of assault, injury, and threats reported. Incidents such as the kidnapping of 20 Indian nationals from the *MT Duke* (off the western coast of Africa) and the ship owners paying hefty ransoms highlight the dangers faced by seafarers.

## An Indian initiative on rights

In response, the Indian government and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) launched the 'human rights at sea' initiative. Reports reveal cases of seafarers being held in foreign jails, stranded in foreign waters, and subjected to illegal detentions. 'Human Rights at Sea' has highlighted abuses against Indian seafarers, including 200 held in foreign jails and 65 stranded in Indonesia for 151 days. The NHRC has highlighted the challenges of holding ship owners accountable for violations against Indian seafarers operating under foreign registrations to evade taxes and has stressed the need for proactive cooperation among stakeholders and mechanisms to protect human rights in the maritime industry.

Maritime piracy is a growing concern for Indian seafarers. With around 2,50,000 Indian

seafarers serving on specialised cargo vessels worldwide, recent data from the International Maritime Bureau show a more than 10% increase in serious piracy incidents over the last 10 months. Armed pirates have boarded nearly 90% of targeted cargo ships, endangering seafarers.

Addressing piracy requires a comprehensive land-based solution. While private guards on merchant navy ships can deter piracy, the volatile nature of piracy-prone oceans poses challenges, as highlighted by Bjorn Hojgaard, CEO of Anglo-Eastern Univan Group, a major employer of Indian seafarers.

Further, reports suggest that Iranian shipping companies, in collaboration with international recruiters, exploit Indian seafarers by luring them with false promises of high salaries and opportunities in the Middle East. These seafarers often face overwork, are provided insufficient food, and are forced into transporting illegal cargo, despite paying hefty fees to secure overseas jobs.

## Seafarers need support

Despite these risks, many Indian seafarers remain committed to their careers at sea, which makes it imperative to have improved rights and protection. Currently representing 9.35% of the global seafaring population, India aims to increase its share to 20% in the next 10 to 20 years, with ship management companies playing a crucial role.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Indian seafarers demonstrated their resilience and professionalism, enhancing India's standing in the global maritime market. The Ukraine-Russia conflict has also created opportunities for new players in the Indian maritime sector.

Recent attacks on commercial ships have heightened safety concerns among Indian seafarers, with some considering quitting their jobs due to security fears. This underlines the urgent need for government support and enhanced protection measures.

## **Bond Policy Issue Raised At NHRC Meeting, Is Abolishing Likely?**

<https://medicaldialogues.in/news/health/doctors/bond-policy-issue-raised-at-nhrc-meeting-is-abolishing-likely-127625>

New Delhi: The issue of Bond policy was raised during the meeting held today by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). In the meeting, the National Medical Commission (NMC) officials including the Chairman Dr B Gangadhar and Secretary Dr B Srinivas were also present and the Commission expressed its plans regarding the bond policy in India.

The NHRC meeting was conducted to discuss the issues of mental health and mental well-being of medical students across the country.

Speaking about the session, the National Chairman of the Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA),

Dr. Rohan Krishnan, who also participated in the meeting, told Medical Dialogues, "The major statement that was made was that NMC is planning for a bond-free India. FAIMA has worked very hard on this for several years. FAIMA demanded that the bond policy should be revised and the States where there is a scarcity of doctors, in those States also bond policy should be reconsidered. All these things were discussed in the meeting."Meanwhile, notifying about the meeting, NHRC mentioned in an X (formerly Twitter) post, "NHRC core group meeting in hybrid mode on health and mental health begins. It focuses on discussing issues of bonds in medical colleges, the rights of patients, the rights of doctors, and problems in disbursement of stipend to doctors."

Apart from the NMC officials, the meeting was also attended by the stakeholders from the Health Department, Health Secretary, Chairman of NHRC, representatives of the Indian Medical Association (IMA), Federation of Resident Doctors Association (FORDA), representatives from the United Doctors Front Association (UDFA).Dr.

Rohan Krishnan informed that issues like bond policy, patient welfare, healthcare structure of the nation including what will happen in the future- all these things were discussed in the meeting.

