

## NHRC chairperson advocates integration of ancient values into modern policies for dignity of Sr citizens

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National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairperson, Justice V Ramasubramanian, has said that India has a rich cultural tradition that advocates care and reverence for the elderly as a fundamental societal value.

In this context, he also cited references from Sangam literature and the Yajur Veda.

Justice Ramasubramanian was speaking at a national conference titled 'Ageing in India: Emerging Realities, Evolving Responses', held here.

In his inaugural address, the NHRC Chairperson called for integrating these ancient values and principles into modern policy frameworks to ensure the dignity, protection, and well-being of senior citizens. This, he said, would align with the NHRC's mandate to uphold human rights.

Emphasizing the Commission's commitment to safeguarding the rights of the elderly, he highlighted several



NHRC initiatives, including advisories, core group meetings, research studies, and suo motu cognizance of cases.

The NHRC, in collaboration with NITI Aayog, the Union Ministries of Social Justice & Empowerment and Health & Family Welfare, supported the Sankala Foundation in organizing the day-long national conference.

The conference focused on protecting the human rights and dignity of senior citizens, while also redefining ageing as an opportunity. It

aimed to promote innovative policies, encourage stakeholder dialogue, and highlight scalable best practices in response to the evolving challenges and opportunities of India's ageing population.

In his special address, Dr. Vinod K. Paul, Member (Health, Nutrition and Education), NITI Aayog, emphasized the importance of healthcare and social security frameworks for the elderly. He stated that empowering families to care for their elderly members should remain the

foundation of India's approach.

Earlier, in his keynote address, NHRC Secretary General Bharat Lal, while setting the agenda for the conference, said that India is projected to have nearly 35 crore elderly people by 2050, with one in every five Indians being a senior citizen—posing a significant policy challenge.

He stressed the need to develop family- and community-based care models rooted in India's traditional value system, supplemented by global best practices.

Bharat Lal also cited the NHRC Advisory on the Rights of Widows issued in 2024, which urged state authorities to ensure access to pensions, housing, and healthcare for destitute and elderly widows. He further recalled the NHRC Advisory on Protecting Older Persons during the COVID-19 Pandemic, which focused on equitable access to vaccination, home-based care, mental health support, and protection from neglect or abandonment during lockdowns.

# साधन की कमी से स्कूल छोड़ रही बेटियां

■ प्रभात कुमार

नई दिल्ली। साधनों की कमी बेटियों को शिक्षित बनाने की राह में रोड़ा बन रही है। घर के पास स्कूल, परिवहन और अन्य सुविधाओं की कमी से बेटियां बीच में ही पढ़ाई छोड़ देती हैं।

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) के अध्ययन में यह खुलासा हुआ है। आयोग ने सरकार से हाई स्कूल और उच्चतर माध्यमिक विद्यालयों की कमी दूर करने एवं परिवहन साधन उपलब्ध कराने की मांग की है, ताकि बेटियां पढ़ सकें।

**39.4% लड़कियां स्कूल से बाहर** राष्ट्रीय बाल संरक्षण अधिकार आयोग



की एक रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, 15 से 18 वर्ष की 39.4 फीसदी लड़कियां स्कूल से बाहर हैं, जबकि 57 फीसदी लड़कियां 11वीं तक आते-आते पढ़ाई

## सुरक्षा बड़ी चिंता

एनएचआरसी की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, हाई स्कूल और सीनियर सेकेंडरी स्कूल दूर होने की वजह से परिवहन एक बड़ी चुनौती है। स्कूलों में परिवहन की व्यवस्था न होने से अभिभावकों के मन में बच्चों की सुरक्षा की चिंता बढ़ जाती है। इस कारण भी माता-पिता की बच्चियों को स्कूल भेजने में रुचि कम रहती है।

छोड़ देती हैं। देश में आज भी 15 वर्ष से कम आयु वाले बच्चों में 2.7 फीसदी लड़कों की तुलना में 3.2 फीसदी लड़कियां स्कूल नहीं जाती हैं।

## ये हैं समाधान

- हाईस्कूलों और उच्चतर माध्यमिक विद्यालयों की संख्या बढ़ाई जाए।
- सभी स्कूलों में परिवहन सुविधा मुहैया कराई जाए, ताकि बेटियां स्कूल आने में सुरक्षित महसूस करें।
- स्कूल भवनों के बुनियादी ढांचे से जुड़ी सुविधाओं की समीक्षा हो। इन्हें दिव्यांगों के अनुकूल बनाएं।
- ऑनलाइन शिक्षा को बढ़ावा दें और इसके लिए स्कूलों में सुविधाएं हों।
- स्कूलों में लड़कियों के लिए पर्याप्त शौचालय उपलब्ध हों, जिनमें स्वच्छता पर जोर दिया जाए।





# Ageing crisis: Report seeks senior-friendly financial policy

KALYAN RAY  
NEW DELHI, DHNS

**W**ith the number of ageing Indians crossing 150 million, experts have suggested a review of government policies such as tax exemption on medical insurance and extending the age-limit for MUDRA loans to ensure “income security” for the elderly.

Measures like imposition of 18% tax on private health insurance; security from financial frauds; pension support in the form of non-contributory schemes for all and a re-look at the age barrier for government social welfare schemes are some of the steps recommended by the experts.

These are some of the recommendations of a report by Sankala Foundation that gets support from Niti Aayog, National Human Rights Commission, the Ministry of Social Justice and Ministry of Health. The report was released here on Friday.

In 2011, India was home to 104 million senior citizens, according to the census, but the numbers have swelled to over 150 million by 2022. According to the UN, India will have 347 million ageing population by 2050 account-

## POLICY PROP

- Make healthcare insurance for seniors affordable by exempting 18% tax
- Re-look barrier for govt social welfare schemes
- Revise age limit for loans under the Mudra scheme
- Help with financial, digital literacy to ensure protection against financial fraud

ing for nearly 21% of the population.

“Goods and services that address the needs of senior citizens should be exempted from taxes. In this regard, the 18% tax on private health insurance acts as a deterrent for senior citizens,” the report says.

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# Ageing crisis: Report seeks senior-friendly financial policy

**Ageing, from Page 3**

“This could be exempted for senior citizens so that health-care insurance becomes affordable, and people have a safety net during illness.”

The report calls for creation of self-help groups for senior citizens to foster entrepreneurship and proposes a revision of the age limit for loans under the Ministry of Finance’s Micro Unit Development and Reliance Agency scheme to help secure finances for senior citizens.

Releasing the report, Justice V Ramasubramanian, NHRC chairperson said the need for dependence on the government for elderly care had arisen because families were disintegrating. “Traditionally, elders were taken care of by the families, and not by the rulers,” he said.

“Senior citizens are vulnerable to financial fraud, especially with the proliferation of digital tools in our daily lives. Targeted measures could be taken to help them with finan-

cial and digital literacy that ensures protection against financial fraud,” the report notes.

On the health needs, the report says special attention needs to be given on mental health disorders, such as depression, which significantly impairs a person’s later years of life.

“While most attention is paid towards chronic conditions (like hypertension and diabetes) and physical disabilities, mental health concerns often take a backseat,” it says.

Amit Yadav, Secretary, Union Ministry of Social Welfare and Empowerment, said the ministry was working on a policy for the elderly citizens with a focus on ageing with dignity and healthy ageing.

“The Union Health Ministry is evaluating the National Programme for the Health Care of Elderly and the recommendations will help,” said Vijay Nehra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

## **NHRC for action taken report on caste-derogatory village, locality names across India**

**NEW DELHI:** In a significant move aimed at upholding constitutional values of equality and dignity, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to the Department of Posts and the Principal Secretaries of Urban Development and Panchayati Raj Departments across all States and Union Territories, calling for a detailed Action Taken Report (ATR) regarding the continued use of caste-indicative and derogatory names for villages, localities, settlements, and streets across the country.

The matter was brought before the NHRC through a complaint dated July 10, 2025, and considered by the Commission on July 28.

The complainant had raised serious concerns about the persistence of offensive nomenclature that reflects caste-based discrimination.



## जातिसूचक नाम वाले गांवों और बस्तियों के नाम बदलें : एनएचआरसी

**प्रमुख संवाददाता, रांची**

□ नगर विकास व पंचायती राज  
विभाग को नोटिस जारी कर  
कार्रवाई की रिपोर्ट मांगी गयी

देश भर में गांवों, बस्तियों और मोहल्लों के जातिसूचक और अपमानजनक नाम को लेकर राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने सख्त रुख अपनाया है। आयोग ने झारखंड समेत सभी राज्यों को निर्देश दिया है कि अपने-अपने क्षेत्र में ऐसे गांवों, बस्तियों और मोहल्लों की पहचान कर नामों की समीक्षा कर आवश्यक संशोधन करें। आयोग ने नगर विकास और पंचायती राज विभाग को नोटिस जारी कर कार्रवाई की रिपोर्ट (एटीआर) भी मांगी है। आयोग को मिली शिकायत में कहा गया था कि आज भी देश के कई हिस्सों में ऐसे नाम प्रचलन में हैं, जो अनुसूचित जातियों के लोगों की गरिमा को ठेस पहुंचाते हैं। इनमें से कई नाम औपचारिक रूप से भले ही बदल दिये गये हों, लेकिन व्यवहार में अब भी

इस्तेमाल हो रहे हैं। आजादी के 75 साल बाद भी समाज के कमजोर वर्गों को ऐसे नामों की वजह से सामाजिक अपमान का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। यह न केवल मानसिक आघात पहुंचाता है, बल्कि सामाजिक भेदभाव को भी बढ़ावा देता है। इसके लिए स्थानीय स्तर पर नामों की समीक्षा जरूरी है। आयोग के अध्यक्ष प्रियांक कानूनगो की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ ने मामले में संज्ञान लेते हुए कहा कि ऐसे नाम संविधान में वर्णित समानता और सम्मान के अधिकार के खिलाफ हैं। इस पर मानवाधिकार संरक्षण अधिनियम 1993 की धारा 12 के तहत कार्रवाई शुरू की गयी है।

## मानवाधिकार आयोग से मृतकों को इंसाफ दिलाने की मांग की

जालंधर | सिविल अस्पताल में डॉक्टरों की लापरवाही से तीन मरीजों की मौत हो गई थी। इससे पहले भी हॉस्पिटल प्रशासन की गलतियों के कारण कई मरीज अपनी जान गवा चुके हैं।

इसको लेकर समाज सेवी ललित मेहता ने पंजाब और राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग में शिकायत दर्ज की है। साथ ही मृतकों के परिजनों को इंसाफ दिलाने की मांग की है। उन्होंने कहा कि इससे पहले वर्ष 2020 में सिविल हॉस्पिटल जालंधर में बेसहारा मरीजों को इलाज के बाद दमोरिया पुल के रैन बसेरे के पास फेंक दिया था। इसके बाद भी इनके हस्तात नहीं सुधरे वर्ष 2024 में फिर दो मरीजों को रैन बसेरा के पास फेंक दिया।

जिसमें एक व्यक्ति की मौत हो गई, जो मामला आयोग के पास विचाराधीन है। वहीं जनवरी में राजू बाबा नाम के व्यक्ति को सिविल हॉस्पिटल से दोबारा रैन बसेरा के बाहर फेंक गया। जिसको मैन वापिस सिविल हॉस्पिटल में दाखिल करवाया। बाद में मरीज की मौत हो गई। अब 27 जुलाई को हॉस्पिटल प्रशासन की लापरवाही के कारण तीन मरीजों की मौत हो गई। यूनिशन के दबाव में डॉक्टरों की गलतियों को छुपाया जाता है। इस केस में कानूनी कार्रवाई को कर्मजोर करने के लिए डॉक्टरों ने मृतक लोगों का पोस्टमार्टम तक नहीं किया। इसलिए आयोग से केस की निष्पक्ष जांच करके मृतकों को इंसाफ दिलाने की मांग की।

# मैं चुनाव हारी हूँ, जीत का प्रमाण पत्र ले लीजिए

■ सतीश जोशी 'सत्'

चम्पावत। साहब ! मैं चुनाव नहीं जीती हूँ, मेरा जीत का प्रमाण पत्र वापस ले लीजिए। पंचायत चुनाव मतगणना के बाद चम्पावत में रिटर्निंग ऑफिसर के सामने आई इस अपील ने हर किसी को हैरान कर दिया। ग्राम प्रधान पद पर जीत का प्रमाण पत्र हासिल करने वाली प्रत्याशी का दावा है कि वह हारी हैं और उसे गलती से जीता घोषित किया गया है। मामले में आपत्ति को स्वीकार कर लिया गया है।

मामला चम्पावत के सीमांत तरकुली ग्राम प्रधान का है। प्रत्याशी काजल बिष्ट का दावा है कि मतगणना में वह



काजल बिष्ट।

## काजल ने दी थी जीत की बधाई

प्रधान पद के दूसरे प्रत्याशी सुमित कुमार ने कहा कि मुझे तीन वोट से जीत हासिल हुई। काजल बिष्ट ने उन्हें खुद बधाई दी थी। चुनाव कर्मियों तब कहा कि बाद में प्रमाण पत्र ले जाएं। इसके बाद वह मतगणना स्थल से बाहर आ गए। सुमित ने बताया कि बाद में शाम को जब जीत का प्रमाण पत्र लेने गए तो पता चला कि वह प्रतिद्वंद्वी काजल बिष्ट को दिया जा चुका है।

अपने प्रतिद्वंद्वी सुमित कुमार से तीन मतों से हार गईं। वह मतगणना स्थल से बाहर निकल गईं। शाम को समर्थक ने फोन किया कि लाउडस्पीकर पर काजल बिष्ट को प्रमाण पत्र लेने के लिए बुलाया जा रहा है। वह लौटती तो

उन्हें विजेता होने का प्रमाण पत्र दिया गया। काजल दावा है कि गलती से उन्हें विजयी बताया गया है। जबकि सुमित कुमार विजेता हैं। उन्होंने निर्वाचन आयोग की लापरवाही बनाते हुए उच्चस्तरीय जांच की मांग उठाई।

