

NHRC report flags violations at Tihar Jail No 4

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NEW DELHI: A National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) report has flagged a string of irregularities in Tihar's Jail No. 4, including overcrowding, extortion, discrimination based on crime profiles, and inhumane treatment of new inmates.

Among the findings are allegations that new prisoners are forced to scrub toilet seats without soap or disinfectants, and made to pay bribes for access to better facilities. In contrast,

white-collar criminals reportedly enjoy a separate "elite atmosphere" with cleaner wards and fewer inmates.

The report, dated April 28 and accessed by HT, was prepared following a series of complaints from prisoners and submitted to the Delhi Police commissioner and prison authorities. On Tuesday, Delhi Prisons' director general Satish Golcha transferred 10 jail officials, including the superintendent of Jail No. 4, and constituted a six-member committee to investigate the allegations. Golcha declined to comment on

the matter.

NHRC officials who inspected the jail found it dangerously overcrowded, with over 3,100 inmates crammed into a facility meant for just 740. Ward No. 1, which houses inmates accused of theft, murder, and robbery, held 890 prisoners—nearly double its capacity. In contrast, Wards 14 and 15 housed just 123 and 30 inmates, respectively, at capacity, and were described as having "better facilities."

"The capacity of each ward, barrack and cell has not been defined/specified, leaving distri-

bution of the prisoners to the discretion of the jail superintendent and other jail officers. This discretion has resulted in abuse of power," the report said.

The report alleges that prisoners must pay bribes—starting at ₹5,000—for access to services. Inmates claimed jail officials and the superintendent routinely took home medicines and food intended for prisoners. Moreover, newly lodged inmates were subjected to degrading tasks, including scrubbing toilet seats for up to an hour using only stones.

Housing assignments were reportedly made arbitrarily, with no defined capacity for each ward, cell, or barrack. "This allows jail officials unchecked discretion, resulting in unequal and discriminatory distribution of prisoners," the report said.

NHRC also noted that *sewadars* — inmates who assist jail staff — enjoyed better conditions, allegedly as a reward for their obedience and proximity to officials. NHRC has called for urgent corrective action, warning that the jail's conditions violate fundamental human rights.

NHRC to Koraput DM

'Complete all road projects in unconnected habitations'

PNS ■ Bhubaneswar

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on May 2 directed the district Collector of Koraput to take all concrete steps to complete those road connectivity projects under MGNREGS or other applicable schemes. The NHRC also transmitted a copy of the order to the Chief Secretary for information and necessary action.

While adjudicating a petition filed by activist-lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy, the NHRC passed the order, after considering the reports submitted by the State authorities.

Citing the plight of a preg-

nant woman namely Pushpanjali Khora (35) from Haldisil village under Dusarsuni Panchayat of Koraput, who was in labour pain and was shifted to Dasmantpur Community Health Centre on a stretcher as ambulance could not reach due to deplorable condition of the road, the petitioner alleged that 35 such cases were reported since 2016.

It is a common phenomenon for those who fell sick and required specialized treatment but were deprived of the same in the Koraput villages. The petitioner requested the NHRC for ensuring compensation to the victims and to ensure all-

weather road and digital connectivity to all the villages in the district.

The NHRC passed the order after it was informed by the Collector, Koraput that there are still 191 unconnected villages, having population of more than 100 in the district and the District Administration was taking concrete steps to complete the road connectivity projects under MGNREGS.

The Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Department of Panchayati Raj, Odisha submitted that an instruction was issued to the Collector-cum-District Programme Coordinators, MGNREGS of 24 districts of the State, where

villages/ habitations are not connected, to take up projects on urgent basis.

Earlier, the Koraput District Administration had informed the Commission that victim Puspanjali gave birth to a baby boy on 24.08.2024 at CHC, Dasmantpur and the mother as well as the child are in good health condition.

Tripathy in his rejoinder submitted recently urged the Commission to ensure compensation to the mother and baby delivered by her for the plight and trauma they underwent due to lack of roads and due to lack of institutional delivery which was to be ensured by the administration.

Baladevjew temple issues NHRC puts Kendrapada DM, SP on notice

Seeks ATR in 4 weeks

RAJESH BEHERA ■ Kendrapada

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on May 5 has sought for an Action Taken Report (ATR) from the district Collector and the Superintendent of Police, Kendrapada on the prevalent situation in the famous Baladevjew Temple in Kendrapada town.