Commenting on the issues, Dr. Rohan Krishnan told Medical Dialogues, "Mental health of the medical students across the country should be of prime concern right now, considering the fact that so many young doctors and MBBS students commit suicide being unable to deal with the immense pressure of studies and work." "Doing away with the seat-leaving bond can be a stepping stone in lessening the mental burden on the medical students and we appreciate the efforts of NMC in this regard," he further added.

In an X post, Dr. Krishnan mentioned, "Took part in a meeting Organised by @India\_NHRC Glad to Hear that @NMC\_IND Chairman wishes to abolish bond policy pan India. Also, NMC has taken a positive stand on Stipend given to interns,PGs. However, I have again raised the issue of improvement in various aspects of healthcare

for \*Mental Health and Mental well being of UG and Pg Residents."Medical Dialogues had previously reported that earlier this year, taking cognisance of the issue of seat-leaving bond policy, NMC wrote to the Principal Secretary of Health and Medical Education of all States and Union Territories and asked them review the said policy and preferably do away with the same.

The Apex Medical Commission issued this direction after the Anti-Ragging Committee of NMC held a meeting on 9th January 2024 to address the mental health concerns of PG medical students and recommended the State/UT to review the seat leaving policy in medical colleges and to do away the same.

As an alternative, NMC recommended that the States may consider debarring the students for admission in their States for the next one year.

## NHRC calls for increasing advanced forensic labs

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**NEW DELHI:** The number of technologically advanced forensic laboratories in India needs to be “augmented for expeditious examination”, the NHRC said on Wednesday. Chairperson, NHRC, Justice (retd) Arun Kumar Mishra, during a core group meeting here also said that investigation and forensics examination should be part of the process and “not independent” of each other.

The NHRC on Wednesday organised a core group meeting on criminal justice system reforms.

MPOST

## Number of technologically advanced forensic labs needs to be augmented NHRC

<https://www.theweek.in/wire-updates/national/2024/04/25/des42-nhrc-meeting.html>

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The NHRC on Wednesday organised a core group meeting on criminal justice system reforms, the rights panel said in a statement.

The focus was on finding ways to address delay in forensic reports, areas of improvement in the prosecution system, and simplification of language used in organs of criminal justice system.

During the discussions, it was emphasised that public prosecutors play a very important role at the trial stage and therefore, it is necessary to create a "cadre-based service" of public prosecutors to ensure transparency and merit in their appointment, the statement said.

A training academy should also be set up for them with a research and analysis wing. They also need to be supported with proper office infrastructure, it said, adding that the witness examination should be the "prerogative of the public prosecutor and not of the judges".

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## **NHRC: राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग की कोर समूह की बैठक, फोरेंसिक प्रयोगशालाओं को बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता पर दिया जोर**

<https://www.amarujala.com/india-news/national-human-rights-commission-core-group-meeting-increase-forensic-laboratories-need-2024-04-25>

बयान के अनुसार, चर्चा के दौरान इस बात पर जोर दिया कि लोक अभियोजक मुकदमे के चरण में बहुत महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं। लोक अभियोजकों की नियुक्ति में पारदर्शिता और योग्यता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कैडर-आधारित सेवा आवश्यक है।

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के कोर समूह की बैठक हुई। इस दौरान, एनएचआरसी अध्यक्ष न्यायमूर्ति (सेनि) अरुण कुमार मिश्रा ने कहा कि भारत में तकनीकी रूप से उन्नत फोरेंसिक प्रयोगशालाओं की संख्या शीघ्र जांच के लिए बढ़ाने की जरूरत है। एनएचआरसी ने एक बयान में बताया कि बुधवार को आपराधिक न्याय प्रणाली सुधारों पर एक कोर ग्रुप की बैठक आयोजित की गई है।

### **विश्लेषण विंग के साथ एक प्रशिक्षण अकादमी भी स्थापित करना चाहिए**

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### **डिजिटल फोरेंसिक को भी मजबूत करना आवश्यक**