तरकुली में ग्राम प्रधान के चुनाव में हारे हुए प्रत्याशी को विजेता का प्रमाण पत्र दिए जाने की शिकायत मिली है। काजल बिष्ट की आपत्ति को स्वीकार कर लिया गया है। इस मामले में अब एसडीएम न्यायालय में मामले की सुनवाई होगी। एक माह के भीतर पुनर्गणना कराई जा सकती है।

- धनपत कुमार, आरओ, चम्पावत



# साधन की कमी से स्कूल छोड़ रही बेटियां

■ प्रभात कुमार

नई दिल्ली। साधनों की कमी बेटियों को शिक्षित बनाने की राह में रोड़ा बन रही है। घर के पास स्कूल, परिवहन और अन्य सुविधाओं की कमी से बेटियां बीच में ही पढ़ाई छोड़ देती हैं।

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**39.4% लड़कियां स्कूल से बाहर** राष्ट्रीय बाल संरक्षण अधिकार आयोग



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## सुरक्षा बड़ी चिंता

एनएचआरसी की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, हाई स्कूल और सीनियर सेकेंडरी स्कूल दूर होने की वजह से परिवहन एक बड़ी चुनौती है। स्कूलों में परिवहन की व्यवस्था न होने से अभिभावकों के मन में बच्चों की सुरक्षा की चिंता बढ़ जाती है। इस कारण भी माता-पिता की बच्चियों को स्कूल भेजने में रुचि कम रहती है।

छोड़ देती हैं। देश में आज भी 15 वर्ष से कम आयु वाले बच्चों में 2.7 फीसदी लड़कों की तुलना में 3.2 फीसदी लड़कियां स्कूल नहीं जाती हैं।

## ये हैं समाधान

- हाईस्कूलों और उच्चतर माध्यमिक विद्यालयों की संख्या बढ़ाई जाए।
- सभी स्कूलों में परिवहन सुविधा मुहैया कराई जाए, ताकि बेटियां स्कूल आने में सुरक्षित महसूस करें।
- स्कूल भवनों के बुनियादी ढांचे से जुड़ी सुविधाओं की समीक्षा हो। इन्हें दिव्यांगों के अनुकूल बनाएं।
- ऑनलाइन शिक्षा को बढ़ावा दें और इसके लिए स्कूलों में सुविधाएं हों।
- स्कूलों में लड़कियों के लिए पर्याप्त शौचालय उपलब्ध हों, जिनमें स्वच्छता पर जोर दिया जाए।

NHRC

**NHRC, India supported a day-long National Conference on 'Ageing in India: Emerging Realities, Evolving Responses' organised by Sankala Foundation in collaboration with NITI Aayog, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Health and Family**

Press Release

National Human Rights Commission

<https://nhrc.nic.in/media/press-release/nhrc-india-supported-day-long-national-conference-%E2%80%98ageing-india-emerging>

New Delhi: 2nd August, 2025

NHRC, India supported a day-long National Conference on 'Ageing in India: Emerging Realities, Evolving Responses' organised by Sankala Foundation in collaboration with NITI Aayog, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian calls for integrating ancient Indian cultural principles into modern policy frameworks to ensure the dignity, protection and well-being of senior citizens, in alignment with the NHRC's mandate to uphold human rights

Viewing ageing as a national asset, NHRC Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal calls for adapting Scandinavian and Japanese models into India's policy frameworks entwined with its cultural context

A report, 'Ageing in India: Challenges and Opportunities,' for inclusive, sustainable elderly care released at the conference addressed by several eminent experts

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India in partnership with NITI Aayog, Union Ministries of Social Justice & Empowerment and Health & Family Welfare supported the Sankala Foundation in organising a day-long National Conference on 'Ageing in India: Emerging realities, evolving responses', which was held in New Delhi on 1st August, 2025. The conference focused on protecting the human rights and dignity of senior citizens and redefining ageing as an opportunity. It aimed to promote innovative policies, encourage stakeholder dialogue and highlight scalable best practices in response to the evolving challenges and opportunities of India's ageing population.

In his inaugural address, NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian said that India has a rich cultural tradition advocating care and reverence for the elderly as a fundamental societal value. In this context, he also drew references from the Sangam literature and the Yajur Veda. He called for the integration of these ancient values and principles into modern policy frameworks to ensure the dignity, protection and well-being of senior citizens, in alignment with the NHRC's mandate to uphold human rights.

Underscoring the Commission's commitment to protecting the rights of the elderly, he highlighted its various initiatives, including advisories, core group meetings, research studies and suo motu cognizance cases.

In his special address, Dr. Vinod K. Paul, Member (Health, Nutrition and Education), NITI Aayog, emphasised the importance of healthcare and social security frameworks for the ageing population. He said that empowering families to take care of their elderly should remain the foundation of India's approach.

Before this, in his keynote address, the NHRC Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal setting the agenda of the conference said that India will have nearly 35 crore elderly people by 2050, when one in every five will be a senior citizen, posing a critical policy challenge. He stressed the need to evolve family and community-based care models rooted in India's family value system and supplemented by global best practices. He cited the NHRC Advisory on the Rights of Widows issued in 2024, which urged state authorities to ensure access to pensions, housing and healthcare for destitute and elderly widows. He also recalled the NHRC Advisory on Protecting Older Persons during the COVID-19 Pandemic, which focused on equitable access to vaccination, home-based care, mental health support and protection from neglect or abandonment during lockdowns.

Viewing elderly people as men and women of knowledge, experience and wisdom, Shri Lal emphasised community-based services and inter-generational engagements for elderly care on the models of Scandinavian countries and Japan by adapting them to the Indian cultural context. He called on stakeholders to study the report titled 'Ageing in India: Challenges and Opportunities' released in the inaugural session for inclusive and community-led healthcare and enable them to play a continued meaningful role in nation building.

Earlier, Shri Devendra Kumar Nim, Director, Sankala Foundation, outlined the objectives of the conference. It was spread into four thematic sessions addressed by eminent experts. These included 'Strengthening Elderly Welfare: Policy and Practice' chaired by Shri Amit Yadav, Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, 'Health and Mental Wellbeing of the Elderly' by Smt Preeti Sudan, Former Chairperson, UPSC and Former Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, 'Leveraging Ageing for Growth and Development' by Shri Amitabh Kant, Former G20 Sherpa, India and Former CEO, NITI Aayog and 'Shaping Futures: Preparing for an Ageing Society' by Dr. Vinod K. Paul, Member (Health, Nutrition & Education), NITI Aayog.

Some other eminent speakers were: Dr. Kiran Bedi, Former Lt. Governor of Puducherry; Shri Amarjeet Sinha, Former Secretary, Department of Rural Development & Former Advisor, Prime Minister's Office; Shri V. Srinivas, Secretary, Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare; Shri Manoj Yadava, former DGP, Haryana and DG Railway Protection Force, and former DG (Inv.), NHRC; HE Amb'r Lim Sang Woo, Charge d'Affaires, Embassy of the Republic of Korea in New Delhi; Shri Vijay Nehra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare; Ms. Preeti Nath, Economic Adviser,



MEITY; Dr. Sanjay Wadhwa, Professor & Head, Dept. of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, AIIMS, New Delhi; Shri Mathew Cherian, Global Ambassador for Ageing, HelpAge International; Dr. Manohar Agnani, Former Addl. Secretary, MoH&FW and Professor of Public Health, Azim Premji University, Bhopal; Professor T. V. Shekhar, International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai; Smt Pavithra Reddy, COO, Vayah Vikas, Bengaluru; Shri Jaydeep Biswas, Chief of Policy, Advocacy and Partnerships at UNFPA India; Shri Asheesh Gupta, Founder and MD, Samarth Elder Care; Shri Yudhistir Govinda Das, Director of Communication, ISKCON India, among others.

The participants included senior government functionaries, member of academia, research organisations, startups, tech and healthcare companies, representatives of civil society, geriatric care and palliative care institutions, among others.

Some of the key outcomes of the deliberation were:

- Better nutrition and improved healthcare have increased the life expectancy, resulting in a growing elderly population. This creates both challenges as well as opportunities for a developing country like India amid 'ageing without affluence'.
- Need to make ageing aspirational through early preparation, active and productive ageing, by adopting a lifestyle approach with investment from a younger age.
- Technological advancements reduce labour-intensive work. However, efficiency and productivity are on the increase with the use of knowledge, skills and wisdom. It provides an opportunity to 60+ aged people to make meaningful contributions.
- Need to provide more opportunities to elderly people, enabling them to continue making meaningful contributions.
- Need for creating a competitive environment among states to improve elderly care, along with greater decentralisation, where local self-governments take on larger responsibilities.
- Model programme like Kerala's Palliative Care may be adopted for elderly care.
- Ensuring financial security, digital literacy, long-term care insurance, digital healthcare, assistive devices and platforms for engagement are necessary for integrating the elderly into India's 'silver economy.'
- The Indian model for elderly care and support must give primacy to family and community-led initiatives.

The conference called upon all stakeholders, including government institutions, civil society organisations and the public, to actively engage in initiatives aimed at upholding the dignity and rights of the elderly population, thereby contributing to the establishment of a just and equitable society.

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PIB

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<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2151703>

Posted On: 02 AUG 2025 2:22PM by PIB Delhi

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India in partnership with NITI Aayog, Union Ministries of Social Justice & Empowerment and Health & Family Welfare supported the Sankala Foundation in organising a day-long National Conference on 'Ageing in India: Emerging realities, evolving responses', which was held in New Delhi on 1st August, 2025. The conference focused on protecting the human rights and dignity of senior citizens and redefining ageing as an opportunity. It aimed to promote innovative policies, encourage stakeholder dialogue and highlight scalable best practices in response to the evolving challenges and opportunities of India's ageing population.

In his inaugural address, NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian said that India has a rich cultural tradition advocating care and reverence for the elderly as a fundamental societal value. In this context, he also drew references from the Sangam literature and the Yajur Veda. He called for the integration of these ancient values and principles into modern policy frameworks to ensure the dignity, protection and well-being of senior citizens, in alignment with the NHRC's mandate to uphold human rights. Underscoring the Commission's commitment to protecting the rights of the elderly, he highlighted its various initiatives, including advisories, core group meetings, research studies and suo motu cognizance cases.

In his special address, Dr. Vinod K. Paul, Member (Health, Nutrition and Education), NITI Aayog, emphasised the importance of healthcare and social security frameworks for the ageing population. He said that empowering families to take care of their elderly should remain the foundation of India's approach.

Before this, in his keynote address, the NHRC Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal setting the agenda of the conference said that India will have nearly 35 crore elderly people by 2050, when one in every five will be a senior citizen, posing a critical policy challenge. He stressed the need to evolve family and community-based care models rooted in India's family value system and supplemented by global best practices. He cited the NHRC Advisory on the Rights of Widows issued in 2024, which urged state authorities to ensure access to pensions, housing and healthcare for destitute and elderly widows. He also recalled the NHRC Advisory on Protecting Older Persons during the COVID-19 Pandemic, which focused on equitable access to vaccination, home-based care, mental health support and protection from neglect or abandonment during lockdowns. Viewing elderly people as men and women of knowledge, experience and wisdom, Shri Lal emphasised community-based services and inter-generational engagements for elderly care on the models of Scandinavian countries and Japan by adapting them to the Indian cultural context. He called on stakeholders to study the report titled 'Ageing in India: Challenges and Opportunities' released in the inaugural session for inclusive and community-led healthcare and enable them to play a continued meaningful role in nation building.

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NSK

(Release ID: 2151703)

Deccan Herald

### **With rise in India's elderly population, experts suggest a review of financial policies**

These are some of the recommendations of a report by Sankala Foundation that gets support from NITI Ayog, National Human Rights Commission, the Ministry of Social Justice and Ministry of Health. The report was released here on Friday.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/india/with-rise-in-indias-elderly-population-experts-suggest-a-review-of-financial-policies-3662773>

Kalyan Ray DHNS Last Updated : 02 August 2025, 20:27 IS

New Delhi: With the number of ageing Indians crossing 150 million, experts have suggested a review of government policies such as tax exemption on medical insurance and extending the age-limit for MUDRA loans to ensure “income security” for the elderly.

Measures like imposition of 18 per cent tax on private health insurance; security from financial frauds; pension support in the form of non-contributory schemes for all and a re-look at the age barrier for government social welfare schemes are some of the steps recommended by the experts. These are some of the recommendations of a report by Sankala Foundation that gets support from NITI Ayog, National Human Rights Commission, the Ministry of Social Justice and Ministry of Health. The report was released here on Friday.

In 2011, India was home to 104 million senior citizens, as per the census, but the numbers have swelled to over 150 million by 2022. According to the UN, India will have 347 million ageing population by 2050 accounting for nearly 21 per cent of the population. “Goods and services that specifically address the needs of senior citizens should be exempted from taxes. In this regard, the 18 per cent tax on private healthcare insurance acts as a deterrent for senior citizens,” the report says. “This could be exempted for senior citizens so that healthcare insurance becomes affordable, and people have a safety net during illness.

The report calls for creation of self-help groups for senior citizens to foster entrepreneurship and proposes a revision of the age limit for loans under the Ministry of Finance’s Micro Unit Development and Reliance Agency scheme to help secure finances for senior citizens. Releasing the report Justice V Ramasubramanian, NHRC chairperson said the need for dependence on the government for elderly care had arisen because families were disintegrating.

“Traditionally, elders were taken care of by the families, and not by the rulers,” he said. “Senior citizens are vulnerable to financial fraud, especially with the proliferation of digital tools in our daily lives. Targeted measures could be taken to help them with financial and digital literacy that ensures protection against financial fraud,” the report notes. On the health needs, the report says special attention needs to be given on mental health disorders, such as depression, which significantly impairs a person’s later years of life

“While most attention is paid towards chronic conditions (like hypertension and diabetes) and physical disabilities, mental health concerns often take a backseat,” it says.