The NHRC also transmitted a copy of the order to the Chief Secretary and the DGP of Odisha for information and necessary action.

Over a petition filed by activist-lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy, the NHRC passed the order and sought for the ATR within four weeks.

The complainant alleged that the condition of the 400 years-old Baladevjew Temple at Ichhapur has deteriorated due to negligence by the Temple Endowment Trust Board, local police, and district authorities, leading to unhygienic conditions, including filthy toilets, rising criminal activities in its premises including alcohol consumption.

The complainant further alleged that despite multiple complaints and directives for renovation, the temple remains in a state of neglect, violating the religious sentiments and basic human rights of the devotees.

Lord Baladevjew is the symbol of trust and belief of lakhs of devotees but the temple re-

mains neglected. The Baladevjew temple is the second largest endowment Trust Board next to Puri's Jagannath temple, but it is an irony that the temple's developmental work has been neglected though the State government has made several temple renovation, modernisation and beautification works, Tripathy pointed out.

Notably, the Kendrapada Zilla Vikash Parishad (KZVP) earlier met the Temple Endowment Commission and demanded to take steps for shifting of wooden boxes and firewoods from Jhulan mandap and snana mandap, besides steps for renovation of chandan pokhari and beautification works of the temple.

Several times the Temple endowment Commission has directed to vacate the wooden boxes (Sinduka) from Jhulan mandap and firewood from snana mandap, but due to the callous attitude of the Baladevjew Trust Board, the direction is yet to be carried out.

It has created a bad impression for the tourists and devotees towards the temple. Besides, piles of garbage and betel spits are lying near the tube wells at the temple premises adding to the unhygienic conditions and bad odours in the temple.

If the allegations related to the temple are true, it is tantamount to a serious violation of the human rights, stated the Commission in its order.

Hindustan Times

NHRC report flags violations at Tihar Jail No 4

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/delhi-news/nhrc-report-flags-violations-at-tihar-jail-no-4-101746641213071.html>

By Jignasa Sinha | May 08, 2025 05:44 AM IST

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A National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) report has flagged shocking irregularities in Tihar’s Jail No. 4, including overcrowding, extortion, discrimination based on crime profiles, and inhumane treatment of new inmates.

The report, dated April 28 and accessed by HT, was prepared following a series of complaints from prisoners and submitted to the Delhi Police commissioner and prison authorities. (PTI)

Among the findings are allegations that new prisoners are forced to scrub toilet seats without soap or disinfectants, and made to pay bribes for access to better facilities. In contrast, white-collar criminals reportedly enjoy a separate “elite atmosphere” with cleaner wards and fewer inmates.

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NHRC officials who inspected the jail found it dangerously overcrowded, with over 3,100 inmates crammed into a facility meant for just 740. Ward No. 1, which houses inmates accused of theft, murder, and robbery, held 890 prisoners—nearly double its capacity. In contrast, Wards 14 and 15 housed just 123 and 30 inmates respectively, operating at capacity, and were described as having “better facilities.”

“The capacity of each ward, barrack and cell has not been defined/specified, leaving distribution of the prisoners to the discretion of the jail superintendent and other jail officers. This discretion has resulted in abuse of power...” the report said.

The report alleges that prisoners must pay bribes—starting at ₹5,000—for access to services. Inmates claimed jail officials and the superintendent routinely took home medicines and food intended for prisoners.

Moreover, newly lodged inmates were subjected to degrading tasks, including scrubbing toilet seats for up to an hour using only stones. "These tasks were deliberately assigned to extort money," the report noted, adding that inmates were denied cleaning equipment like brushes or soap.

Housing assignments were reportedly made arbitrarily, with no defined capacity for each ward, cell, or barrack. "This allows jail officials unchecked discretion, resulting in unequal and discriminatory distribution of prisoners," the report said.

NHRC also noted that sewadars — inmates who assist jail staff — enjoyed better conditions, allegedly as a reward for their obedience and proximity to officials. Several inmates said they were asked to pay for transfers to cleaner, more spacious wards and to secure regular contact with family members. Some officials had not been transferred despite prior orders to do so, NHRC added.

White-collar criminals, accused of financial and cyber crimes, were placed in specific wards such as Nos. 11 and 14 and received preferential treatment. The report described a separate, "elite atmosphere" created for them.

NHRC has called for urgent corrective action, warning that the jail's conditions violate fundamental human rights and undermine the integrity of the correctional system.