एनएचआरसी अध्यक्ष मिश्रा ने कहा कि आपराधिक न्याय प्रणाली में फोरेंसिक जांच एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती है। फोरेंसिक जांच में देरी से न्याय में देरी होती है। एनएचआरसी प्रमुख ने कहा कि आज कल साइबर अपराध बढ़ रहे हैं। ऐसे में नई चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए डिजिटल फोरेंसिक को भी मजबूत करना आवश्यक है। उन्होंने सरकारी अभियोजकों, फोरेंसिक टीमों और पुलिस के बीच व्यवस्थित समन्वय बढ़ाने पर जोर दिया। बैठक में मिश्रा ने कहा कि अदालत के फैसले समझना आम आदमी के लिए मुश्किल हो जाता है। क्योंकि यह अधिकांश अंग्रेजी में दिए जाते हैं।

# The Indian seafarer deserves better in choppy high seas

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ranking third globally, confronts these issues, evident from recent incidents such as the seizure of *MSC Ariès* and the detention of *MT Heroic Idun* at Nigeria (this last case went on for several months).

These events highlight the vulnerabilities of Indian seafarers, catalogued by a survey, showing how a majority lacked legal representation, felt unfairly treated, and were unaware of their rights. India has submitted papers to the IMO's Legal Committee, which emphasise seafarers' security and contract terms. Yet, enhanced international cooperation is needed to safeguard seafarers and ensure uninterrupted navigation, especially amid rising incidents involving Indian seafarers and geopolitical tensions.

Three years ago, the Maritime Union of India highlighted a 40% increase in kidnappings in the Gulf of Guinea, with 134 cases of assault, injury, and threats reported. Incidents such as the kidnapping of 20 Indian nationals from the *MT Duke* (off the western coast of Africa) and the ship owners paying hefty ransoms highlight the dangers faced by seafarers.

## An Indian initiative on rights

In response, the Indian government and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) launched the 'human rights at sea' initiative. Reports reveal cases of seafarers being held in foreign jails, stranded in foreign waters, and subjected to illegal detentions. 'Human Rights at Sea' has highlighted abuses against Indian seafarers, including 200 held in foreign jails and 65 stranded in Indonesia for 151 days. The NHRC has highlighted the challenges of holding ship owners accountable for violations against Indian seafarers operating under foreign registrations to evade taxes and has stressed the need for proactive cooperation among stakeholders and mechanisms to protect human rights in the maritime industry.

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Addressing piracy requires a comprehensive land-based solution. While private guards on merchant navy ships can deter piracy, the volatile nature of piracy-prone oceans poses challenges, as highlighted by Bjorn Hojgaard, CEO of Anglo-Eastern Univan Group, a major employer of Indian seafarers.

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## Seafarers need support

Despite these risks, many Indian seafarers remain committed to their careers at sea, which makes it imperative to have improved rights and protection. Currently representing 9.35% of the global seafaring population, India aims to increase its share to 20% in the next 10 to 20 years, with ship management companies playing a crucial role.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Indian seafarers demonstrated their resilience and professionalism, enhancing India's standing in the global maritime market. The Ukraine-Russia conflict has also created opportunities for new players in the Indian maritime sector.

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## **NHRC: राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग की कोर समूह की बैठक, फोरेंसिक प्रयोगशालाओं को बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता पर दिया जोर**

<https://headtopics.com/in/78728267583223590073-51421221>

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## **NMC Chairman wishes to abolish bond policy, informs FAIMA about NHRC stakeholders meet proceedings**

<https://www.edexlive.com/breaking/2024/Apr/24/nmc-chairman-wishes-to-abolish-bond-policy-informs-faima-about-nhrc-stakeholders-meet-proceedings-2>

The meeting was scheduled to be held at Manav Adhikar Bhawan, INA, Delhi at 10.30 am today. The meeting was presided over by Justice Arun Mishra, Chairperson of the NHRC

In a significant move, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has invited stakeholders for a core committee meeting today, April 24 to discuss the current issues and challenges related to the rights of patients and doctors in India. One of the stakeholders took to X (formerly known as Twitter) saying the National Medical Commission (NMC) Chairman wishes to abolish the bond policy in India."Took part in a meeting Organised by @India\_NHRCGlad to Hear that @NMC\_IND Chairman wishes to abolish bond policy pan India.Also, NMC has taken a positive stand on Stipend given to interns ,PGs.," Dr Rohan Krishnan's tweet read thanking the officials and other stakeholders.