Amit Yadav, Secretary, Union Ministry of Social Welfare and Empowerment, said the ministry was working on a policy for the elderly citizens with a focus on ageing with dignity and healthy ageing. “The Union Health Ministry is evaluating the National Programme for the Health Care of Elderly and the recommendations will help,” said Vijay Nehra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.



The Statesman

## **NHRC chairperson advocates integration of ancient Indian values into modern policies for dignity of senior citizens**

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairperson, Justice V Ramasubramanian, has said that India has a rich cultural tradition that advocates care and reverence for the elderly as a fundamental societal value.

<https://www.thestatesman.com/cities/nhrc-chairperson-advocates-integration-of-ancient-indian-values-into-modern-policies-for-dignity-of-senior-citizens-1503465907.html>

Statesman News Service | New Delhi | August 2, 2025 7:12 pm

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairperson, Justice V Ramasubramanian, has said that India has a rich cultural tradition that advocates care and reverence for the elderly as a fundamental societal value.

In this context, he also cited references from Sangam literature and the Yajur Veda.

Justice Ramasubramanian was speaking at a national conference titled 'Ageing in India: Emerging Realities, Evolving Responses', held here.

In his inaugural address, the NHRC Chairperson called for integrating these ancient values and principles into modern policy frameworks to ensure the dignity, protection, and well-being of senior citizens. This, he said, would align with the NHRC's mandate to uphold human rights.

Emphasizing the Commission's commitment to safeguarding the rights of the elderly, he highlighted several NHRC initiatives, including advisories, core group meetings, research studies, and suo motu cognizance of cases.

The NHRC, in collaboration with NITI Aayog, the Union Ministries of Social Justice & Empowerment and Health & Family Welfare, supported the Sankala Foundation in organizing the day-long national conference.

The conference focused on protecting the human rights and dignity of senior citizens, while also redefining ageing as an opportunity. It aimed to promote innovative policies, encourage stakeholder dialogue, and highlight scalable best practices in response to the evolving challenges and opportunities of India's ageing population.

In his special address, Dr. Vinod K. Paul, Member (Health, Nutrition and Education), NITI Aayog, emphasized the importance of healthcare and social security frameworks for the elderly. He stated that empowering families to care for their elderly members should remain the foundation of India's approach.

Earlier, in his keynote address, NHRC Secretary General Bharat Lal, while setting the agenda for the conference, said that India is projected to have nearly 35 crore elderly

people by 2050, with one in every five Indians being a senior citizen—posing a significant policy challenge.

He stressed the need to develop family- and community-based care models rooted in India's traditional value system, supplemented by global best practices.

Bharat Lal also cited the NHRC Advisory on the Rights of Widows issued in 2024, which urged state authorities to ensure access to pensions, housing, and healthcare for destitute and elderly widows.

He further recalled the NHRC Advisory on Protecting Older Persons during the COVID-19 Pandemic, which focused on equitable access to vaccination, home-based care, mental health support, and protection from neglect or abandonment during lockdowns.

News24

## **NITI Aayog Member Moots A New Charter Of Ease Of Living For Senior Citizens**

The day-long event featured three technical sessions on strengthening elderly welfare, health and mental wellbeing, and leveraging ageing for national growth.

<https://news24online.com/lifestyle/niti-aayog-member-moots-a-new-charter-of-ease-of-living-for-senior-citizens/611507/>

Written By : Updated: Aug 2, 2025 16:17 IST

As legal venues alone may not be enough to ensure ease of living for the elderly, a multi-pronged approach to ensure emotional, mental, and financial well-being of the senior citizens was mooted by NITI Aayog member, Dr Vinod K Paul.

In a special address at the National Conference on Ageing in India: Emerging Realities, Evolving Response in Delhi on Friday, the NITI Aayog member (Nutrition and Education) mooted a comprehensive welfare scheme for the elderly that calls for developing an easy pathway for the senior citizens.

Firstly, it should ensure that the elderly must be taken care of at home and also within the community by supporting the families financially and otherwise, Dr Paul said. Along with this, he suggested framing a charter of ease of living for the senior citizens and finally, the society must prepare the elderly for old age early on in life, not only financially but also physically and mentally.

Earlier inaugurating the day-long national conference, Justice V. Ramasubramanian, Chairman, National Human Rights Commission, said over and above legal avenues, the society should work towards giving the elderly persons companionship and care beyond statutory support. "Upholding the dignity of the elderly people was the collective responsibility of the society," the NHRC chief said.

He also spoke about the Core Group on Protection and Welfare of Elderly Persons, which aims to strengthen statutory systems and issues directives to states for improving elder care. A status report titled 'Ageing in India: Challenges and Opportunities' by Sankala Foundation was released during the event.

Dr Bharat Lal, Secretary General and CEO of NHRC, emphasised the dual nature of ageing in India – as both a challenge and an opportunity. With 35 crore individuals expected to be over 60 years of age by 2050, he called for urgent action. "India must invest in age-friendly infrastructure – from accessible transport and senior housing to geriatric healthcare," he said. He underscored the importance of community caregiving models and the standardisation of the caregiving sector to promote the silver economy.

Dr Lal also highlighted the NHRC's collaboration with the National Medical Commission to strengthen India's mental healthcare system, aiming to double the number of psychiatrists in five years. "We must reframe ageing from a burden to a strategic

dividend,” he said, pointing to the potential of older persons as economic and social contributors through active ageing programs, digital literacy, and intergenerational knowledge sharing. Calling for a coordinated approach, he urged the involvement of government, private sector, academia, and civil society to scale community-based models grounded in Indian cultural values.

Mr Amit Yadav, Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare and Empowerment, shared that a new policy for elderly welfare is underway, focusing on ageing with dignity, healthy living, and early life preparation for old age.

Mr Vijay Nehra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, said the Ministry is evaluating the National Programme for the Health Care of Elderly and would incorporate the conference’s recommendations.

The day-long event featured three technical sessions on strengthening elderly welfare, health and mental wellbeing, and leveraging ageing for national growth. Prominent participants included Mr Amitabh Kant, former CEO, NITI Aayog; Ms Preeti Sudan, former Chairperson, UPSC; Dr Manohar Agnani, Professor of Public Health, Azim Premji University; Dr Kiran Bedi, former Lt Governor of Puducherry; and Mr V. Srinivas, Secretary, Department of Pensions and Pensioners Welfare.



News Arena

### **Obesity among elderly most prevalent in Punjab: Report**

According to the study, conducted in association with NITI Aayog, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh reported the highest proportion of underweight elderly

<https://newsarenaindia.com/nation/obesity-among-elderly-most-prevalent-in-punjab-report/52106>

News Arena Network - New Delhi - UPDATED: August 2, 2025, 04:20 PM - 2 min read

A study conducted by the Sankala Foundation in partnership with NITI Aayog, the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the National Human Rights Commission, titled "Ageing in India: Challenges and Opportunities", has found that obesity among elderly people is most prevalent in Punjab (28 per cent) and Chandigarh (21.5 per cent).

Released on Saturday, the report draws on findings from the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI) to offer a sneak into India's rapidly greying population. The report highlighted that despite improved life expectancy, many elderly people in India face economic and health insecurities. Odisha (37.1 per cent) and Uttar Pradesh (36.6 per cent) reported the highest prevalence of underweight elderly, while Dadra and Nagar Haveli led among union territories with 40.1 per cent.

On the other hand, cardiovascular diseases affect 35.6 per cent, hypertension 32 per cent, and diabetes 13.2 per cent of people aged 60 and above. Goa and Kerala reported the highest rates of cardiovascular disease at 60 per cent and 57 per cent, respectively, while diabetes is most prevalent in Kerala (35 per cent), followed by Puducherry (28 per cent) and Delhi (26 per cent).

Bone and joint issues are another concern, with 19 per cent of the elderly suffering from such conditions. Mental health issues are rising, with 30 per cent of the elderly experiencing symptoms of depression and 8 per cent showing signs of probable major depression.

The study pointed out that nearly 70 per cent of India's elderly population remains financially dependent with many continuing to work after retirement. It said social isolation is on the rise with 18.7 per cent of elderly women and 5.1 per cent of men now living alone. The erosion of joint family structures has led to this, especially among older women.

Kerala continues to top the chart with 16.5 per cent of its population aged 60+, followed by Tamil Nadu (13.6 per cent), Himachal Pradesh (13.1 per cent) and Punjab (12.6 per cent), as of 2021. Bihar (7.7 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (8.1 per cent) and Assam (8.2 per cent) reported the lowest proportions.

Devdiscourse

## **National Conference Charts Inclusive Path for India's Ageing Population by 2050**

In his special address, Dr. Vinod K. Paul, Member (Health, Nutrition & Education), NITI Aayog, emphasized that families must remain the cornerstone of elderly care.

<https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/law-order/3527725-guwahati-cat-inaugurates-new-complex-marking-a-decade-of-transformative-judicial-progress>

Devdiscourse News Desk | New Delhi | Updated: 02-08-2025 17:59 IST | Created: 02-08-2025 17:59 IST

On 1st August 2025, New Delhi played host to a transformative national conference on ageing, titled “Ageing in India: Emerging Realities, Evolving Responses”, jointly organised by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and Sankala Foundation, with support from NITI Aayog, and the Union Ministries of Social Justice & Empowerment and Health & Family Welfare. This high-impact, day-long event brought together policymakers, academia, civil society, and healthcare professionals to address the emerging demographic shift in India—an ageing population that will soon reshape the country’s socioeconomic fabric.

### **Reimagining Ageing as an Opportunity, Not a Challenge**

With India's elderly population projected to reach 35 crore by 2050—making up nearly one-fifth of the total population—the conference reframed ageing from being a policy burden to a human development opportunity. It focused on integrating human rights, dignity, community care, and economic inclusion into national policy frameworks for the elderly.

Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian, Chairperson of NHRC, in his inaugural address, grounded the conversation in India's ancient cultural values. Drawing from Sangam literature and the Yajur Veda, he underlined the need to integrate traditional respect for the elderly with modern policy innovation. He reaffirmed NHRC’s commitment to senior citizens through advisories, research, and suo motu cognizance of rights violations.

### **Keynote Insights: Ageing in an Indian Context**

Shri Bharat Lal, NHRC Secretary General, set the tone with alarming yet critical data—one in every five Indians will be a senior citizen by 2050, signalling an urgent need for family and community-based care models. He highlighted the NHRC’s 2024 advisory on the Rights of Widows and the COVID-19 guidance for protecting older persons, as foundational policy contributions.

He also launched the report titled "Ageing in India: Challenges and Opportunities", which advocates inclusive, decentralised, and culturally contextual elderly care frameworks, inspired by international best practices from Scandinavia and Japan.

## NITI Aayog's Vision: Empowering the Family Unit

In his special address, Dr. Vinod K. Paul, Member (Health, Nutrition & Education), NITI Aayog, emphasized that families must remain the cornerstone of elderly care. He called for a healthcare and social security ecosystem that enables families to fulfill this role, while also leveraging community and technology-based solutions for wider coverage and accessibility.

## Thematic Sessions: Exploring Multidimensional Responses

Four thematic sessions formed the heart of the conference, each curated to address different facets of ageing:

**Strengthening Elderly Welfare: Policy and Practice** Chaired by Shri Amit Yadav, Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment This session discussed frameworks for pension access, housing, food security, and mobility.

**Health and Mental Wellbeing of the Elderly** Led by Smt Preeti Sudan, Former UPSC Chairperson & Health Secretary Speakers highlighted the need for integrated geriatric healthcare, mental wellness support, and home-based care models.

**Leveraging Ageing for Growth and Development** Moderated by Shri Amitabh Kant, Former G20 Sherpa & ex-CEO, NITI Aayog Emphasis was laid on elderly contribution to the silver economy, urging investments in lifelong skilling, financial inclusion, and intergenerational engagement.

**Shaping Futures: Preparing for an Ageing Society** Chaired by Dr. Vinod K. Paul This forward-looking discussion explored policy preparedness, technology integration, and insurance innovations.

## Eminent Speakers and Global Perspective

Noteworthy participants included:

Dr. Kiran Bedi, Former Lt. Governor of Puducherry

Shri Amarjeet Sinha, Former PMO Advisor

Shri V. Srinivas, Secretary, Pension & Pensioners' Welfare

Dr. Sanjay Wadhwa, AIIMS

Shri Mathew Cherian, HelpAge International

HE Amb'r Lim Sang Woo, Embassy of South Korea

Shri Yudhistir Govinda Das, ISKCON

Senior representatives from UNFPA, Azim Premji University, Samarth Elder Care, and Vayah Vikas

These thought leaders advocated for a collaborative model—with states, panchayats, civil society, startups, and international partners sharing responsibility for creating a safe, dignified, and productive life for India's elderly.

### Emerging Themes and Conference Outcomes

Some of the key conclusions and policy recommendations included:

**Elderly Aspirations Must Begin Early:** Ageing should be approached proactively through early lifestyle adjustments, financial planning, and active living.

**Role of Technology:** Advancements in AI, telemedicine, and assistive devices can empower seniors, reduce dependency, and expand access to care.

**Family and Community Are Central:** Indian cultural values must be leveraged to ensure that family-led care, supplemented by community support, forms the model of elderly care.

**Adaptable State Models:** Kerala's palliative care programme was recommended as a scalable template for other states.

**Encouraging Inter-State Competition:** Creating a competitive ecosystem among states will help push elderly-focused innovations and service delivery.

**Integrating the Silver Workforce:** Seniors with experience and skills can remain economically active, especially in knowledge and mentorship roles.

**Silver Economy & Financial Security:** Suggested policies include long-term care insurance, pension portability, and digital inclusion to integrate elders into India's growing silver economy.

### A Collective Call to Action

The conference concluded with a resounding call to all stakeholders—government bodies, academic institutions, NGOs, private sector entities, and citizens—to recognise the elderly not as dependents, but as resources of knowledge, culture, and resilience. It urged the creation of intergenerational alliances and policy ecosystems that protect rights, foster autonomy, and restore dignity to India's senior citizens.