Times Now

NHRC, Sankala Foundation Hold National Conference On `Women leadership Moonshot- Shaping the Future`

The National Conference on Women Leadership Moonshot: Shaping the Future brought together policymakers, scientists, and entrepreneurs to discuss empowering women in India.

<https://www.timesnownews.com/india/sankala-foundation-holds-national-conference-on-women-leadership-moonshot-article-151585743>

Reported by: Shivam Sharma | Updated May 7, 2025, 22:23 IST

The National Conference on Women Leadership Moonshot: Shaping the Future, held at the India Habitat Centre and organized by the Sankala Foundation with support from the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), convened policymakers, scientists, grassroots leaders, and entrepreneurs to discuss empowering women as drivers of India's development.

Key figures including Dr. Kiran Bedi, former Lt. Governor of Puducherry; Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa of India; Bharat Lal, Secretary General and CEO of NHRC; Dr. Vinod Paul, Member of NITI Aayog; and Cynthia McCaffrey, UNICEF India Country Representative, addressed social and economic reforms necessary to realise a Viksit Bharat led by women.

Dr. Kiran Bedi emphasised the need for accountable governance by having senior officials engage daily with field institutions to rebuild public trust. She proposed enhancing rural women's mobility by providing electric scooters to female sarpanches and called for greater policy support for the care industry, predominantly run by women, to foster economic empowerment and social change.

Amitabh Kant highlighted women's critical role in achieving India's \$30+ trillion economy goal, citing progress in financial inclusion, education, and STEM participation among women. He noted that women's bank account ownership rose from 18% to 78% in recent years and that female enrollment in higher education and STEM fields has significantly increased.

Bharat Lal stressed the importance of creating safe and equitable opportunities for young women to contribute to India's growth beyond the current GDP trajectory. He reaffirmed NHRC's commitment to protecting the rights of marginalised groups, especially women, and noted that women constitute 46% of elected representatives in Panchayati Raj Institutions, underscoring India's leadership in grassroots women's governance.

Vinod Paul drew attention to health challenges facing women, including high rates of anaemia and osteoporosis, and the social impact of widowhood. He advocated for a

comprehensive approach to women's health and emphasised the need for robust skilling and employment pathways to bridge the gap between education and workforce participation.

Other notable speakers included Vijaya Bharathi Sayani of NHRC, who highlighted women's historic leadership and resilience, and Cynthia McCaffrey of UNICEF India, who noted increased budget allocations for women's empowerment and legislative representation, benefiting over 1.5 million women leaders and 100 million rural women through financial and livelihood support.

The conference featured four special sessions focusing on women's roles in entrepreneurship, STEM research, governance, and leadership in education and healthcare. It aimed to catalyse transformative change by fostering dialogue among diverse stakeholders and aligning with global commitments such as the G20 New Delhi Declaration and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Dr. Malvika Kaul, Director of Sankala Foundation, described the event as a bold initiative to amplify women's leadership across sectors and outlined plans for ongoing efforts to shape India's future through inclusive policies and support systems.

The Sankala Foundation, a non-profit organisation, is dedicated to advancing research and advocacy in climate change, public health, natural heritage, water, and sanitation.

The New Indian Express

NHRC seeks report on condition of Baladevjew temple in Kendrapara

Though the state has spent crores of rupees on renovation of several other shrines in the state, Baladevjew temple is lying neglected.

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2025/May/07/nhrc-seeks-report-on-condition-of-baladevjew-temple-in-kendrapara>

Express News Service | Updated on: 07 May 2025, 11:59 am

2 min read

KENDRAPARA: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought an action taken report (ATR) from district collector Smruti Ranjan Pradhan and SP Siddharth Kataria on the prevailing condition of the 400-year-old Baladevjew temple in Kendrapara town.

Acting on a petition filed by human rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy, the NHRC passed the order on Monday and directed the district officials to submit the ATR within four weeks. A copy of the order was also forwarded to the chief secretary and the director general of police (DGP) for necessary action.

In his petition, Tripathy said Baladevjew temple, known as Tulasi Khetra, has the second largest endowment trust board after the Shree Jagannath temple in Puri. Though the state has spent crores of rupees on renovation of several other shrines in the state, Baladevjew temple is lying neglected.

He blamed the temple endowment trust board, local police and the district administration for the deteriorating condition of the temple premises, citing unhygienic surroundings, filthy toilets, rampant alcohol consumption and anti-social activities.