The meeting was scheduled to be held at Manav Adhikar Bhawan, INA, Delhi at 10.30 am today. The meeting was presided over by Justice Arun Mishra, Chairperson of the NHRC. Earlier, in an invitation to the stakeholders, NHRC mentioned the following agendas that are to be discussed during the four technical sessions:

1. Issue of bonds in medical education

2. Patients' rights

3. Doctors' rights

4. Problems in disbursement of stipends to interns and PG students.Following the meeting, the United Doctors Front Association (UDFA) announced that they will host a press meeting at 3 pm today, April 24, to discuss the proceedings of the meeting.Announcing this, UDFA's General Secretary Dr Arun Kumar took to X to share, "At 3 PM UDFA is addressing Press after meeting with NHRC Chaired by Justice Arun Mishra along with NMC Chairman Dr.B.N Gangadhar Sir and NMC Secretary B.Srinivas Sir and many more. Venue -NHRC"What is the bond policy in India?For completion of their MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery) degrees, medical students are required to get into a legal agreement with a government agency or medical institution about working in a specific area or healthcare facility for a specific time.With the existing bond policy in India, incidents of suicides, stress, and depression reported among PG medical students across various institutions are on the rise.In January 2024, the NMC advised states and union territories to do away with the 'seat-leaving bond' policy in medical colleges considering the "alarming levels of stress, anxiety, and depression" encountered by medical students, particularly PG students, in various institutions.

## Arunachal Chakma refugees relocation plan

# Activist questions role of some Chakma leaders

### CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, April 24: After the recent statement of Union minister Kiren Rijiju that the Centre has been planning to relocate the Chakma and Hajong refugees from Arunachal Pradesh to Assam, and that the Chief Minister of Assam has been asked to identify suitable land for this purpose, the Chakma-Hajong issue has snowballed into a major political controversy and placed the ruling BJP in a tight spot ahead of the second phase of the Lok Sabha elections on April 26.

Student organisations and Opposition parties of Assam like Asom Jatiya Parishad

#### At centre of controversy

- BJP Govt under attack over alleged move to relocate Chakmas and other refugees to Assam
- Assam Cong terms alleged relocation plan "a dangerous controversy"
- Assam CM denies talks with Kiren Rijiju over issue

(AJP), Rajgor Dal and Congress have attacked the BJP Government over the alleged move to relocate Chakmas and other refugees and give them citizenship under the CAA rules in Assam. Assam Congress president Bhupen Kumar Borah termed it "a dangerous conspiracy against Assam".

Notably, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has denied Rijiju's statement, stating that no talks have taken place be-

tween him and Rijiju, nor between the Centre and the Assam Government over the issue.

Meanwhile, a top Chakma leader has hinted at the role of a few leaders of the community as well as a possible Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) hand.

Prominent human rights activist Suhas Chakma, in a Facebook post on April 23, suggested that the RSS appeared to have taken the idea of relocating the Chak-

mas and Hajongs forward to "senior levels".

Chakma is the director of the Asian Centre for Human Rights (ACHR) and Rights and Risk Analysis Group (RRAG), both based in New Delhi. He also serves as a member of the NHRC Core Committee.

In the Facebook post, Chakma claimed that the idea of relocation originated after a few Chakmas met "one senior RSS leader" and submitted the "whole relocation plan" as solution to the long-standing Chakma-Hajong refugee problem.

Chakma further stated: "The RSS leader was misled first, but the proposal reached the senior levels.

Then Rijiju and all others were fooled with the perception that Chakmas are ready to be relocated – after all, these...leaders were claiming to be the representative leaders. Rijiju and others thought they can short-circuit the laws and justice system... Today, the half-truth has come out from none other than Himanta Biswa Sarma himself."

However, Chakma refrained from naming the RSS leader to whom the relocation plan was allegedly submitted. But his social media post has confirmed the rumours of the Chakma-Hajong relocation plan and hinted at a possible RSS hand in it.

## माइनिंग और क्रशर से होनेवाले प्रदूषण का अध्ययन करेगा झारखंड

<https://www.prabhatkhabar.com/state/jharkhand/ranchi/jharkhand-to-study-pollution-caused-by-mining-crusher>

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने झारखंड सरकार को राज्य के खननवाले इलाकों में प्रदूषण पर वैज्ञानिक अध्ययन करने का आदेश दिया है. यह आदेश केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड (सीपीसीबी) की रिपोर्ट मिलने के बाद दिया गया है.