### The Road Ahead

As India prepares for its demographic transition, the NHRC-led initiative has laid a comprehensive and inclusive roadmap. By promoting rights-based, culturally embedded, and technology-supported responses, this national dialogue has created the blueprint for a compassionate, prepared, and ageing-resilient India.



## Outlook Money

### **Around 70% Of Elderly In India Are Financially Dependent, Many Work After Retirement To Survive: Report**

According to the report 'Ageing in India: Challenges and Opportunities', around 70 per cent of the elderly in India are financially dependent, 30 per cent experience depressive symptoms, and many face social isolation as a result of ageing

<https://www.outlookmoney.com/retirement/news/around-70-of-elderly-in-india-are-financially-dependent-many-work-after-retirement-to-survive-report>

PTI | Updated on: 2 August 2025 11:34 am

#### Summary of this article

- Nearly 70 per cent of elderly in India are financially dependent, and have to continue working in old-age to survive
- Many face social isolation and 30 per cent of elderly experience depressive symptoms

Nearly 70 per cent of India's elderly population remains financially dependent, with many continuing to work post-retirement to survive, according to a new report. The study, "Ageing in India: Challenges and Opportunities," was released by the Sankala Foundation in partnership with NITI Aayog, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, and the National Human Rights Commission. It draws on findings from the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI), offering a detailed snapshot of India's rapidly greying population. Despite improved life expectancy, the report highlights that many elderly Indians live with economic and health insecurities.

The report said that about 6.4 per cent of the elderly reduced their meal sizes, 5.6 per cent went hungry without eating, and 4.2 per cent did not eat for an entire day at least once in the past year.

Odisha (37.1 per cent) and Uttar Pradesh (36.6 per cent) reported the highest prevalence of underweight elderly, while Dadra and Nagar Haveli led among Union Territories with 40.1 per cent.

Overweight and obesity were most prevalent in Punjab (28 per cent) and Chandigarh (21.5 per cent). Cardiovascular diseases affect 35.6 per cent, hypertension 32 per cent, and diabetes 13.2 per cent of those aged 60 and above. Goa and Kerala report the highest rates of cardiovascular disease (60 per cent and 57 per cent, respectively), while diabetes is most prevalent in Kerala (35 per cent), Puducherry (28 per cent) and Delhi (26 per cent).

Bone and joint issues are another concern, with 19 per cent of the elderly suffering from such conditions.

Telangana leads with the highest prevalence at 33 per cent, while arthritis is most commonly reported in Jammu & Kashmir (22 per cent) and across all southern states.

Mental health issues are rising, with 30 per cent of the elderly experiencing depressive symptoms and 8 per cent showing signs of probable major depression.

### Mental Health Troubles In Old Age: Know The Signs And Act

BY Versha Jain

The report noted a 10 per cent gap between self-reported and clinically screened cases, suggesting underdiagnosis. Elderly women are disproportionately affected, especially widows and those facing ill-treatment or poverty.

Social isolation is growing, with 18.7 per cent of elderly women and 5.1 per cent of men now living alone. The erosion of joint family structures has exacerbated loneliness, especially among older women.

In Kerala, 65 per cent smartphone penetration was found among the elderly.

Age-based discrimination is prevalent, especially in Delhi, where 12.9 per cent of elderly respondents reported experiencing one form of discrimination and 12.3 per cent reported facing two or more.

One in ten elderly felt that age was the primary reason for discrimination, with rural and poorer older adults more vulnerable.

### Biases That Hold Back Senior Citizens

BY Versha Jain

Kerala continues to top the chart with 16.5 per cent of its population aged 60+, followed by Tamil Nadu (13.6 per cent), Himachal Pradesh (13.1 per cent) and Punjab (12.6 per cent) as of 2021. Bihar (7.7 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (8.1 per cent) and Assam (8.2 per cent) reported the lowest proportions.

While the central government has taken steps such as expanding Ayushman Bharat coverage to all citizens above 70 years, the report called for greater inter-ministerial coordination, investment in home-based care, and age-friendly infrastructure.

It also advocated for public campaigns to challenge ageism and promote the social inclusion of older citizens.

## The News Minute

### **NHRC seeks action taken report on caste-derogatory village, locality names across India**

The complainant had raised serious concerns about the persistence of offensive nomenclature that reflects caste-based discrimination.

<https://www.thenewsminute.com/news/nhrc-seeks-action-taken-report-on-caste-derogatory-village-locality-names-across-india>

Written by: IANS | Published on: 02 Aug 2025, 11:29 am

In a significant move aimed at upholding constitutional values of equality and dignity, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to the Department of Posts and the Principal Secretaries of Urban Development and Panchayati Raj Departments across all States and Union Territories, calling for a detailed Action Taken Report (ATR) regarding the continued use of caste-indicative and derogatory names for villages, localities, settlements, and streets across the country. The matter was brought before the NHRC through a complaint dated July 10, 2025, and considered by the Commission on July 28.

The complainant had raised serious concerns about the persistence of offensive nomenclature that reflects caste-based discrimination. The Commission noted that such names violate the constitutional ideals of equality and human dignity, and contribute to the continued social stigma faced by the Scheduled Castes, even after over 7 decades of Independence. Taking cognisance under Section 12 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, a Bench presided over by NHRC Member Priyank Kanoongo directed the issuance of a formal notice.

The Commission emphasised that the NHRC is empowered under the Act to investigate such matters with the authority of a civil court. The NHRC stated: "The complainant has urged that such names be reviewed and renamed, as they are offensive and contrary to the constitutional ideals of equality and human dignity."

The Commission also cited several key legal and administrative references to support its directive. These include a 1990 circular from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment instructing all governments to discontinue the use of the word 'Harijan', and a 1982 Ministry of Home Affairs directive banning the use of both 'Harijan' and 'Girijan.' States like Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Delhi, Punjab, and Kerala have already taken steps to enforce constitutionally-appropriate terminology.

Further, the NHRC highlighted the Supreme Court's 2017 ruling in Manju Devi vs Onkarjit Singh Ahluwalia & Others, which observed that caste-referential terms such as 'Harijan' and 'Dhobi' could constitute social insult or abuse. The SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, particularly Section 3(1)(u), also criminalises the use of caste-based slurs, naming terms like 'Chamar', 'Bhangi', and 'Mehtar' as punishable offenses.

The Commission also referenced a 2024 Supreme Court order in a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) directing the government to consider removing casteist terms such as 'Chamar', 'Kanjari', 'Chuhra', and 'Bhangi' from official records. In its directive, the NHRC has asked all concerned authorities to compile and submit a list of towns, villages, panchayats, and other public spaces that still carry caste-indicative or derogatory names. It has also requested a report on the measures being taken to rename or remove such terms.

The deadline for submission is four weeks from the date of notice. The Commission aims to address systemic discrimination embedded in geographical and administrative nomenclature, and to ensure that public spaces reflect the values enshrined in the Indian Constitution.

Prabhat Khabar

### **Ranchi news : जातिसूचक नामों वाले गांवों और बस्तियों के नाम बदलें : एनएचआरसी**

आयोग ने नगर विकास और पंचायती राज विभाग को नोटिस जारी कर कार्रवाई की रिपोर्ट मांगी.

<https://www.prabhatkhabar.com/state/jharkhand/ranchi/villages-with-caste-indicative-names-nhrc>

By RAJIV KUMAR

August 2, 2025 7:01 PM

रांची. देश भर में गांवों, बस्तियों और मोहल्लों के जातिसूचक और अपमानजनक नामों को लेकर राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने सख्त रुख अपनाया है. आयोग ने झारखंड समेत सभी राज्यों को निर्देश दिया है कि अपने-अपने क्षेत्र में ऐसे गांवों, बस्तियों और मोहल्लों की पहचान कर नामों की समीक्षा कर आवश्यक संशोधन करें. आयोग ने नगर विकास और पंचायती राज विभाग को नोटिस जारी कर कार्रवाई की रिपोर्ट (एटीआर) भी मांगी है.

गरिमा को पहुंच रहा ठेस

आयोग को मिली एक शिकायत में कहा गया था कि आज भी देश के कई हिस्सों में ऐसे नाम प्रचलन में हैं, जो अनुसूचित जातियों के लोगों की गरिमा को ठेस पहुंचाते हैं. इनमें से कई नाम औपचारिक रूप से भले ही बदल दिये गये हों, लेकिन व्यवहार में अब भी इस्तेमाल हो रहे हैं. शिकायत में कहा गया है कि आजादी के 75 साल बाद भी समाज के कमजोर वर्गों को ऐसे नामों की वजह से सामाजिक अपमान का सामना करना पड़ रहा है. यह न केवल मानसिक आघात पहुंचाता है, बल्कि सामाजिक भेदभाव को भी बढ़ावा देता है. इसके लिए स्थानीय स्तर पर नामों की समीक्षा जरूरी है. आयोग के अध्यक्ष प्रियांक कानूनगो की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ ने मामले में संज्ञान लेते हुए कहा कि ऐसे नाम संविधान में वर्णित समानता और सम्मान के अधिकार के खिलाफ हैं. इस पर मानवाधिकार संरक्षण अधिनियम 1993 की धारा 12 के तहत कार्रवाई शुरू की गयी है.

डिस्क्लेमर: यह प्रभात खबर समाचार पत्र की ऑटोमेटेड न्यूज फीड है. इसे प्रभात खबर डॉट कॉम की टीम ने संपादित नहीं किया है



Amrit Vichar

## एनएचआरसी का राज्यों को निर्देश: जातिसूचक और अपमानजनक नामों की समीक्षा कर चार सप्ताह में सौंपें रिपोर्ट, बदलें नाम

<https://www.amritvichar.com/article/548542/nhrccs-instructions-to-the-states-reviewed-casteist-and-derogatory-names>

Published by : Virendra Pandey

On 02 Aug 2025 15:22:14

लखनऊ, अमृत विचार। देश के विभिन्न राज्यों में अनुसूचित जाति/जनजाति को लेकर इस्तेमाल में लाये जा रहे जातिसूचक व अपमानजनक नामों की समीक्षा करने के निर्देश राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने सभी राज्यों को दिए हैं। इस बाबत आयोग के असिस्टेंट रजिस्ट्रार (कानून) बृजवीर सिंह ने सभी राज्यों के पंचायती राज विभाग के प्रमुख सचिवों को आदेश जारी कर भावनाओं और सम्मान को ठेस पहुंचाने वाले नामों को बदलने के साथ ही चार सप्ताह के अंदर रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने के निर्देश दिए हैं।

असिस्टेंट रजिस्ट्रार (कानून) बृजवीर सिंह की ओर से जारी आदेश में प्रमुख सचिवों से कहा गया है कि मानव अधिकार संरक्षण अधिनियम, 1993 ने राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग, भारत को देश के सभी मानव अधिकारों की रक्षा और संवर्धन का दायित्व सौंपा है और पीएचआर अधिनियम, 1993 की धारा 13 के अंतर्गत जाँच के लिए उसे सिविल न्यायालय के समान शक्तियाँ प्राप्त हैं। उन्होंने कहा है कि शिकायतकर्ता ने देश के विभिन्न भागों में गाँवों, बस्तियों, बस्तियों आदि के लिए जातिसूचक और अपमानजनक नामों के निरंतर उपयोग पर गंभीर चिंता व्यक्त की है। साथ ही अनुरोध किया गया है कि ऐसे नामों की समीक्षा की जाए और उनका नाम बदला जाए, क्योंकि ये अपमानजनक हैं और समानता एवं मानवीय गरिमा के संवैधानिक आदर्शों के विपरीत हैं।

शिकायत में कहा गया है कि स्वतंत्रता के 75 वर्षों के बाद भी, अनुसूचित जातियों के समुदायों को ऐसे नामकरणों के कारण सामाजिक अपमान और कलंक का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। जिन नामों को हटा दिया गया है/प्रतिबंधित किया गया है, वे कई स्थानों पर अभी भी प्रचलन में हैं और माना जाता है कि वे व्यक्तियों की गरिमा का हनन करते हैं। इस बाबत आयोग ने अदालती आदेशों और अधिनियमों का हवाला देते हुए कहा है कि अनुसूचित जाति/अनुसूचित जनजाति (अत्याचार निवारण) अधिनियम, 1989 की धारा 3(1)(यू) अनुसूचित जाति या अनुसूचित जनजाति के व्यक्तियों को अपमानित करने या धमकाने के लिए जानबूझकर जाति-आधारित गालियों के इस्तेमाल को दंडित करती है। इस प्रावधान के तहत चमार, भंगी, मेहतर आदि शब्दों का इस्तेमाल करने पर मुकदमा चलाया जा सकता है। ऐसे में आयोग ने ऐसे नामों को बदलने के लिए उठाये गए कदम के बारे में चार सप्ताह के अंदर रिपोर्ट तलब की है।

Janta Se Rishta

## राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने देश भर में जाति-सूचक गाँवों और इलाकों के नामों पर कार्रवाई रिपोर्ट मांगी

<https://jantaserishta.com/others/nhrc-seeks-action-taken-report-on-caste-derogatory-village-locality-names-across-india-4186138>

Bharti Sahu2 Aug 2025 12:00 PM

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग

समानता और गरिमा के संवैधानिक मूल्यों को बनाए रखने के उद्देश्य से एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाते हुए, राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने डाक विभाग और सभी राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के शहरी विकास एवं पंचायती राज विभागों के प्रमुख सचिवों को नोटिस जारी कर देश भर में गाँवों, इलाकों, बस्तियों और सड़कों के लिए जाति-सूचक और अपमानजनक नामों के निरंतर उपयोग के संबंध में एक विस्तृत कार्रवाई रिपोर्ट (एटीआर) मांगी है।