Tripathy alleged that a few years back, 40 CCTV cameras were installed on the temple premises to enhance security. However, only 12 are currently operational. Additionally, 30 out of the 32 temple employees are above 60 years of age and are not being remunerated according to prescribed norms, thereby hampering the upkeep of the shrine.

Besides, the Snana Mandap is being used as the storage place for fuel wood which has created an unhygienic atmosphere, he claimed.

“Due to the apathy of the state government and the district administration of Kendrapara, locals, devotees and pilgrims are facing untold miseries. The lack of basic amenities and polluted atmosphere in the temple amounts to serious violation of human rights,” Tripathy alleged.

The temple needs renovation on an urgent basis, he added.

United News of India

NHRC seeks ATR from Kendrapara DM and SP on Baladev Jew Temple Issues

<https://www.uniindia.com/nhrc-seeks-atr-from-kendrapara-dm-and-sp-on-baladev-jew-temple-issues/east/news/3457499.html>

States » East Posted at: May 7 2025 4:24PM

Kendrapara, May 7 (UNI)The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought for an Action Taken Report(ATR) from the Collector and the Superintendent of Police, Kendrapara on the prevalent situation in the famous Baladev Jew Temple in Kendrapada town.

The NHRC also transmitted a copy of the order to the Chief Secretary and the DGP of Odisha for information and necessary action.

Moved by the petition filed by Right Activist Radhakanta Tripathy ,the NHRC passed the order on May 5 and sought for the ATR within four weeks.

Tripathy alleged that the condition of the 400 years old Baldevjee Temple, Kendrapara District, Odisha has deteriorated due to negligence by the Temple Endowment Trust Board, local police, and district authorities, leading to unhygienic conditions, including filthy toilets, alcohol consumption, and anti-social activities within the temple premises.

Tripathy further alleged that despite several complaints and directives for renovation, the temple remains in a state of neglect, violating the religious sentiments and basic human rights of the devotees.

Though 40 CCTVs were installed in the temple to keep a vigil ,but due to sub standard quality of CCTV these are not functioning properly,

Meanwhile 12 out of 40 CCTVs are now operational whereas others are not working .Besides this ,out of 32 employees 30 employees have crossed 60 years old .

Their work is not remunerated as per the norms and parameters. The sub-collector-cum-the Working president of Baladev Jew Temple Endowment Trust Board has not been taking the issue seriously.

Lord Baladev Jew is the symbol of trust and belief of lakhs of devotees but the temple remains neglected .

The Baladev Jew temple is the second largest endowment Trust Board next to Puri's Jagannath temple, but it is irony that the temple developmental work has been lacking behind, though the state government has undertaken renovation, modernisation and beautification works of several temples

The Kendrapara Zilla Vikash Parishad(KZVP) met the Temple Endowment Commission and demanded to take steps for shifting the wooden boxes and fuel woods from Jhulan

mandap and snana mandap ,besides steps should be taken for renovation of chandan pokhari and to carry out the beautification works of the temple in a war footing basis.

On November 6 last ,Deputy Commissioner of Endowment ,Dillip Kumar Satapathy visited Baladevjew temple to take stock of the situation related to the allegations made by Kendrapara Zilla Vikash Parishad (KZVP)

The Jhulan Mandap has turned into the storage place of wooden boxes(sinduka) of the servitors and the Snana Mandap has become the storage place of fuel woods depot by creating an unhygienic atmosphere .

It has created a bad impression for the tourists and devotees towards the temple. The temple needs renovation on an urgent basis.

Several times the Temple endowment Commission of Odisha has directed to vacate the wooden boxes (Sinduka) from jhulan Mandap and fuel wood from snan mandap ,but due to the callous attitude of the Baladevjew Trust board, the direction is yet to be carried out in true letter and spirit

. Besides this the Temple Endowment Trust Board also fears that they might face the wrath of servitors if they try to vacate the wooden boxes and fuel woods from the temple premises.

Although a police bit house was opened about 100 metres distance from the temple, especially for the temple security but the strength of police personnel is very minimum to maintain law and order.

Due to apathetic attitude of the State Government and the District Administration of Kendrapara, the locals, devotees and the pilgrims suffer untold miseries.

The lack of basic amenities and filthy atmosphere , polluted environment and activities of anti-socials amounts to serious violation of human rights, Tripathy alleged.