### बिपिन सिंह (रांची).

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने झारखंड सरकार को राज्य के खननवाले इलाकों में प्रदूषण पर वैज्ञानिक अध्ययन करने का आदेश दिया है. यह आदेश केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड (सीपीसीबी) की रिपोर्ट मिलने के बाद दिया गया है. राज्य सरकार के स्वास्थ्य विभाग और श्रम नियोजन व प्रशिक्षण विभाग अध्ययन कर अलग-अलग रिपोर्ट तैयार करेंगे. राज्य के वन, पर्यावरण एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग की ओर से विशेष सचिव राजू रंजन राय ने दोनों विभागों के सचिवों को पत्र लिखा है. अब दोनों विभाग अत्यधिक खनन वाले इलाकों और पत्थर तोड़ने वाली इकाइयों (क्रशर) से होने वाले प्रदूषण का अध्ययन करेंगे. उन्हें दो सप्ताह का वक्त दिया गया है. बीमारियों का डेटा संग्रह के साथ राहत व मुआवजा की रिपोर्ट बनेगी : स्वास्थ्य विभाग झारखंड के खनन बहुल क्षेत्रों में उड़ने वाले डस्ट से लोगों के अंदर सिलिकोसिस सहित इस जैसी होनेवाली बीमारियों का नया वैज्ञानिक डेटा तैयार करेगा. वहीं, श्रम नियोजन और प्रशिक्षण विभाग इन बीमारियों से मरने वाले लोगों को राहत और मुआवजा संबंधी रिपोर्ट तैयार करेगा. सुप्रीम कोर्ट में सीपीसीबी ने कहा है कि पत्थर तोड़ने वाली इकाइयों से होनेवाले प्रदूषण पर डेटा जुटाने के लिए वैज्ञानिक अध्ययन किये जायें.

### सुप्रीम कोर्ट के टॉप टेन केस में शामिल है मामला :

इस मामले में 19 अप्रैल को सुप्रीम कोर्ट में पीपल राइट्स एंड सोशल रिसर्च सेंटर एंड अदर्स की ओर से दायर एक याचिका पर सुनवाई हुई थी. 30 अप्रैल को मामला सुप्रीम कोर्ट में देश के टॉप टेन केस के अंदर सूचीबद्ध है. सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा इस वाद में स्टेटस रिपोर्ट दायर करने के लिए अब आगे कोई समय नहीं दिया जायेगा. ज्ञात हो कि पर्यावरण, जलवायु परिवर्तन और मानवाधिकार पर आयोग की पहली कोर सलाहकार समूह की बैठक में भी झारखंड में बिगड़ते पर्यावरण पर गंभीर चिंता जतायी गयी थी. .

### 2017 में ही पेश की गयी है रिपोर्ट :

सीपीसीबी ने राज्य में काम कर रही प्रदूषणकारी इकाइयों के निरीक्षण के बाद 24 जुलाई 2017 को शपथ पत्र के साथ अपनी प्रारंभिक रिपोर्ट अदालत में पेश की थी. रिपोर्ट में खराब तस्वीर सामने आयी थी. पत्थर खनन, उत्पादन और ढुलाई वाले इलाकों में बड़ी तादाद में मजदूर सामान्य से लेकर गंभीर सिलिकोसिस और क्रोनिक फाइब्रोसिस के शिकार हैं.

**झारखंड ने नहीं सौंपी रिपोर्ट, अब आखिरी मौका :**

इस मामले में संविधान के अनुच्छेद 32 के तहत रिट याचिका दायर की गयी थी. 12 अप्रैल 2019 को हुई सुनवाई के दौरान राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग और सीपीसीबी की रिपोर्ट पर राज्य सरकार को स्टेटस रिपोर्ट दायर करने के लिए अनुरोध किया गया था, जो अभी तक नहीं सौंपा गया है. इस मामले में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के अंदर साल 2019 से लेकर अप्रैल 2024 को अलग-अलग सुनवाई और संबंधित आदेश पारित किया गया है.