यह मामला 10 जुलाई, 2025 की एक शिकायत के माध्यम से राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के समक्ष लाया गया था और आयोग ने 28 जुलाई को इस पर विचार किया। शिकायतकर्ता ने जाति-आधारित भेदभाव को दर्शाने वाले आपत्तिजनक नामकरण के प्रचलन पर गंभीर चिंता व्यक्त की थी। आयोग ने कहा कि ऐसे नाम समानता और मानवीय गरिमा के संवैधानिक आदर्शों का उल्लंघन करते हैं और आज़ादी के सात दशक बाद भी अनुसूचित जातियों के सामने सामाजिक कलंक को बढ़ावा देते हैं।

मानवाधिकार संरक्षण अधिनियम, 1993 की धारा 12 के तहत संज्ञान लेते हुए, राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के सदस्य प्रियांक कानूनगो की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ ने एक औपचारिक नोटिस जारी करने का निर्देश दिया। आयोग ने ज़ोर देकर कहा कि राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग को इस अधिनियम के तहत सिविल कोर्ट के अधिकार के साथ ऐसे मामलों की जाँच करने का अधिकार है। राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने कहा: "शिकायतकर्ता ने आग्रह किया है कि ऐसे नामों की समीक्षा की जाए और उनका नाम बदला जाए, क्योंकि ये आपत्तिजनक हैं और समानता और मानवीय गरिमा के संवैधानिक आदर्शों के विपरीत हैं।"

आयोग ने अपने निर्देश के समर्थन में कई प्रमुख कानूनी और प्रशासनिक संदर्भों का भी हवाला दिया। इनमें सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता मंत्रालय का 1990 का एक परिपत्र शामिल है जिसमें सभी सरकारों को 'हरिजन' शब्द का प्रयोग बंद करने का निर्देश दिया गया था, और गृह मंत्रालय का 1982 का एक निर्देश जिसमें 'हरिजन' और 'गिरिजन' दोनों के प्रयोग पर प्रतिबंध लगाया गया था। ओडिशा, महाराष्ट्र, कर्नाटक, दिल्ली, पंजाब और केरल जैसे राज्यों ने संवैधानिक रूप से उपयुक्त शब्दावली लागू करने के लिए पहले ही कदम उठा लिए हैं। इसके अलावा, एनएचआरसी ने मंजू देवी बनाम ओंकारजीत सिंह अहलूवालिया एवं अन्य मामले में सुप्रीम कोर्ट के 2017 के फैसले पर प्रकाश डाला, जिसमें कहा गया था कि 'हरिजन' और 'धोबी' जैसे जाति-सूचक शब्द सामाजिक अपमान या दुर्व्यवहार का कारण बन सकते हैं। अनुसूचित जाति/अनुसूचित जनजाति (अत्याचार निवारण) अधिनियम, 1989, विशेष रूप से धारा 3(1)(u), जाति-आधारित अपशब्दों के प्रयोग को भी अपराध घोषित करता है और 'चमार', 'भंगी' और 'मेहतर' जैसे शब्दों को दंडनीय अपराध घोषित करता है।

आयोग ने एक जनहित याचिका (PIL) में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के 2024 के आदेश का भी हवाला दिया, जिसमें सरकार को 'चमार', 'कंजर', 'चूहरा' और 'भंगी' जैसे जातिवादी शब्दों को आधिकारिक अभिलेखों से हटाने पर विचार करने का निर्देश दिया गया था। अपने निर्देश में, NHRC ने सभी संबंधित अधिकारियों से उन कस्बों, गाँवों, पंचायतों और अन्य सार्वजनिक स्थानों की सूची तैयार कर प्रस्तुत करने को कहा है, जिनके नाम अभी भी जातिसूचक या अपमानजनक हैं। इसने ऐसे शब्दों के नाम बदलने या हटाने के लिए किए जा रहे उपायों पर एक रिपोर्ट भी मांगी है। रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि सूचना की तिथि से चार सप्ताह है। आयोग का उद्देश्य भौगोलिक और प्रशासनिक नामकरण में अंतर्निहित प्रणालीगत भेदभाव को दूर करना तथा यह सुनिश्चित करना है कि सार्वजनिक स्थान भारतीय संविधान में निहित मूल्यों को प्रतिबिंबित करें।

Sanjeevani Samachar

## ऑपरेशन 'नया सवेरा' की बड़ी सफलता: सारण पुलिस ने ऑर्केस्ट्रा से 9 नाबालिग लड़कियों को दिलाई आज़ादी

सारण पुलिस ने तोड़ा नाबालिगों का शोषण चक्र

<https://sanjeevanisamachar.com/saran-police-freed-9-minor-girls-from-orchestra-under-operation-naya-savera-3-arrested-including-female-conductor/>

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छपरा। बिहार पुलिस द्वारा मानव तस्करी और अनैतिक देह व्यापार पर अंकुश लगाने के लिए चलाए जा रहे ऑपरेशन "नया सवेरा" के तहत सारण पुलिस ने एक बार फिर बड़ी कार्रवाई की है। वरीय पुलिस अधीक्षक डॉ. कुमार आशीष के नेतृत्व में सहाजितपुर और बनियापुर थाना क्षेत्र स्थित ऑर्केस्ट्रा ठिकानों पर छापेमारी कर 9 नाबालिग लड़कियों को मुक्त कराया गया। इस दौरान दो महिला संचालिका समेत तीन अभियुक्तों को गिरफ्तार किया गया।

राष्ट्रीय बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग के पत्र पर की गई कार्रवाई

इस कार्रवाई का आधार राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के सदस्य प्रियंक कानूनगो के पत्र को बनाया गया। निर्देश मिलने के बाद महिला थाना के नेतृत्व में विशेष टीम गठित कर छापेमारी की गई। मुक्त कराई गई लड़कियों में पश्चिम बंगाल की 4, उत्तर प्रदेश की 1, बिहार की 2, और नेपाल की 2 नाबालिग लड़कियां शामिल हैं।

पुलिस के अनुसार, इन लड़कियों को ऑर्केस्ट्रा में जबरन नचवाया जाता था और मानसिक व शारीरिक प्रताड़ना दी जाती थी।

गिरफ्तार अभियुक्तों में शामिल हैं –

रौशन कुमार कर्ण, पिता- दिनेश लाल कर्ण, थाना- सहाजितपुर, जिला- सारण।

महिला अभियुक्त- 2, नाम उजागर नहीं किया गया।

इस संबंध में महिला थाना कांड संख्या-68/25, दिनांक 02.08.2025 के तहत प्राथमिकी दर्ज कर आगे की कार्रवाई की जा रही है।

संयुक्त टीम का गठन

इस छापेमारी अभियान में कई स्वयंसेवी संस्थाओं की भी भागीदारी रही:

मिशन मुक्ति फाउंडेशन

रेस्क्यू फाउंडेशन, दिल्ली

नारायणी सेवा संस्थान, सारण

रेस्क्यू एंड रिलीफ फाउंडेशन, पश्चिम बंगाल

संबंधित थानों के थानाध्यक्ष व पुलिसकर्मी

“आवाज़ दो” अभियान के तहत कार्रवाई

सारण पुलिस द्वारा चलाए जा रहे “आवाज़ दो” अभियान के तहत लगातार महिलाओं और बालिकाओं के शोषण के विरुद्ध कार्रवाई की जा रही है। आमजन से अपील की गई है कि यदि आपके आसपास कोई महिला या लड़की इस तरह की परिस्थिति में है तो तुरंत पुलिस को सूचित करें।

हेल्पलाइन नंबर – 9031600191



Janta Se Rishta

## ऑपरेशन 'नया सवेरा' की बड़ी सफलता: सारण पुलिस ने ऑर्किस्ट्रा से 9 नाबालिग लड़कियों को दिलाई आज़ादी

सारण पुलिस ने तोड़ा नाबालिगों का शोषण चक्र

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छपरा। बिहार पुलिस द्वारा मानव तस्करी और अनैतिक देह व्यापार पर अंकुश लगाने के लिए चलाए जा रहे ऑपरेशन "नया सवेरा" के तहत सारण पुलिस ने एक बार फिर बड़ी कार्रवाई की है। वरीय पुलिस अधीक्षक डॉ. कुमार आशीष के नेतृत्व में सहाजितपुर और बनियापुर थाना क्षेत्र स्थित ऑर्किस्ट्रा ठिकानों पर छापेमारी कर 9 नाबालिग लड़कियों को मुक्त कराया गया। इस दौरान दो महिला संचालिका समेत तीन अभियुक्तों को गिरफ्तार किया गया।

राष्ट्रीय बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग के पत्र पर की गई कार्रवाई

इस कार्रवाई का आधार राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के सदस्य प्रियंक कानूनगो के पत्र को बनाया गया। निर्देश मिलने के बाद महिला थाना के नेतृत्व में विशेष टीम गठित कर छापेमारी की गई। मुक्त कराई गई लड़कियों में पश्चिम बंगाल की 4, उत्तर प्रदेश की 1, बिहार की 2, और नेपाल की 2 नाबालिग लड़कियां शामिल हैं।

पुलिस के अनुसार, इन लड़कियों को ऑर्किस्ट्रा में जबरन नचवाया जाता था और मानसिक व शारीरिक प्रताड़ना दी जाती थी।

गिरफ्तार अभियुक्तों में शामिल हैं –

रौशन कुमार कर्ण, पिता- दिनेश लाल कर्ण, थाना- सहाजितपुर, जिला- सारण।

महिला अभियुक्त- 2, नाम उजागर नहीं किया गया।

इस संबंध में महिला थाना कांड संख्या-68/25, दिनांक 02.08.2025 के तहत प्राथमिकी दर्ज कर आगे की कार्रवाई की जा रही है।

“आवाज दो” अभियान के अब तक के आंकड़े:

संयुक्त टीम का गठन

इस छापेमारी अभियान में कई स्वयंसेवी संस्थाओं की भी भागीदारी रही:

मिशन मुक्ति फाउंडेशन

रेस्क्यू फाउंडेशन, दिल्ली

नारायणी सेवा संस्थान, सारण

रेस्क्यू एंड रिलीफ फाउंडेशन, पश्चिम बंगाल

संबंधित थानों के थानाध्यक्ष व पुलिसकर्मी

“आवाज़ दो” अभियान के तहत कार्रवाई

सारण पुलिस द्वारा चलाए जा रहे “आवाज़ दो” अभियान के तहत लगातार महिलाओं और बालिकाओं के शोषण के विरुद्ध कार्रवाई की जा रही है। आमजन से अपील की गई है कि यदि आपके आसपास कोई महिला या लड़की इस तरह की परिस्थिति में है तो तुरंत पुलिस को सूचित करें।

हेल्पलाइन नंबर – 9031600191

Chapra Today

**Bihar Police के ऑपरेशन “नया सवेरा” के तहत कार्रवाई, 9 नाबालिग लड़कियों को कराया गया मुक्त, 3 अभियुक्त गिरफ्तार**

<https://chhapratoday.com/crime/action-taken-under-bihar-polices-operation-naya-savera-9-minor-girls-were-freed-3-accused-arrested/>

CT Central Bureau

Chhapra: बिहार पुलिस के ऑपरेशन “नया सवेरा” के तहत सारण पुलिस ने कार्रवाई करते हुए 9 नाबालिग लड़कियों को मुक्त कराया है। साथ ही 3 अभियुक्तों को गिरफ्तार किया है। एसएसपी सारण डॉ कुमार आशीष के निर्देश पर विभिन्न थानों के टीम द्वारा शनिवार अहले सुबह छापामारी कर 9 नाबालिग लड़कियों को मुक्त कराया गया।

बिहार पुलिस के द्वारा अनैतिक देह व्यापार एवं मानव तस्करी के प्रभावी रोकथाम लिए 31 जुलाई से 14 अगस्त तक ऑपरेशन “नया सवेरा” चलाया जा रहा है। प्रियंक कानूनगो, सदस्य राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के पत्र के आलोक में वरीय पुलिस अधीक्षक के निर्देशानुसार महिला थाना द्वारा टीम गठित कर सहाजितपुर एवं बनियापुर थानान्तर्गत आर्केस्ट्रा का विधिवत घेराबंदी कर छापामारी किया गया।

इस क्रम में जबरन प्रताड़ित कर आर्केस्ट्रा में नृत्य करवाये जाने वाली 9 नाबालिग लड़कियों (जिनमें पश्चिम बंगाल-4, उत्तर प्रदेश-1, बिहार-2 एवं नेपाल-2) को मुक्त कराते हुए 2 महिला आर्केस्ट्रा संचालिका एवं उनके 1 सहयोगी कुल 3 अभियुक्तों को गिरफ्तार किया गया। इस संबंध में महिला थाना कांड सं0-68/25, दिनांक-02.08.2025 दर्ज कर अग्रतर कार्रवाई की जा रही है।

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## आर्केस्ट्रा में काम करने वाली नौ नाबालिग लड़की मुक्त, तीन गिरफ्तार

<https://www.univarta.com/news/bihar-jharkhand/story/3533337.html>

राज्य » बिहार / झारखण्ड Posted at: Aug 2 2025 5:54PM

सारण : आर्केस्ट्रा में काम करने वाली नौ नाबालिग लड़की मुक्त, तीन गिरफ्तार

छपरा, 02 अगस्त (वार्ता) बिहार में सारण जिले की पुलिस ने शनिवार को बनियापुर और सहाजितपुर थाना क्षेत्र में छापामारी कर आर्केस्ट्रा में काम करने वाली नौ नाबालिग लड़कियों को मुक्त कराने के साथ ही तीन आर्केस्ट्रा संचालकों को गिरफ्तार किया है। पुलिस सूत्रों ने आज यहां बताया कि राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग से प्राप्त सूचना के आधार पर सहाजितपुर और बनियापुर थाना क्षेत्र के विभिन्न हिस्सों में छापामारी कर नौ नाबालिग लड़कियों को आर्केस्ट्रा संचालक से मुक्त कराया गया है।

## News Fact

### ऑपरेशन 'नया सवेरा' के तहत सारण पुलिस की बड़ी कार्रवाई, 9 नाबालिग लड़कियां मुक्त

<https://newsfact.in/saran-police-takes-big-action-under-operation-naya-savera-9-minor-girls-freed/>