He requested the Commission to investigate the case in detail by a team of officials and direct the State Home Department, Temple Endowment Commission of Odisha, District Collector and SP of Kendrapada to ensure potable drinking water and clean and hygienic toilets for the locals and devotees, pilgrims in the temple premises,to ensure healthy atmosphere and hygienic environment.

He has also requested the commission to ensure renovation and beautification of the temple at the earliest, to open a police bit house inside the temple by shifting the existing one to temple premises and to take steps for engaging half platoon of police personnel round the clock to ensure the safety and sanctity of 400- years old temple.

The Commission stated that if the above allegations are true, it would be tantamount to a serious violation of the human rights of the complainant.

The Bench of the National Human Rights Commission, presided by Priyank Kanungo, the Member of NHRC , has taken cognizance in terms of Section 12 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, in the matter.

The commission directed to send the complaint to the authority concerned and issue a notice to the DM and SP, Kendrapara District, with directions to get the allegations made in the complaint looked into and to submit an Action Taken Report within four weeks for perusal of the Commission.

Janta Se Rishta

एनएचआरसी ने केंद्रपाड़ा के बलदेवजेव मंदिर की उपेक्षा पर रिपोर्ट मांगी

<https://jantaserishta.com/local/odisha/nhrc-seeks-report-on-neglect-of-baldevjev-temple-in-kendrapara-3998717>

May 7, 2025

Bhubaneswar : भुवनेश्वर: राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने केंद्रपाड़ा के जिला कलेक्टर और पुलिस अधीक्षक को नोटिस जारी कर ओडिशा के सबसे प्रतिष्ठित धार्मिक स्थलों में से एक 300 साल पुराने बलदेवजेव मंदिर की बिगड़ती स्थिति पर चार सप्ताह के भीतर कार्रवाई रिपोर्ट मांगी है। सोमवार को जारी एनएचआरसी के निर्देश को उचित कार्रवाई के लिए ओडिशा के मुख्य सचिव मनोज आहूजा और पुलिस महानिदेशक वाईबी खुरानिया को भी भेज दिया गया है।

यह कदम मानवाधिकार कार्यकर्ता और वकील राधाकांत त्रिपाठी द्वारा दायर याचिका के बाद उठाया गया है, जिन्होंने मंदिर के खराब रखरखाव को उजागर किया और मंदिर के बंदोबस्ती ट्रस्ट बोर्ड, जिला प्रशासन और पुलिस अधिकारियों द्वारा घोर लापरवाही का आरोप लगाया।

त्रिपाठी ने मंदिर के शौचालयों की अस्वच्छ स्थिति, परिसर में शराब पीने और असामाजिक गतिविधियों की मौजूदगी और सामान्य रूप से निगरानी की कमी के बारे में गंभीर चिंता जताई, जिसके बारे में उन्होंने कहा कि इससे पवित्र स्थल की पवित्रता से समझौता हुआ है। उन्होंने बताया कि स्थापित 40 सीसीटीवी कैमरों में से केवल 12 ही काम कर रहे हैं, जिससे परिसर असुरक्षित है और इसकी निगरानी ठीक से नहीं हो पा रही है।

याचिकाकर्ता ने बंदोबस्ती के उपायुक्त दिलीप कुमार सतपथी द्वारा हाल ही में किए गए निरीक्षण का भी हवाला दिया, जिसमें पता चला कि झूलन मंडप और स्नान मंडप जैसे पवित्र क्षेत्रों को भंडारण स्थानों के रूप में फिर से इस्तेमाल किया गया है। त्रिपाठी ने आरोप लगाया कि उप-कलेक्टर, जो बलदेवजू मंदिर बंदोबस्ती ट्रस्ट बोर्ड के कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष के रूप में कार्य करते हैं, ने मुद्दों को हल करने में बहुत कम पहल की है। त्रिपाठी ने कहा, "ओडिशा भर में मंदिरों के जीर्णोद्धार के लिए राज्य सरकार के व्यापक प्रयासों के बावजूद, बलदेवजू मंदिर- जिसे तुलसी क्षेत्र के रूप में भी जाना जाता है और लाखों भक्तों द्वारा पूजनीय है- की उपेक्षा जारी है।" उल्लेखनीय है कि बालादेवजू मंदिर, पुरी के जगन्नाथ मंदिर के बाद ओडिशा में दूसरे सबसे बड़े बंदोबस्ती ट्रस्ट बोर्ड का प्रबंधन करता है, जो इसके धार्मिक और प्रशासनिक महत्व को रेखांकित करता है।