By Ranjan Shrivastwa

August 2, 2025

छपरा, 2 अगस्त 2025 – बिहार पुलिस द्वारा चलाए जा रहे ऑपरेशन “नया सवेरा” के तहत सारण पुलिस ने मानव तस्करी और देह व्यापार के खिलाफ एक बड़ी सफलता हासिल की है। आज सुबह-सुबह की गई छापेमारी में, पुलिस ने विभिन्न आर्केस्ट्रा से 9 नाबालिग लड़कियों को मुक्त कराया और 3 अभियुक्तों को गिरफ्तार किया।

पुलिस मुख्यालय से प्राप्त निर्देश के बाद 31 जुलाई से 14 अगस्त तक ‘ऑपरेशन नया सवेरा’ चलाया जा रहा है। इसी अभियान के तहत राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के सदस्य श्री प्रियंक कानूनगो के पत्र के आधार पर वरीय पुलिस अधीक्षक, सारण के निर्देश पर एक टीम का गठन किया गया। इस टीम ने सहाजितपुर और बनियापुर थाना क्षेत्र में छापेमारी कर जबरन आर्केस्ट्रा में नचाई जा रही 9 नाबालिग लड़कियों को छुड़ाया। इन लड़कियों में 4 पश्चिम बंगाल, 1 उत्तर प्रदेश, 2 बिहार और 2 नेपाल की थीं। इस मामले में, दो महिला आर्केस्ट्रा संचालिका और उनके एक सहयोगी रौशन कुमार कर्ण को गिरफ्तार किया गया है। महिला थाने में मामला दर्ज कर आगे की कार्रवाई की जा रही है।

‘आवाज दो’ अभियान का असर

सारण पुलिस मई 2024 से लगातार “आवाज दो” अभियान चला रही है, जिसके तहत अब तक कुल 203 लड़कियों को देह व्यापार से मुक्त कराया गया है। इस दौरान 25 मामले दर्ज किए गए हैं और 72 अभियुक्तों को गिरफ्तार कर न्यायिक हिरासत में भेजा गया है। पुलिस ने आम जनता से भी अपील की है कि अगर आपके आस-पास कोई महिला या लड़की ऐसी समस्या से जूझ रही है, तो ‘आवाज दो’ हेल्पलाइन नंबर 9031600191 पर संपर्क कर जानकारी दें।

छापेमारी दल में शामिल सदस्य:

- \* महिला, सहाजितपुर और बनियापुर थाने के थानाध्यक्ष व अन्य कर्मी।
- \* मिशन मुक्ति फाउंडेशन के सदस्य।
- \* रेस्क्यू फाउंडेशन, दिल्ली के सदस्य।
- \* नारायणी सेवा संस्थान, सारण के सदस्य।
- \* रेस्क्यू एंड रिलीफ फाउंडेशन, पश्चिम बंगाल के सदस्य।



The Hindu

### **Position paper by NLSIU calls for legal recognition of domestic workers**

The Supreme Court has directed multiple Union Ministries to form a committee to recommend a legislative framework for the benefit, protection, and regulation of domestic workers, but it is yet to be constituted

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/position-paper-by-nlsiu-calls-for-legal-recognition-of-domestic-workers/article69886812.ece>

Published - August 02, 2025 07:06 pm IST

Shilpa Elizabeth

A position paper prepared by The Human Rights Collective at National Law School India University (NLSIU), in collaboration with the Centre for Labour Studies and Stree Jagruti Samiti, a union of domestic workers, has called for legal recognition and protection of domestic workers in India.

Among the other suggestions made by the paper include the need for a nodal department to ensure the rights of domestic workers, a robust grievance redressal mechanism, blacklisting abusive employers, registration card, annual bonus and leaves for workers, and a contribution scheme towards the social security of workers.

Keeping the conversation going

The paper has been put together after a series of independent consultations with domestic workers, unions and other stakeholders. The meetings come in the light of the recent Supreme Court directive which directed multiple Union Ministries to form a committee to recommend a legislative framework for the benefit, protection, and regulation of domestic workers.

The committee, which was to provide its recommendations by the end of June, has not been formed yet. The consultation meetings are being held to come up with a legislative framework that can be tabled before the committee.

“Legislative framework for domestic workers is a pressing requirement that has seen several attempts in the past. Yet, there are very few other kinds of work which have been as invisibilised from labour law as domestic work has been,” said Saurabh Bhattacharjee, director of Centre for Labour Studies.

“This exercise has been planned in a way to give impetus to the conversation and advocacy around domestic workers rights,” he added.

Sectoral law needed

The consultation saw discussions around minimum wage, social security, and occupational safety of workers. Domestic workers who were present at the meeting put

forward discussion points including calculation of wages, bonus and overtime among others.

Babu Mathew, trade unionist and former faculty at NLSIU, suggested a sectoral law for domestic workers.

“Domestic workers will have to have a sectoral law, while we might draw from the essence from other general laws. That way we need not be constrained by the technical difficulties of general laws,” he said.

Hindustan

## घर के पास स्कूलों की कमी से बीच में पढ़ाई छोड़ देती हैं बेटियां

प्रभात कुमार नई दिल्ली। घर के आसपास माध्यमिक और उच्चतर माध्यमिक विद्यालयों की कमी, परिवहन

<https://www.livehindustan.com/ncr/new-delhi/story-nhrc-report-highlights-challenges-in-girls-education-in-india-201754138592456.amp.html>

Sat, 2 Aug 2025, 06:13:PM

प्रभात कुमार नई दिल्ली। घर के आसपास माध्यमिक और उच्चतर माध्यमिक विद्यालयों की कमी, परिवहन और अन्य सुविधाओं के अभाव के चलते देश में बेटियां बीच में ही पढ़ाई छोड़ देती हैं। बालिकाओं की शिक्षा की स्थिति को जानने के लिए राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) द्वारा कराए गए अध्ययन में इसका खुलासा हुआ है। मानवाधिकार आयोग ने इसे गंभीरता से लेते हुए सरकार से हाई स्कूल और उच्चतर माध्यमिक विद्यालयों की कमी को दूर करने और परिवहन के समुचित साधन विकसित करने की सिफारिश की है ताकि बेटियां बीच में पढ़ाई नहीं छोड़ें। एनएचआरसी द्वारा हाल ही में जारी रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि 'अपर्याप्त संख्या में हाई स्कूलों और उच्चतर माध्यमिक विद्यालयों की कमी और शैक्षिक अवसरों की कमी के चलते प्राथमिक शिक्षा के बाद लड़कियों के स्कूल छोड़ने की दरों को बढ़ाती है।

इसमें कहा गया है कि परिवहन, स्कूल भवन का बुनियादी ढांचा, दिव्यांगों के लिए समुचित साधन की कमी की वजह से भी लड़कियां बीच में पढ़ाई छोड़ रही हैं। रिपोर्ट में सुझाव दिया गया है कि मौजूदा प्राथमिक विद्यालयों का विस्तार करके हाई स्कूल तक की सुविधाओं को शामिल करने से भी इस समस्या का समाधान निकाला जा सकता है। साथ ही कह है कि उच्चतर माध्यमिक विद्यालयों की उपलब्धता बढ़ाने के भी प्रयास किए जाने चाहिए ताकि बेटियां 11वीं और 12वीं कक्षा तक अपनी शिक्षा पूरी कर सकें। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि हाई स्कूल और सीनियर सैकेंड्री स्कूल दूर होने की वजह से परिवहन एक बड़ी चुनौती है। आयोग की ओर से जारी रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि परिवहन का समुचित साधन नहीं होने से बच्चों की सुरक्षा को खतरे में डालते हैं और माता-पिता को अपने बच्चों को स्कूल जाने देने से हतोत्साहित करता। रिपोर्ट में शिक्षा के अधिकार अधिनियम के तहत कम आय वाले परिवारों के छात्रों को निजी स्कूलों में 25 फीसदी निशुल्क सीट आवंटन की निगरानी और समय समय पर इसकी समीक्षा करने की सिफारिश की गई है। प्रमुख आंकड़े दक्षिण भारत में बच्चों ने निजी की तुलना में सरकारी स्कूल भवनों को बताया सुरक्षित। रिपोर्ट में भारत में निजी की तुलना में सरकारी स्कूलों में पढ़ने वाले 48.3 फीसदी बच्चों ने बिल्डिंग को सुरक्षित बताया, जबकि निजी स्कूलों के केवल 37.5 फीसदी छात्रों ने बिल्डिंग को सुरक्षित बताया। एनएचआरसी ने कहा है कि राष्ट्रीय बाल संरक्षण अधिकार आयोग (एनसीपीसीआर) की एक रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक 15 से 18 वर्ष की 39.4 फीसदी लड़कियां स्कूल से बाहर हैं। जबकि 57 फीसदी लड़कियां 11वीं कक्षा तक जाते-जाते पढ़ाई छोड़ देती हैं। - भारत में, 15 वर्ष से कम आयु के बच्चों के समूह में आज भी लड़कों 2.7 फीसदी की तुलना में अधिक लड़कियां 3.2 फीसदी स्कूल नहीं जाती हैं। राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने बेटियों की शिक्षा में बाधा बनने वाले कमियों को दूर करने के लिए अपनी रिपोर्ट में कई सिफारिश की है। शिक्षा मंत्रालय से सिफारिश हाई स्कूलों और उच्चतर माध्यमिक विद्यालयों की उपलब्धता बढ़ाने के साथ-साथ सरकारी स्कूलों के लिए परिवहन सुविधाओं में सुधार करने की सिफारिश की है। स्कूल भवन के बुनियादी ढांचे से संबंधित सुविधाओं का समीक्षा करने और दिव्यांगजनों के अनुकूल बुनियादी ढांचे में सुधार करके स्कूलों में दिव्यांगजन

समावेशन को बढ़ावा देने को कहा है। - ऑनलाइन शिक्षा पद्धति को बढ़ावा दें और ऑनलाइन शिक्षण का समर्थन करने के लिए बुनियादी ढांचे में सुधार करें। पाठ्यक्रम में मानवाधिकार शिक्षा को शामिल करें रिपोर्ट में एनएचआरसी से भी सम्मान और समझ की संस्कृति को बढ़ावा देने के लिए स्कूली पाठ्यक्रम में मानवाधिकार शिक्षा को शामिल करने की वकालत करने को कहा है। साथ ही शिक्षा के अधिकारी अधिनियम के प्रावधानों के कार्यान्वयन की निगरानी करें और यह सुनिश्चित करें कि बालिकाओं के अधिकारों की रक्षा हो महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय को सिफ़ारिश स्कूलों में, विशेष रूप से लड़कियों के लिए, अधिक उपयोग योग्य शौचालय सुनिश्चित करके स्वच्छता सुविधाओं में सुधार करें। छात्रों, शिक्षकों और अभिभावकों के बीच अनुचित गतिविधि के बारे में जागरूकता पैदा करने और इससे निपटने के लिए एक शिकायत नीति बनाने को कहा है। छात्रों के भावनात्मक और स्कूल कल्याण में सुधार के लिए स्कूलों में सहकर्मी मार्गदर्शन को बढ़ावा दें और लागू करें।

Clarion

## **Citizens for the Constitution Slams Arrest of Nuns, Targeting of Religious Minorities**

<https://clarionindia.net/citizens-for-the-constitution-slams-arrest-of-nuns-targeting-of-religious-minorities/>

Team Clarion | Date: August 2, 2025

The principles of equality, liberty, and fraternity are being eroded by the unchecked power of majoritarian vigilante groups, the Mumbai-based group said

MUMBAI — The Citizens for the Constitution (CFTC) has strongly condemned the arrest and continued judicial custody of two Catholic nuns from Kerala, Sister Preeti Mary and Sister Vandana Francis, along with Sukaman Mandavi. They were arrested by the Chhattisgarh Police in Durg on 25 July.

The trio has been falsely accused of “forcible conversion” and human trafficking involving three women from Narayanpur. An FIR has been filed against them under provisions of the Chhattisgarh Religious Freedom Act and the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, reportedly based on a tip-off by a member of the Bajrang Dal, a Hindu right-wing group.

Alarmingly, the CFTC said one of the women allegedly trafficked has revealed that she was coerced into making a false statement implicating the nuns, under pressure from Jyoti Sharma, a member of the Durga Vahini. In reality, all three women were already Christians and were travelling for a job offered by the nuns with the consent of their families, and there is no evidence of force or coercion. This disturbing incident underscores a growing pattern where the state appears to be complicit with Hindu right-wing vigilante groups in targeting religious minorities, particularly Muslims and Christians.

This case must also be viewed in the broader context of increasing state-backed campaigns aimed at the identification and eviction of so-called “illegal Bangladeshi migrants.”

In Gurugram, Haryana, and in Delhi, the BJP governments have launched a drive to identify undocumented migrants—specifically targeting Indian Bengali-speaking labourers from the states of West Bengal and Assam—accusing them of being Bangladeshi or Rohingya. Even though there is no reason to suspect their nationality, and despite possessing multiple valid documents proving their Indian citizenship, like Aadhaar cards, many of these labourers have been arbitrarily and illegally detained, interrogated, beaten severely and harassed. The purported police come in plain clothes and in vehicles without registration number plates and even extort money from the poor labourers. As a result, hundreds of families have fled from Delhi and Haryana in fear and insecurity, the CFTC said.



Adding to this growing concern is the horrific mob attack on a Muslim family in Pune on the night of 26 July. The attackers, reportedly affiliated with a Hindu right-wing group, falsely accused the family of being illegal Bangladeshi immigrants. Shockingly, the family has a proud history of serving the Indian Armed Forces, including a relative who is a Kargil war veteran. Instead of taking swift action against the perpetrators, the police summoned the family for verification, once again acting on an unverified tip-off. This represents yet another instance where law enforcement appears to be enabling the intimidation of Muslims through baseless accusations and collusion with vigilante groups.

The CFTC said there is a common pattern in all these instances: Right-wing cadres randomly and arbitrarily accuse Muslims and Christians of being illegal immigrants or illegal conversions, only because of their faith.

These incidents strike at the heart of India's constitutional values and democratic institutions, the CFTC said. The rule of law is being systematically undermined, and the principles of equality, liberty, and fraternity enshrined in our Constitution are being eroded by the unchecked power of majoritarian vigilante groups acting with state support or complicity.

CFTC has demanded immediate accountability. It urged the prime minister and the concerned state governments to take cognizance of these grave violations and halt the ongoing harassment, witch-hunting, and intimidation of Indian citizens in the name of religion or citizenship.

In the interest of justice and rule of law, the CFTC said it urges the Delhi High Court, Haryana High Court, the Supreme Court, the National Commission of Minorities, and the National Human Rights Commission to take cognizance of the systematic violation of human rights of minorities and issue summons to the police and hold them accountable.

India Spend

## **The Brewing Mental Health Crisis In Indian Prisons**

Suicides in Indian prisons are significantly higher than in the general population, yet most psychiatrist posts remain vacant, and mental health data are scant

<https://www.indiaspend.com/governance/the-brewing-mental-health-crisis-in-indian-prisons-963116>

By Shreehari Paliath | 2 Aug, 2025

Trigger warning: There are references to suicide and self-harm in this story.

Bengaluru: Despite housing one of the world's largest prison populations--a majority of them undertrials, and from marginalised communities--India has few comprehensive data on mental health conditions behind bars. The limited official data already point to a severe crisis, but experts and independent studies say the reality is far worse.

As per the last Prison Statistics India report published by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), 119 prisoners died by suicide in 2022. That is a suicide rate of 20.8 per 100,000 prisoners, 67% higher than the national average among general population. An analysis of Prison Statistics India reports from 2014 to 2022 revealed:

At least 9,084 of 573,220 prisoners in 2022--that is, 1.6% prisoners--reported mental illness. By 2023, this number rose to 16,503 prisoners, according to the Supreme Court's Centre for Research and Planning.

Suicide accounted for about 80% of unnatural deaths--779 out of 980--in prisons between 2017 and 2022.

Two in three sanctioned posts for psychologists and psychiatrists in prisons were vacant in 2022--the highest since 2016. The year 2018 was the only year where more than 50% posts were filled.

Only nine women psychologists and psychiatrists were employed in prisons in 2022, six of whom were in Tamil Nadu.

Experts told IndiaSpend that mental illness is more widespread among prisoners than NCRB data suggest. Inadequate evaluation, due to resource constraints and lack of training, also prevents effective monitoring, auditing, and assessment of the extent of mental health issues and care required.

Legal research think-tank Pacta's July 2025 report also pointed out that the absence of updated data on mental illness and other disabilities in the Indian prison system acts as a barrier to meaningful reform.

Why govt data are underestimates

Several studies indicate that mental health issues in prisons far exceed official numbers. A 2021 handbook published by National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) to address mental health issues in prisoners during Covid-19 cited multiple studies conducted between 2011 and 2014, showing that the prevalence of mental illness in various state prisons ranged from 23.8% to 82%--at least 10 times higher than the official prison data for 2022.

Uttar Pradesh had the largest share of inmates with mental illness, at 23%. Kerala and Odisha followed, each accounting for 9% of prisoners with mental illness.

"The prevalence of mental illness is much higher than shown in NCRB prison data," said Vijay Raghavan, professor at the Centre for Criminology and Justice, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.

"At least two-thirds of people in jails have anxiety, hopelessness, depression," Sanjeev Jain, emeritus professor at the Department of Psychiatry, Molecular Genetics Laboratory at NIMHANS Bengaluru, told IndiaSpend. "But we do not know if it is due to the prison environment, or because psychiatric evaluation at the time of conviction is not done. There is no baseline data.

"Often, young prisoners come from disturbed personal lives, face social exclusion, and may not show clear signs of mental illness at the time of their brush with the law," he added.

A 2011 study by NIMHANS found that Bengaluru Central Jail had only one psychiatrist for more than 5,000 inmates. It said according to the MINI criteria, 4,002 prisoners or 79.6% could be diagnosed with either a mental illness or substance use disorder.

Even after excluding substance abuse, more than one in four inmates had a diagnosable mental disorder. About 12.7% had a lifetime history of major depressive episodes, and 9.1% had a current episode--twice the rate seen in the general population.

The study also reported that two out of every 100 inmates had attempted suicide, and more than seven per 100 had deliberately self-harmed. It said, "Considering that only 2% of the prison population self-reported any mental illness, it can be understood that a systematic assessment improves identification of diagnosable mental disorder by 14 times."

A Telangana prison official who wanted to remain anonymous also contested the state's official figure of 2% of inmates with mental illness, which is the same as the national prison average. He told IndiaSpend that the actual number is likely much higher, with many inmates on medication and more severe cases referred to mental health institutions.

The official said that the state prison administration relies on volunteer counsellors from civil society organisations, and new entrants are often unwilling to share mental health issues due to mistrust, while only the more severe cases are identified and treated. "If the

prison medical staff provided these services, it would ensure continuity and help build trust with inmates.”

The UN Standard Minimum Rules For The Treatment Of Prisoners, or the Nelson Mandela Rules (Rule 30), also recommend that prisoners must be screened for healthcare issues and needs, including psychological or other stress, at the time of their admission in jails.

1 mental health worker for every 23,000 prisoners

In 1,330 prisons across the country, holding over 570,000 inmates, only 25 psychiatrists or psychologists were employed in 2022--one for about 23,000 inmates.

In the same year, 25 of 36 states and Union Territories in India had not sanctioned a single post for psychologists or psychiatrists. Among them were Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh--which house over 40% of the prison population and have occupancy rates above the national average.

In 30 member states of the European Union that reported figures to the Health in Prisons European Database, there were 1.4 psychiatrists for every 1,000 prisoners. In contrast, based on 2022 prison data, India had just 0.05 psychiatrists per 1,000 prisoners.

This also falls short of the 2016 Model Prison Manual issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, which recommends at least one psychologist or counsellor for every 500 prisoners. But the manual only provides guidance and is not binding on the states that govern prisons.

The Mental Healthcare Act 2017, however, mandates that at a minimum, the state governments must train medical officers in public healthcare establishments and prisons “to provide basic and emergency mental healthcare”. It says that a mental health establishment must be set up in the medical wing of at least one prison in every state.

A June 2023 advisory issued by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) urged governments to fill existing vacancies and increase staff strength; train prison personnel in mental health, including refresher courses every three years; screen and monitor at-risk prisoners; and implement a Gatekeeper model, in which select inmates are trained to identify and refer those at risk.

Every jail is supposed to have a psychologist and psychiatrist, but these positions almost never get filled, said Jain of NIMHANS. Raghavan of TISS said if psychiatrist posts remain vacant, states should at least hire social workers or counsellors on contract to focus on preventive mental healthcare.

But most states don't have any meaningful mental health screening or periodic assessments in prison, said Maitreyi Misra, Director, Mental Health and Criminal Justice, The Square Circle Clinic, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad. “There's a health pro forma which is administered to prisoners at the time of their entry into prisons which has one generic question regarding mental health.”

Misra added that the prisons she had visited and had knowledge of had not implemented the NHRC guidelines. “The guidelines themselves are also not sufficient because they’re too vague and not sure how much of the guidelines are backed by evidence. Even where the guidelines may be implemented, I am not sure their effectiveness is being reviewed. We simply don’t have policies for effective suicide prevention.”

According to the Supreme Court’s Centre for Research and Planning report, prison departments responded in “affirmative that the initial health screening of the newly admitted prisoners includes mental health screening”. But there were variations in the way states screened. In most of Odisha’s jails, screening of new inmates is done by a clinical psychologist and psychiatric social worker, while in Gujarat, Puducherry, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, new inmates are “behaviourally examined” by the jail medical officer.

Kerala, Jammu & Kashmir and Manipur reported that although health screening was done for new jail admissions, there was no standard procedure of mental health screening of the newly admitted prisoner.

The report also showed health screening in most states is done by the medical officer. Except for Odisha, Telangana, Karnataka, Manipur and in a few jails in Nagaland, they were not given any training to provide basic and emergency mental healthcare, which was in contravention to Section 31(2) of Mental Healthcare Act, 2017

Record-keeping, peer networks in jails

The Model Prisons And Correctional Services Act, 2023 for managing prisons, which was shared with the state governments by the Union home ministry in May 2023, provides for the transfer of prisoners to mental healthcare institutions after the permission of the Mental Health Review Board.

But the India Justice Report 2025 noted that only six states and one UT--Assam, Haryana, Karnataka. Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha, and Ladakh--mandate prisons to maintain a record of mentally ill inmates.

With gaps in the state mental health system, some prisons have turned to peer networks. Initiatives such as Unnati in Telangana and Samarth in Gujarat prisons focus on bringing cognitive behavioural change in inmates through peer counselling.

Speaking to IndiaSpend, the Telangana prison official said that while a proper mental health evaluation process has not been established in the state, psychiatrists from district hospitals visit for weekly screening of prisoners and civil society organisations help train inmates and staff to identify those at risk. Despite that, some cues may not be visible.

IndiaSpend has reached out to the Ministry of Home Affairs for comments on its initiatives to address the mental health crisis in prisons, including data collection, monitoring, suicide prevention, and prisoner screening. We will update this story when we receive a response.

Of the 9,084 prisoners with mental illness reported in Prison Statistics India 2022, about 63%, were undertrials. While convicts see a higher prevalence of mental illness, the uncertainty and immediate stress on undertrials makes them particularly vulnerable. A World Health Organization report on Prisons and Health notes that detainees held on remand, particularly those subjected to restrictions such as solitary confinement, are more vulnerable.

Misra of The Square Circle Clinic said, “Despite the high proportion of undertrials in India, and research showing that undertrial prisoners, particularly new entrants, are much more likely to attempt suicide than those convicted, there are no policies or interventions to address the unique problems they face.”

Women prisoners have little to no basic infrastructure, support

Another vulnerable group in prisons are women. Although their numbers are much lower--23,772 women were behind bars in 2022--the jail conditions, especially for those with children, make them more susceptible to mental health issues, as IndiaSpend reported.

Vijay Raghavan of TISS told IndiaSpend that lower socio-economic status, abandonment, isolation, loss of access to children, and the loss of a social role in traditional societies severely impact imprisoned women’s mental health.

The 2016 Model Prison Manual recommends that at least one woman psychiatrist be appointed in every prison--meaning at least 34 women psychiatrists, one for each 34 women’s jails across 16 states. But only nine were employed nationwide in 2022, six of whom were in Tamil Nadu.

The United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (Bangkok Rules) states that gender-specific healthcare services, at least equivalent to those available in the community, should be provided to women prisoners.

Mental health crisis plagues prisons worldwide

A 2024 study led by the University of Oxford--compiling, reviewing and analysing data and major studies from over 50 high, medium and low-income countries--found that prisons had “high rates of depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, as well as substance use and alcohol use disorders”.

The study noted that 11.4% of prisoners had depression, compared to 6-8% in the general population. Additionally, 9.8% had PTSD and 3.7% had a psychotic disorder--at least double the rate found in the general population.

In the United States, according to the 2021 Bureau of Justice Statistics data, more than 6,200 local jail inmates died by suicide between 2000 and 2019. Suicide deaths in jails increased by 13% over this 20-year period. More than three-quarters of those who died by suicide were “unconvicted and awaiting adjudication of their current charge”.



What is keeping the crisis brewing?

“Earlier, the civil system of medicine coordinated with the judicial and legal system, but now they are separate services,” said Jain of NIMHANS, explaining that “now a doctor who joins the jail service does not have to see others outside the system, unlike before. Medical college, civil hospital, community health staff are all separate leading to a lack of avenues of growth of medical professionals and inadequate incentives.”

Raghavan, who also heads Prayas, a TISS initiative focused on criminal justice, pointed to multiple stressors--lack of family support, socio-economic conditions, and routine prison operations like jhadti (inspection) or alarm bajna during emergencies such as escape attempts. “These can be extremely stressful.”

In addition, uncertainty and limited legal resources, particularly among those from marginalised groups, significantly impact inmates’ mental health, said Kaustubh Joag, co-director and senior research fellow at the Centre for Mental Health Law and Policy, Indian Law Society, Pune.

Joag, a psychiatrist who has assessed death row prisoners in distress, said that prisons often have “hierarchies which lead to discrimination and bullying, adding to the distress” and “suicidal ideation can exist even without depression, and may be triggered impulsively”.

Besides the need for sensitisation around mental health, Joag emphasised the importance of care beyond the biomedical approach. He said basic infrastructure is crucial for wellbeing, including sanitation, food, recreational facilities, and occupational activities.

The 2011 NIMHANS review of mental health in prisons said: “Prison health is often neglected and continues to be ignored despite accumulating objective evidence supporting the need for rational health policies in prisons...politicians, policy makers, bureaucrats and community leaders have ignored this area, citing various reasons such as ‘prisoners need not be treated’, ‘let them suffer’, insufficient funds, non-availability of trained manpower.”

News Drum

## **Activist proposes village-level human rights panel in Maharashtra; gram sabhas to decide**

<https://www.newsdrum.in/national/activist-proposes-village-level-human-rights-panel-in-maharashtra-gram-sabhas-to-decide-9616970>

NewsDrum Desk | 02 Aug 2025 08:30 IST

Mumbai, Aug 2 (PTI) Each village in Maharashtra will have a committee to promote awareness about human rights and prevent their violations if a proposal mooted by a prominent social activist and supported by the head of the apex body of sarpanches gets the backing of gram sabhas.

The proposal to establish a village-level Gramin Manav Adhikar Sanrakshan Samiti (Village Human Rights Protection Committee), envisaging a prominent role for local women and female cops, has been mooted by activist Pramod Zinjade, who heads an outfit focused on community development and social justice.

Talking to PTI, Zinjade, president of the Mahatma Phule Samaj Seva Mandal, said that the committee will operate within the jurisdiction of a village and its outskirts, and will include the village sarpanch or a local woman as chairperson, gram sevak or police patil as secretary, along with a female police representative.

Police patils, appointed by the state government, act as a crucial link between police and people at the village level. They assist in police investigations and reporting of incidents within their designated village.

The activist noted that the panel members will primarily consist of educated individuals from marginalised communities, including Dalits, nomadic tribes, and minorities, who are often victims of discrimination or injustice.

He said that 50 per cent of the committee members will comprise women, with preference given to widows, single women or those deserted and neglected by society.

Retired government officials with a clean record and anti-corruption stance will also be inducted as members, Zinjade maintained.

The committee's primary function will be to conduct awareness campaigns, educational drives, and community outreach to ensure residents are informed about human rights laws and protections.

Its activities will include school and college-based competitions, street plays, workshops, and expert-led discussions, he explained.

In the event of a human rights violation, the committee will help the victim lodge a complaint and escalate matters to the concerned authorities if the local police fail to act.

Written complaints will be discussed within the committee, and appropriate referrals will be made to the State or National Human Rights Commissions, women's commission, or the Child Protection Commission, as applicable, said Zinjade, who has been at the forefront of the initiative to eradicate evil practices related to widows and usher in social reforms.

He said that while the committee will not have judicial powers, it will act as a guiding and support mechanism for victims. A regular monthly meeting will be held, with emergency discussions convened as required to review complaints and assist affected individuals.

Datta Kakade, president of the Sarpanch Parishad, said an appeal has been made to 27,905 sarpanches across the state to get respective gram sabhas (village-level assemblies) to pass resolutions for setting up such committees before August 15.

Gram sabhas are grassroots-level democratic institutions in each village panchayat. They ensure the effective functioning of panchayats by promoting transparency and accountability in administration, enhancing people's participation in the planning and implementation of schemes. PTI MR RSY ARU

Times of India

### **Dalit activist faces judicial custody with two associates**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/dalit-activist-faces-judicial-custody-with-two-associates/articleshow/123066150.cms>

Aug 3, 2025, 02.19 AM IST

Hisar: Dalit rights activist and advocate Rajat Kalsan and his two companions, Deepak Saini and Pravesh, have been remanded in 14-day judicial custody. The three of them appeared in court on Saturday after being arrested for allegedly assaulting a police team in Hisar's auto market. They were allegedly under the influence of alcohol at the time.

City police apprehended his associates during his one-day police remand. A bail application for all the three accused was submitted during court proceedings. The court sought a response from the police and scheduled the bail hearing for Monday.

On Thursday, Narnaund police arrested advocate Kalsan in a separate case registered about six months ago, involving a social media post allegedly supporting the accused in the murder of a woman at Budana village. Kalsan was granted bail by a Hansi court in the case. However, soon after his release, Hisar Police arrested him in the latest case related to the alleged assault.

The FIR against advocate Kalsan was registered at the City Police Station on the complaint of Hansi special staff sub-inspector Ravikant under various non-bailable charges. According to the complaint, Kalsan was named in an FIR lodged at Narnaund Police Station on July 29. On the night of July 30, at around 10PM, police found three individuals allegedly consuming alcohol inside a parked car in the old auto market, with Kalsan in the driver's seat. When police served him a notice to join the investigation, an altercation ensued. Kalsan and his companions allegedly exited the vehicle and attacked the officers, injuring a sub-inspector.

Advocate Kalsan has been a prominent figure in Dalit activism, recently joining protests after the death of a youth named Ganesh in a DJ-related dispute in Hisar. He has also advocated for justice in the Bhatla case in Hansi and was a key legal representative in the high-profile 2010 Mirchpur Dalit atrocity case in the Narnaund region.

Complaint submitted to NHRC

Hisar-based advocate and social worker Bajrang Indal has submitted a joint complaint to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes regarding the manner of Rajat Kalsan's arrest.

In his memorandum, Indal alleged that Kalsan—known for his advocacy in landmark Dalit rights cases like the Mirchpur massacre—was arrested on July 29 by police in plain clothes. He described it as a "kidnapping-style" operation. He also claimed that Kalsan

was held in police custody without access to legal counsel or family visits and was not provided a copy of the FIR.

The complaint went on to accuse the police of deliberately taking and circulating humiliating photos of Kalsan in a "criminal posture," which Indal said, was a violation of human dignity and an affront to both the Dalit community and the legal profession. He has called for a judicial inquiry into the episode.

MSID:: 123062103 413 |

Hindustan Times

**Punjab: PCA prez, 5 others to face trial for murder of liquor contractor's worker**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/chandigarh-news/punjab-pca-prez-5-others-to-face-trial-for-murder-of-liquor-contractor-s-worker-101754156539225.html>

By Vishal Joshi, Bathinda

Published on: Aug 03, 2025 05:16 am IST

Faridkot court frames charges against six, including four cops, for the 2016 murder that police allegedly passed off as a self-defence encounter

A Faridkot court has framed charges of murder, destruction of evidence and criminal conspiracy against Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) president and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Amarjit Mehta and five others in a 2016 murder case.

The other accused include four Punjab Police personnel — sub-inspector Lachman Singh and constables Parminder Singh, Dharminder Singh and Kabal Singh — and liquor contractor Dharampal Singh Goel. All six are on bail.

The charges were framed under Sections 302 (murder), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence), 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 506 (criminal intimidation), 148 (rioting armed with a deadly weapon) of the Indian Penal Code and Section 27 of the Arms Act. The trial will begin on August 8.

Hearing the matter on July 30, the court of additional sessions judge Dinesh Kumar Wadhwa said from the material placed before the court, a prima facie case for an offence punishable under these sections was made out against the accused.

The case pertains to the killing of kabaddi player Ajmer Singh, who worked for a liquor contractor in Faridkot, on May 25, 2016.

According to the FIR, Ajmer was portrayed as a member of the Davinder Bambiha gang and killed in a police encounter that was allegedly in self-defence.

**Allegations against the accused**

Bathinda-based businessman Amarjit Mehta and his associate Dharampal Singh Goel, who was involved in the liquor business, had allegedly been pressuring liquor contractors in Faridkot to either sell their shares to them or divert their liquor quotas

Ajmer and his brother Ranjit, both kabaddi players, reportedly worked for a rival liquor contractor. Ranjit, who was also later murdered, had alleged that Mehta, Goel and the police chased and killed Ajmer.

In 2018, a judicial probe into the killing was initiated after Ajmer's mother Manjit Kaur filed a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).



The probe by the sub-divisional judicial magistrate of Jaitu found major inconsistencies in the police account, which it held were aimed at concealing the facts behind Ajmer's murder.

What the police claimed

The FIR filed on May 26, 2016, by then Jaitu SHO Lachman Singh stated that Ajmer, along with another armed man, opened fire on a night patrol team. In self-defence, a constable used his rifle and one of the gunshots hit Ajmer. The FIR stated that an SUV later arrived and took away the injured man.

Ajmer's family, however, contested this, alleging that Mehta, Goel and the police officials chased and shot Ajmer dead. A murder FIR was subsequently registered on June 7, 2021.

A special investigation team (SIT), led by DSP Jatsinder Singh, later again backed police's self-defence claim and recommended cancellation of the FIR.

Ajmer's mother contested this and the sub-divisional judicial magistrate (SDJM) rejected the cancellation report on July 30, 2024.

The SDJM order also cited the judicial inquiry report, which found that the probe by DSP Jagdish Kumar Bishnoi was inadequate, raising suspicions that the probe was designed to protect the real culprits.

The order mentioned that the police tortured Ajmer's brother Ranjit and filed false charges against him under the NDPS Act and Excise Act to pressure him. Ranjit was later acquitted in both cases.

The SDJM order also noted that Ajmer's family was allegedly offered ₹35-40 lakh by SHO Lachman Singh to withdraw the case, and threatened when they refused.

The Quint

## **`Men Think They Can Go Scott-Free': Acid Attack Survivor Wins 20-Year Fight**

Post filing an FIR after 20 years, Rukaiya has not only got her attacker arrested, but also won legal compensation.

<https://www.thequint.com/news/india/acid-attack-surivor-wins-legal-battle-for-compensation-after-20-years-accused-arrested#read-more>

Eshwar | Published: 02 Aug 2025, 12:15 PM IST

India

In Short'It was never about the money, it was about my need to bring him to justice.' Acid attack survivor Rukaiya Khatoon's two-year legal fight, following a two-decade fight with the society, led to her attacker's arrest and compensation order after 23 years.

"If we have the courage to fight against someone, the Almighty will ensure punishment for him—there will be justice at some point. I was wronged, and he was to be punished for his deeds. It doesn't matter if it came after 22 years," said 37-year-old Rukaiya Khatoon, an acid attack survivor, speaking over the phone — elated and smiling.

The Quint first met and interviewed Rukaiya in February 2023 at Agra's Sheroes Café, which is run solely by survivors of acid attacks. At the time, she was being hailed for filing a First Information Report (FIR) against her attacker—over 20 years after the assault.

In the two-year legal battle that followed, she not only succeeded in having her attacker, Arif Hanif, arrested, but also secured a directive from the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to ensure she receives the government-mandated compensation for acid attack survivors. This compensation had been denied to her for 20 years due to the legal requirement of filing an FIR to be eligible.

"It was never about the money, it was about my need to bring him to justice after 20 years," Rukaiya said over the phone.

But while Rukaiya's legal fight lasted two years, her battles with her family, society, and herself had been ongoing for two decades.

### **A 14-Year-Old Who Chose Silence for Her Sister's Sake**

A single mother, Rukaiya was just 14 when she was attacked. On 7 September 2002, while visiting her sister's home in Aligarh, a proposal was made for Rukaiya to marry Arif.

### **The Big Points**

**Delayed FIR Filed**Rukaiya filed an FIR against her attacker over 20 years after the acid attack in 2002. Rukaiya was 14 at the time of the attack, the attacker was her sister's brother-in-law, and her sister's marriage was at stake — all of which prevented her from taking legal action at the time.

NHRC Compensation Win Her legal battle, which she began pursuing only in 2023, led to the National Human Rights Commission directing the government to provide her compensation previously denied for two decades due to the legal requirement of filing an FIR to be eligible.

Society's Stigma Rukaiya was battling social stigma for two decades after the attack. "A woman who hired me as a house help asked me to leave a week later, saying that visitors and guests were getting scared. I had heard this before, but each time, it felt like I was being attacked all over again," she said. With each instance of discrimination, her regret of not having brought her attacker to justice only amplified.

Inspiration for Survivors Rukaiya hopes her story motivates other women to seek justice and hold perpetrators accountable, highlighting the need for courage and support systems

Given her young age, Rukaiya's mother rejected the proposal. That night, Arif brought acid and threw it on Rukaiya's face.

Even two decades later, Rukaiya remembers that moment as if it happened yesterday. At first, she mistook it for tea, she said. "After a few seconds, I felt like my face had been ripped apart," she recalled.

Rukaiya was angry, but any action at the time risked jeopardising her sister's future — and that of her sister's two children.

When she woke up the morning after the attack, her brother had travelled from Agra to Aligarh and said he wanted to file an FIR. But her sister's husband and mother-in-law told him to take Rukaiya away and assured him they would file the FIR themselves. They warned that if her brother took any action, they would abandon her elder sister.

'I Fought a Three-Pronged Battle'

When Agra ADG Rajeev Krishna visited Sheroes Café in December 2022, he heard Rukaiya's story and assured action in both her case and another. He later wrote a letter to the Agra Police Commissioner.

Rukaiya's FIR was registered at Agra's Etmaddaula police station on 8 January 2023, under IPC Section 326A (voluntarily causing grievous hurt by acid). The case was eventually transferred to the relevant police station in Aligarh, where the crime had taken place. Arif was arrested a few months later.

But ever since Rukaiya filed the FIR, she has faced pressure and scrutiny over her decision.

Questions & Answers

Why did Rukaiya Khatoon file an FIR two decades after her acid attack?

What challenges did Rukaiya face during her two-year legal battle?

How did the National Human Rights Commission impact Rukaiya's case?

What social and economic obstacles did Rukaiya face after the attack?

How does Rukaiya hope her story will affect other survivors of violence?

"Many would ask why I'm taking action now — it has been 20 years. Where might he be? His family kept insisting they didn't know his whereabouts. My sister couldn't go against her in-laws and tell me anything. She was kept in the dark too. She would say he comes to meet her husband, but they never tell her anything about it," she said.

But for Rukaiya, the legal battle was not as difficult as the one she fought against society.

In 2013, she separated from her husband after three years of marriage and returned to her maternal home with her toddler son.

"One woman did keep me on as a house help. But a week later, she asked me to leave, saying that visitors and guests in her home were getting scared. It's something I've heard many times in my life, but each time someone says it, it feels like I'm being attacked all over again. It's taken a toll on my mental health," she said.

The backhanded comments from extended family members also grew more critical after she filed the complaint in 2023.

"Some even said that I only got a job because I'm an acid attack victim, as if he (the attacker) had done me some favour. They see that I have a job because of the attack — they don't see how people stare at me wherever I go. They don't see how many workplaces rejected me because of how I looked. Only I know what I went through," she said.

'It Was Never About The Money'

For Rukaiya, the battle was more about justice than compensation. But at the same time, she also wants to secure her son's future with the money.

"I have a son—I have his future to take care of. I have a job, but it's not a government job. I was never able to go to school... If I don't have a job tomorrow, who will take care of him? My husband was never interested in working. We are separated. How long do you expect my brother to support me? He takes care of me, but that doesn't mean he should be obliged to keep doing so. He has a family to look after as well," Rukaiya said.

Over the years, Rukaiya said, only her brother and mother have staunchly stood by her. In the same breath, she also thanks Sheroes for giving her a new life.

"I knew I made a mistake then, by not standing up for myself. This isn't my battle alone — so many women like me might be facing the same struggle, unable to gather the courage to get their wrongdoers punished. These men roam scott-free and thump their chests because no one could hold them accountable. I hope my story inspires others to take up their battles too," she said.